

S16	GREAT EXHIBITIONS AND CITIES ON THE MOVE: A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE (1880-1914)
Organisers:	Guido Zucconi (IUAV Venice) Ana Cardoso de Matos (University of Évora, Portugal) Miriam Levin (Case Western University, Cleveland, USA) Antoni Roca-Rosell (Universitity Politècnica of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain)
Period:	Modern
Date:	Saturday, 1 September, 2012
Time:	14:00-15:30
Room:	201

Description

The attention of the researchers has focused so far on the world expositions such as London, Paris and Chicago. Less attention has been hitherto paid to similar events that happened in a "minor circuit" consisting of regional capitals and smaller centres. Everywhere, following world's fairs models, cities exhibitions were organized on national or international level. They were planned to show the progress of industry, in addition to traditional products of the earth and local crafts. Mirror of a society and a city on the rise, the exhibition pavilions became the showcase for a ruling class that will be admitted into the club of excellent cities. The proposed session aims to provide a comparative perspective that has been lacking so far in this field of studies. If accomplished, such a kind of investigation has been mostly conducted in a local dimension. Particular attention will be paid to the period 1880-1914 in which many events were organized both in Europe and North America: among others, the expositions of Barcelona 1888, of Lyons and Antwerp 1894, of Milan 1906.

Three main questions are overall arising: 1) the impact on the towns concerned, where some exhibition schemes were often forecasting development models and configuring the destiny of possible expansion areas hitherto marginal; 2) the extent to which the exhibition expresses the dynamism of a city and, the extent to which it reveals the ambitions of a society at a time of growing wealth; 3) the strategic role played in the process of knowledge and in particular in the field of industrial innovation; the local fair is therefore to be considered as a part a of scientific and technical networks. Finally, such a kind of comparative perspective will allow to analyse processes of diffusion and appropriation of international models. It will help to better understand their impact in local and national contexts.

Scientific Programme

- 858 POUR UNE NOUVELLE SÉMIOLOGIE URBAINE: L'INDUSTRIE PORTUGAISE À L'AVENUE DE LA LIBERTÉ EN 1888 ET LE PORTUGAL À L'EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE DE 1889**
Helena Souto (Institute Of Art And Design (Iade), Lisbon, Portugal)

- 426 LE MONDE ET LA PROVINCE. LES EXPOSITIONS INTERNATIONALES FRANÇAISES EN DEHORS DE PARIS ENTRE 1880 ET 1914**
Thomas Renard (Paris IV Sorbonne, Department of Art history, Paris, France)

- 253 THE NATION ON DISPLAY: EXHIBITIONS IN PRAGUE, 1891 AND 1895**
Claire Nolte (Manhattan College, Department of History, Bronx, USA)