

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE CULTURE OF ASSOCIATIONS: TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES, 1600-2010

Panel M26 (half-day) at the 11th International Conference
on Urban History, Prague 29 Aug - 1 Sept 2012

Organized by Robert J. Morris (Edinburgh University), Jörg Hackmann
(University of Szczecin), and Norbert Götz (Södertörn University)

Deadline: 15 November 2011

Work done in the last 30 years has demonstrated the close links between towns and associational culture. Such cultures have been shown to have distinctive national characteristics. Simplistic theories of associational culture leading to an open, pluralistic, democratic society able to negotiate difference have also been questioned. In this session we invite papers which examine the manner in which associational culture crossed national borders and the part which European towns played in such transmission.

We invite an examination and charting of the flows of influences on three levels: 1. the growing/changing range of sorts of associations (gentlemen's clubs, mechanics institutes, consumer leagues etc), 2. the establishment and spread of some basic types of associations (sociable associations, subscriber associations, professional and scientific associations, national/international leagues etc), 3. the rules/practices/methods that crossed borders (rules/practices with respect to administration, in/exclusion of members etc). How narrow were the practices which crossed borders?

In the second place we focus on various types of explanations/factors that helped to spread associational models: 1) various actors that helped to spread the associational models, such as foreign diplomats, merchants, professionals, cultural entrepreneurs, workers etc. who migrated to other countries and established new models of association; 2) the role of the media, esp. press; 3) the role of national/local government; 4) the impact of imperialism. Associational models were not only key agents in imposing European culture, as in the case of missionary societies, but also such models were appropriated by 'native' society as forms of resistance and self assertion.

A third set of key questions involves the extent to which foreign models were merely copied or subject of appropriation to the local context? Which were the factors and actors that limited/restricted the transfer/adaptation of foreign associational models (politics, church, religion etc.)?

For paper proposals please visit the EAUH website at
www.eauh2012.com/sessions/call-for-paper-proposals/

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