

EBHA 23rd annual congress at Erasmus University in Rotterdam 29th-31st August 2019

The Business History of Creativity

We cordially invite you to the 23rd annual EBHA congress in our lively, modern and colourful port city of Rotterdam. Post-industrial port societies are recognised as important hub cities not just for the exchange of goods, but also, and maybe even primarily, for knowledge and creativity. Port cities reinvent themselves and may become central hubs of the creative industries. This term is a relatively recent concept coined in the late 1990s by New Labour in Britain. Ever since, this contested concept has evolved into an important policy instrument of national and local governments, the European Union, and the United Nations, as a key driver of local competitiveness and economic development.

During this congress we will explore the impact and the implementation of this policy instrument on a local, national and supranational level. We also aim to historicize the concept and explore the historical roots of the creative industries, analysing different sectors, including art markets, film, fashion, radio, television, music, design, theatre, tourism and video games. Other topics we aim to address include how creativity can be defined and how this links to the concept of creative industries. Not only does creativity matter to its namesake industries, but also to most sectors of national and international economies. It forms the basis of innovation and firm competitiveness. Innovation, creativity, and the creative industries are closely linked concepts. The creative industries are based on creativity, skills, and talent, and the potential for wealth and job creation through the development of intellectual property. Nevertheless, creativity, creative industries and entrepreneurs are under-researched topics in business history.

The EBHA encourages new, innovative ideas and comparisons of content and methodology drawn from all over the world. The organizers are particularly interested in attracting multidisciplinary contributions with cross-border implications. Our research interests and methodology are not focused purely on comparative statistical data, but rather historical contextualization, institutional development as well as the human factor of business over time. The program committee welcomes papers on a wide-range of topics, but our special interests lie in the various dimensions of the creative industries and creativity within businesses, sectors, cities, and nations. Additionally, we welcome paper submissions broadly related (but not limited) to the following aspects: the past, presence and persistency of innovation and its linkage to firm dynamics and economic growth.

In addition to proposals for individual papers, scholars are warmly invited to propose entire panel sessions to create more coherence in the conference. For full panel sessions, we strongly recommend integrating a variety of comparative national, regional or sectoral differences. Our goal is to maximize the program's capability to highlight global comparisons of creative firms, industries, entrepreneurial families, markets, actors, business organizations, industrial clusters, and other dimensions of business. Session and paper proposals can be submitted through the congress website from 10th September 2018 onward.

Deadline for all proposals is 31st January 2019.