

## **S09 Culture-led development: theory and evidence**

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In recent decades, regional sciences have experienced an increased interest on culture-led development that is based on culture and creativity as possible key drivers of urban and regional development processes. Scholarly discussion is by now so lively and articulated, providing interesting and still open debate on theoretical issues and empirical evidence. A growing literature on the so-called cultural turn (Amin and Thrift, 2007) covers a range of multidimensional issues by moving from the basic yet questioned assumption that the cultural and creative economy is a major force shaping knowledge-based economies, and that is conducive to sustainable regional development with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion (Pratt 2004; Scott 2004; Comunian, Faggian and Li 2010; Sacco et. al, 2012; Boix-Domenech and Soler-Marco 2015; Crociata et al. 2015).

2018 will see activities and initiatives all around Europe for the European Year of Cultural Heritage and so it will boost the interest of scholars in providing a more appropriate formulation of background principles and target objectives for cultural and creative sectors in the wider context of EU's competitiveness and cohesion policies. Moreover, this is an opportunity to overcome the traditional focus on the mere sectorial growth and to paid increasing attention to the effects that culture-led development process may produce by looking at several dimensions of analysis and by moving from an interdisciplinary standpoint. Culture lies at the heart of urban and regional renewal because of theoretical frameworks and evidence show the power of culture as a strategic asset capable of addressing three orders of imbalance, the economic one, the environmental one and the social one that the transition to a post-industrial society has generated.

In this light, the 58th ERSAs Congress is a suitable research-place to host the Special Session Culture-led development: theory and evidence. The aim is to attract papers dealing with: Cultural and creative Industries and regional innovation; Cultural planning and regulatory frameworks; Cultural and creative skills as developmental driver of local economies; Cultural heritage as driver of tourism investments; Cultural assets and sustainability: access, inclusiveness and community wellbeing; Cultural heritage management and tourism development in contexts of crisis. If your recent research deals with the above-mentioned issues we invite you to submit a paper for the special session on Culture-led development: theory and evidence.