

Strand 2: The Historiography of Art Nouveau (looking back on the past)

Definitive abstract for paper presentation at the *coupDefouet* International Congress

Josep Puig i Cadafalch and the European Periphery

Recent literature on second cities (Umbach, 2005; Jenkins, 2003) has drawn attention to the connections between modernisation and the construction of regional identities at the beginning of the twentieth century, challenging traditional histories of modernisation that linked the latter to the emergence of centralised nation-states. Material culture, especially Art Nouveau, had a crucial role in this process, as it was the place where the meeting of local identities and modernity was displayed. This paper approaches the engagement of the architect, politician and art historian Josep Puig i Cadafalch with contemporaneous emerging regions of the European periphery. By looking at his personal travels in these territories, and also to the portray he made of them in his public speeches, this article aims to map out an alternative cartography of Art Nouveau in peripheral Europe.

Curriculum Vitae

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I am a second-year PhD student at the Department of History of the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom), where I carry out research on the construction of a national imagination in early twentieth century Catalonia. More concretely, I look at the intersection between culture and politics in Josep Puig i Cadafalch's architectural, museographical and archaeological projects. I have given papers in academic conferences held at the universities of Cambridge, Nottingham, Lleida, and Oxford.