

Università Iuav di Venezia
Scuola di Dottorato

Call for papers

International Conference

Saint-Petersburg: the City and its Image

Venice, Doctorate School of the Università Iuav di Venezia, **19 and 20 April 2011**

Deadline: **10 March 2011**

Within the series *City Portraits*, the Doctorate School of the Università Iuav di Venezia organizes the conference entitled *Saint-Petersburg: the City and its Image*, and publishes a competition for the choice of few lectures proposed by PhD students or by young researchers. Lectures will be selected on the basis of four criteria, tied up with the *City Portraits* series, or with the specific case of Saint-Petersburg.

1. Variety of view-points. Aim of the *City Portraits* is the study of the cities from a variety of viewpoints, the same ones which characterised the Doctorate School composition (town-planning, architectural composition, architectural history, urban history, design and visual arts), in the firm belief that this is the only way to understand the complexity of urban phenomena. In this respect, and as the conference title suggests, we will take into consideration lectures, treating not only architecture and town-planning in the urban historical development, but also the image of the city rendered in arts: in the literature first of all, in the visual arts (painting, engraving, photography, cinema, graphics), and music.

2. Reading-keys. The conference would present the individuation of some useful reading-keys for the comprehension of the city under examination, rather than an exhaustive reconstruction of the urban development processes. Submitted lectures may start with the analysis of single works or specific cases-study, but always outlining broad urban dynamics, recurring themes and angles, valid reading-keys in the artistic phenomena belonging to different historical periods. Despite of the temporal boundaries absence, a particular attention will be paid to the passage between the known typologies of historical city and the more complex forms of the modernity, which also in Saint-Petersburg is well documented.

3. Methodologies. The deep tradition of the Università Iuav di Venezia in the study of the city makes this conference a chance for a debate also about the study methodologies. In this sense, the submitting lectures must stress the methodological angle of the research, posing the more general question: how to study a city? In a very limited quantity, lectures with a whole theoretical treatise or about other urban cases will be admitted, on the condition that the methodological perspective will prevail.

4. Newness. Lectures must have a character of newness, in comparison with the consolidated knowledge. So, it will be preferred lectures about recent researches, also in progress, investigating ignored or little studied angles of the city, discussing the widely accepted historiographical concepts – without the necessity to belie them – or again applying new methodologies in the study of the city.

Abstracts papers must not exceed 2500 characters (spaces included). In the heading, it has to be written the applicant's first name, second name or patronymic, and the surname; the eventual affiliation; followed by the lecture title. Applicants must enclose also a preliminary bibliography and a brief *curriculum vitae*; both no longer than one page. Accepted languages for the submission are Italian, English, and Russian.

All materials must be sent **before the 10 March 2011** to the curators of the conference, Cristiano Guarneri and Lora Rudko, specifying "conference Saint-Petersburg", to the following e-mail addresses:

cristiano.guarneri@gmail.com; lora_rud@hotmail.com.