

Quantifying relevance in art exhibitions

Keywords

Art exhibitions, relevance, cultural networks, network analysis, data analysis

TL;DR

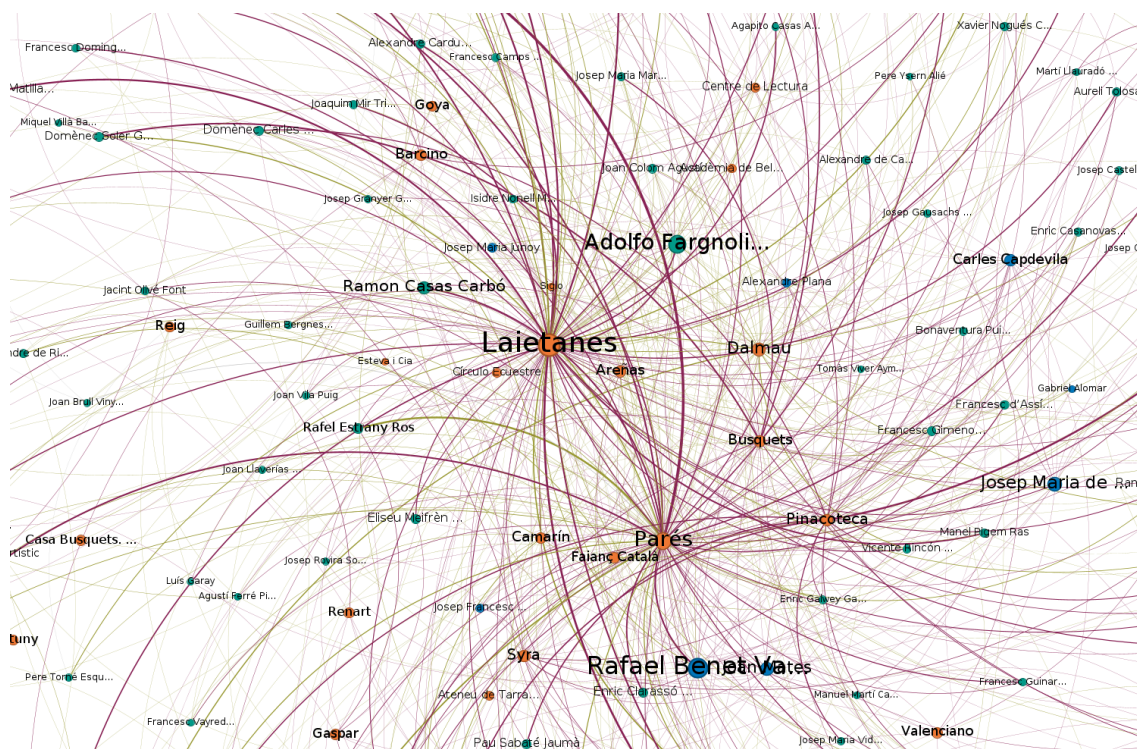
A proposal to evaluate relevance within the art exhibition system between the late 19th and the mid-20th century, based on cultural network analysis.

Abstract

This talk proposal will present a new framework for the study of the art exhibition phenomena in Europe in the late 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries, based upon the concept of relevance. Since this will be a preliminary disclosure of an ongoing project, it will be focused on sharing the first iteration of a method to determine the relevance of the agents that participate in the art exhibition system of a given territory –artists, exhibition agents, and art critics– within this specific time frame. For the moment, this conceptualisation has been developed and tested on a case study of a dataset that comprises 2845 solo exhibitions held in Barcelona (Spain) and surrounding municipalities between 1890 and 1938. A paper about the framework, method, and case study is currently under preparation.

This contribution will have a threefold structure. First, we will describe the model of the exhibitory phenomenon of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, conceived as a cultural network. Second, we will define the main factors that affect or determine relevance within the exhibitory system in the aforementioned time frame. Third, we will present and discuss a method to evaluate relevance based on cultural network analysis. Feedback collected during the presentation will allow to subsequently refine the proposed approach, which still has plenty of room for improvement.

Figure & caption



Partial view of the case study data. Node sizes are proportional to their relevance index, while colours indicate their typology (exhibition agents in orange, artists in green, and art critics in blue). Edge colours denote a time slice (1910-1929 in olive, 1930-1939 in wine); colour intensity is based on the edge's weight.