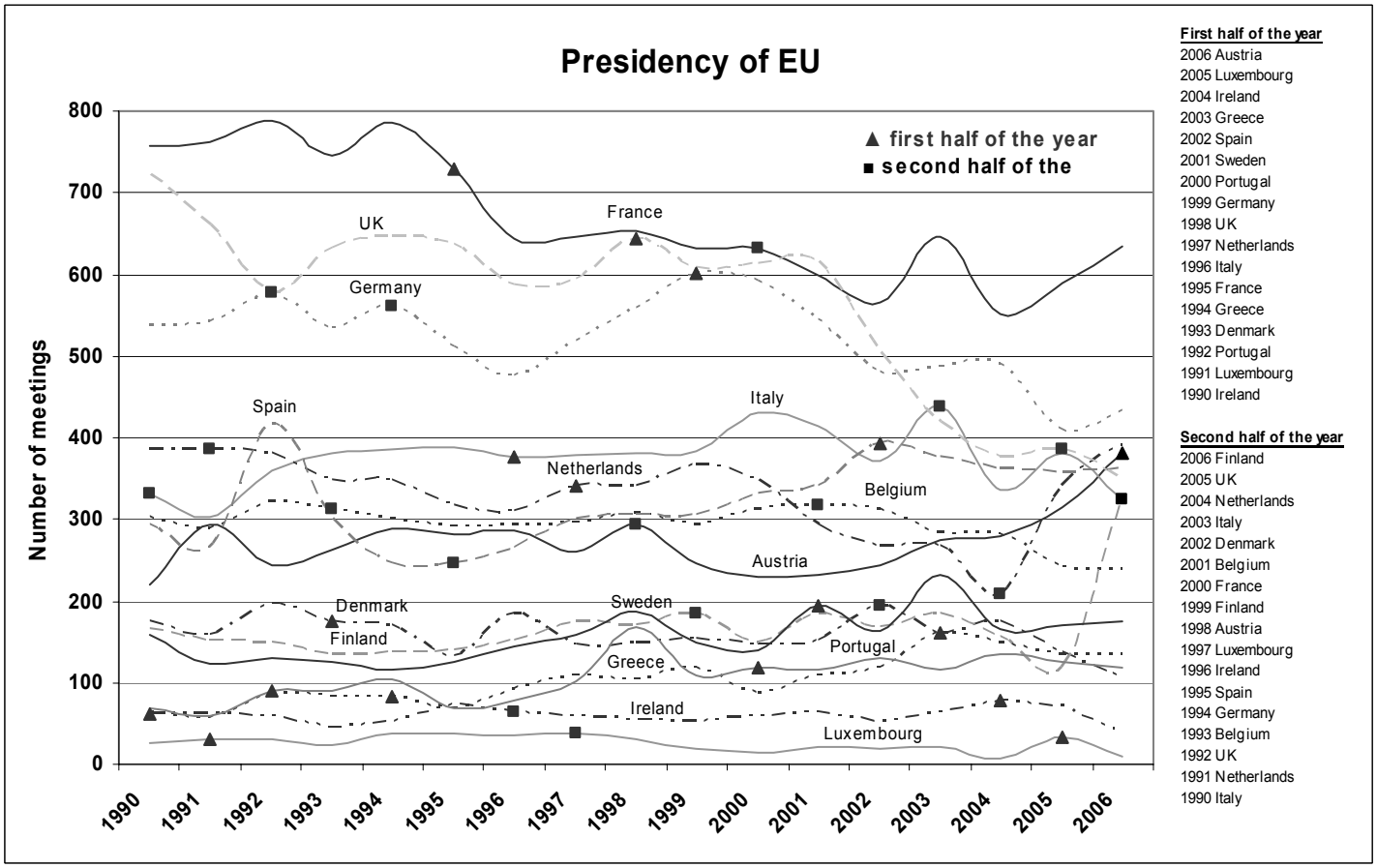
Figure 2.2.7. (a,b,c) Geographic distribution
International meetings – impact of special events on meeting numbers

(a) Presidency of the European Union 1990-2006
(b) World Fairs and Expositions, country location 1962-2006
(c) Olympic Games, cities 1970-2006

Large global events - sporting, cultural, political - can generate or attract a significant number of associated meetings. These graphs trace the annual meeting records for countries and cities that have hosted major events in recent years.

(a) EU Presidency
Since 1988, the Presidency of the European Union has rotated twice a year between its member countries. The number of members has increased over the years, being 15 in 2002. The accession of 10 more countries in 2004 raises the number to 25. The Presidencies have assumed more political and public prominence in recent years, generating meetings and drawing a greater proportion of meetings of European importance to that country.
(b) World fairs and Expositions
Most sources consider the 1851 Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations to be the first world's fair. It took place in London, in a high-tech, glass-and-steel building, dubbed the Crystal Place. Britain displayed new technologies and manufactured goods made possible by the Industrial Revolution, while other nations showcased items from their own craftspeople and manufacturers.
By the start of the 20th century, international fairs were numerous and even competing with each other. At a 1928 conference in Paris, 31 countries agreed on a set of rules for world's fairs and expositions. This group formed the Bureau of International Expositions (BIE), which became the governing body for successive fairs (the BIE uses the terms "world's fair" and "exposition" interchangeably).
According to the BIE's rules, registered world's fairs can only be held once every five years. One additional recognized exposition of limited duration can take place between registered world's fairs or expositions. However, countries have exerted pressure on the BIE to recognize additional events and some international exhibitions without BIE approval have become known as world's fairs.
(c) Olympic Games (summer)
The main Olympic Games are held in the summer months every four years. They never fail to produce an abundance of satellite meetings, and not just related to sport. The winter Olympics show almost no such relationship. Causes of other peaks on this graph have not been identified. The apparent zero record for Los Angeles in 1983 is probably a data anomaly. Since 1896, with the first Olympic Games in Athens, the Games of the Olympiad have been governed by the International Olympic Committee, founded 1894.



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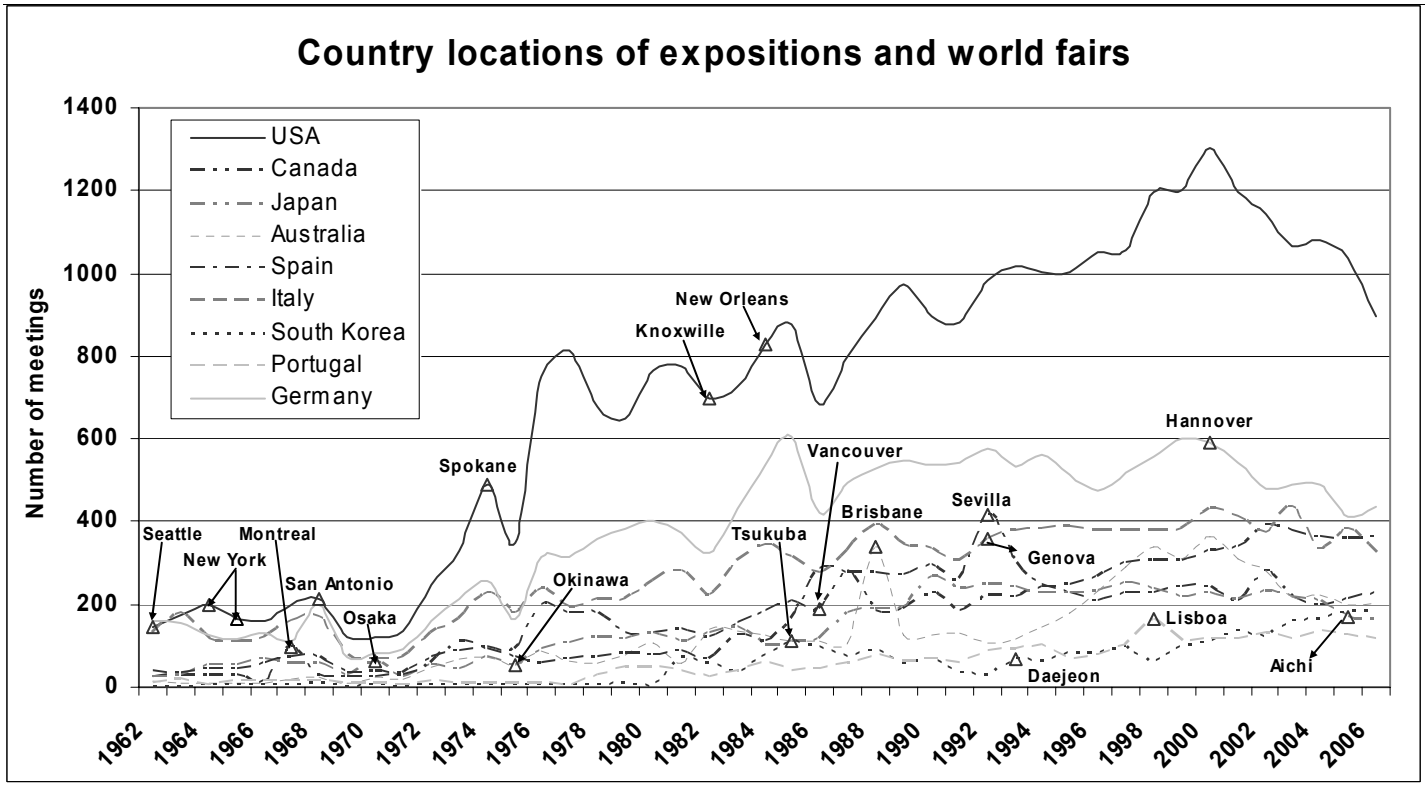

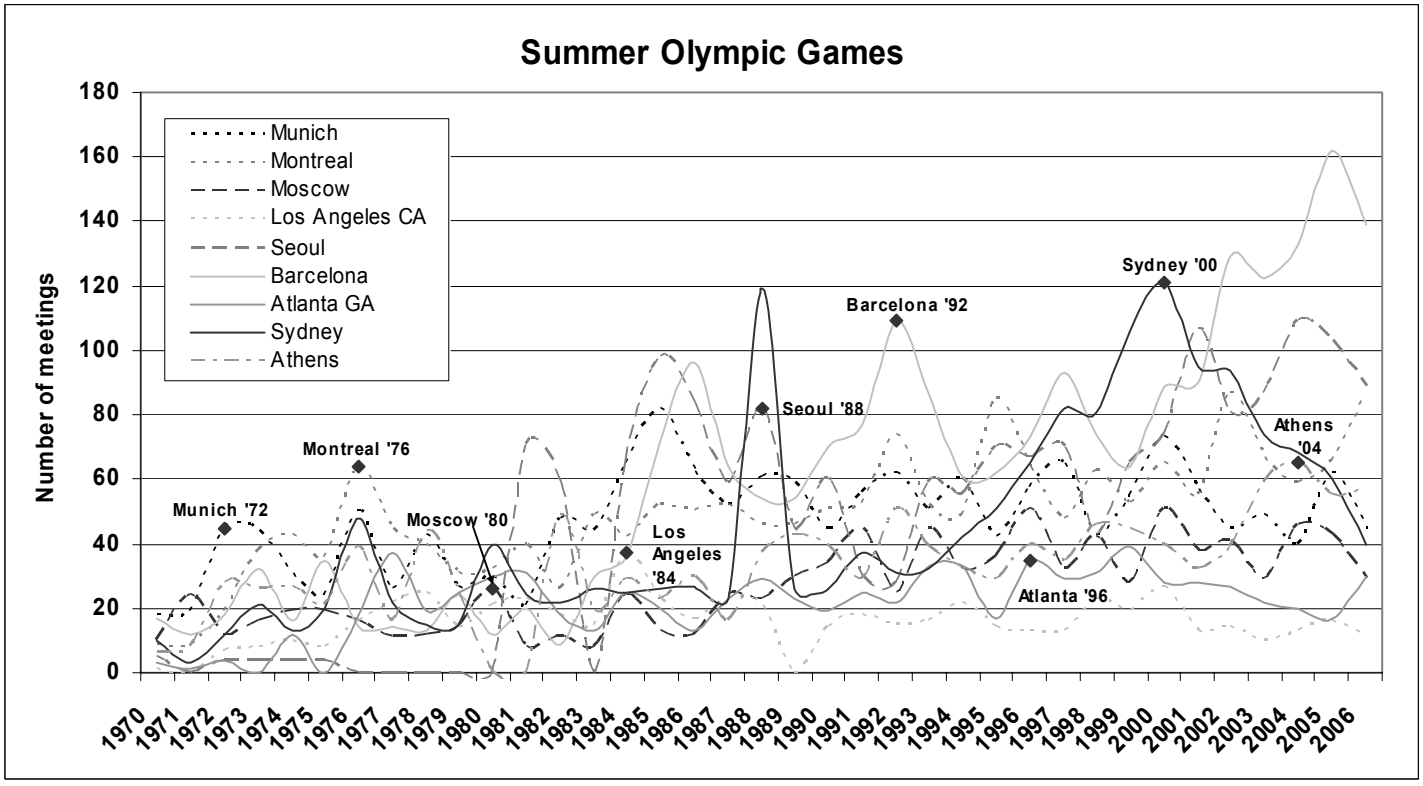

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Figure 2.2.7. (a,b,c)