

## The University of Barcelona remembers the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the farewell of the International Brigades

- The UB will remember the farewell of the International Brigades with the seminar “History and Memory of the International Brigades. An East-West look”, organized by the Solidaritat UB Foundation European Observatory on Memories and Pavelló de la República CRAI Library”
- The seminar aims to debate and transmit historical memory of the international volunteering that took part in the Spanish Civil War through recent researches, highlighting the role of the Brigade women and other minority collectives
- The session, which will take place on October 26 in the Aula Magna of the Historical Building of the UB, is part of the International Week of the International Brigades, coordinated by the Amical of the International Brigades in Catalonia with the support of the Barcelona City Council
- Historian Rémi Skoutelsky, adjunct researcher at the 20<sup>th</sup> century Social History Center of University Paris I, will present the opening conference

**Barcelona, October 23, 2018.** The University of Barcelona remembers the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the farewell of the International Brigades (1928-2018) with the international seminar “[History and Memory of the International Brigades. An East-West look](#)”. Organized by the European Observatory on Memories ([EUROM](#)) of the UB Solidarity Foundation and the [Pavelló de la República CRAI Library](#) in collaboration with the Consortium for International Studies Abroad (CASA), the colloquium aims to transmit the role of the volunteers during the Spanish Civil War, focusing on the way these people are remembered worldwide. Moreover, it will put emphasis on the participation of women in the International Brigades and the role of the volunteers in the French resistance and the fight against Nazism in Europe once the conflict ended in Spain, including the role some brigades played in the post-war governments in Eastern Europe countries. During the day, people will be able to visit an exhibition with posters, magazines, and documents on the International Brigades, organized by the Pavelló de la República CRAI Library of the UB.

This activity is part of the program for the Week of the International Brigades, coordinated by the Amical of the International Brigades in Catalonia with the support of

the Barcelona City Council. Attendance is free but [online registration](#) is required. The seminar will take place on Friday, October 26, from 9.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Aula Magna of the Historical Building of the UB. The opening count on the attendance of the vice-rector for Equal Opportunities and Social Action of the University of Barcelona, Maite Vilalta; the director of EUROM, Jordi Guixé, and the director of Pavelló de la Republica CRAI Library, Lourdes Prades.

The opening conference will be delivered by the historian Rémi Skoutelsky, adjunct researcher at the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Social History of the University Paris I, an expert on the Spanish war. Skoutelsky will present a global view of the International Brigades, from the social history perspective. Its intervention will be followed by a presentation of the Digital Information System on International Brigades ([SIDBRINT](#)). Launched by the University of Barcelona, this portal offers content in eight languages (German, English, Spanish, Catalan, Basque, French, Galician and Italian), edited by thirty-three researchers from nine Spanish universities and two European ones.

The morning session will finish with the first roundtable on memory and history of International Brigades. Dutch writer Yvonne Scholten, editor of the project on Dutch volunteers [Spanjestridders](#), will highlight the role of brigade women in the Dutch case. Lecturer Rocío Velasco de Castro, from the University of Extremadura, will tell the experience of Arabian members of the brigades in the Spanish Civil War with the paradox of the Moroccan case. Last, Inga Oleksiuk, a researcher at the University of Szczecin (Poland), will treat the volunteers from Eastern Europe with her grandfather experiences, Ukrainian Mihail Oleksiuk.

The afternoon session will start at 4 p.m. with the second expert roundtable on the memory and history of the members of the brigades. The first conference will be presented by Vjieran Pavlakovic, a researcher at the Department of Cultural Studies at the University of Rijeka (Croatia), and will treat the contemporary memory of International Brigades in the former Yugoslavia states. Professor Robert Coale, from the University of Rouen (France), will explain the case of North-American members of the brigades. The roundtable will end with a presentation by the historian Antonio Selva Iniesta, director of the Center for research and documentation of the International Brigades (CEDOBI). The seminar will close with the presentation of the research projects by three students from the Department of Contemporary History of the University of Barcelona, chaired by the lecturer Magí Crusells.

[Link to exhibition graphics](#)

(Images: Pavelló de la República CRAI Library | University of Barcelona)



## History and memory of the International Brigades

An East-West Look

*International Seminar in the framework of the Week of the International Brigades*

Friday October 26, in the Aula Magna of the Historical Building of the UB

While fascisms gained ground in the 1930s, dragging Europe to the total conflagration, thousands of people realized the danger that supposed not to face and stop their feet. More than 35,000 volunteers from over 50 different countries head to Spain to aid the young Republic besieged by fascism and abandoned by Western democracies.

Between September and October of 1936 the International Brigades were organized as military units formed by anti-fascist volunteers to fight against the rebel troops of General Franco. On September 21, 1938, president Juan Negrín announced their evacuation during a meeting at the League of Nations, pretending that Franco would do the same with his Italian and German allies.

Approximately 10,000 volunteers lost their lives during the conflict, and their sacrifice and their struggle left an unforgettable imprint. The farewell to the International Brigades was a moving and multitudinous event that took the streets of Barcelona on October 28, 1938.

This seminar aims to discuss and transmit the role of the volunteers during the Spanish Civil War, focusing on how those men and women are remembered nowadays around the world. It will highlight the participation of women in the Brigades and deal with the role of the volunteers in the French resistance and in the fight against Nazism in Europe once the conflict in Spain ended, including the role played by some brigades in post-war governments in Eastern European countries.



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Organization: European Observatory on Memories (EUROM) of the UB Solidarity Foundation and Pavelló de la República CRAI Library (UB). Within the framework of the Week of International Brigades in Catalonia. With the support from the Barcelona City Council and the Consortium for International Studies Abroad (CASA). Co-funded by the program Europe for Citizens (European Commission).

[Image: Pavelló de la República CRAI Library | University of Barcelona](#)

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## PROGRAM

9 – 9.30 a.m. Registration

9.30 – 10 a.m. Institutional Opening

**Maite Vilalta Ferrer**, Vice-rector for Equal Opportunities and Social Action, University of Barcelona

**Jordi Guixé**, director of the European Observatory on Memories (EUROM), University of Barcelona Solidarity Foundation

**Lourdes Prades Artigas**, Pavelló de la República CRAI Library (UB)

10 – 11 a.m. Opening conference. [Rémi Skoutelsky](#) (University of Paris I)

11 – 11.30 a.m. Coffee Break

11.30 – 12 noon Presentation of the project [Sidbrint](#)

*Historical memory of the International Brigades*

**Lourdes Prades Artigas** (University of Barcelona)

12 – 1 p.m. Roundtable I

Chairperson: Ricard Conesa (EUROM)

**Yvonne Scholten** ([Spanjestridders](#))

*Women in the brigades. The case of the Dutch volunteers*

**Rocío Velasco de Castro** (University of Extremadura)

*The Arab brigadistas in the Spanish civil war: the paradox of the Moroccan case*

**Inga Oleksiuk** (University of Szczecin). *The Polish volunteers*

1.30 – 2 p.m. Debate

4 – 5.30 p.m. Roundtable II

Chairperson: Oriol López Badell (EUROM)

**Vjeran Pavlakovic** (University of Rijeka). *Our Spaniards: Contemporary Remembrance of the International Brigades in the Yugoslav Successor States*

**Robert Coale** (University of Rouen | *Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives*)

*Today's memory of the North American volunteers*

**Antonio Selva Iniesta** ([Cedobi](#)).

*Today's memory of the international volunteers in Spain*

5.30 – 6 p.m. Debate

6 – 6.45 p.m. Roundtable III

Students from the Department of Contemporary History of the University of Barcelona

Chairperson: Magí Crusells (University of Barcelona)

**Carlota Sánchez | Oriol González | Ramon Romero**

6.45 – 7 p.m. Closing remarks

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## About the speakers

To arrange interviews, please contact [fernanda.zanuzzi@ub.edu](mailto:fernanda.zanuzzi@ub.edu) (685821203)

**Rémi Skoutelsky**, French historian expert on Spanish war from the social history perspective. He is adjunct researcher at the 20<sup>th</sup> century Social History Center of the University of Paris I, and author of the book "[L'espoir quidait leurs pas](#)" (Grasset, 1998), dedicated to the French volunteers in the International Brigades. Based on archives, such as Moscow, and survivor memories, the book describes the daily life and motivation of 9,000 French volunteers that were involved in this conflict. Skoutelsky also took part in the study mission on the thievery of Jews in France led by Jean Mattéoli and is one of the authors of the collective work "[Le siècle des communismes](#)" (Les Editions de l'Atelier, 2000), edited by Michel Dreyfus, for which he wrote the chapter "International and resistant brigade members". Also, he is an activist in SOS Racism.

**M. Lourdes Prades Artigas** holds a doctorate in Contemporary History and is the head of the Pavelló de la República CRAI Library of the University of Barcelona. She is the researcher in charge of the project SIDBRINT, which results from the research "Digital Information System on the International Brigades". Among her recent publications are "La Batalla de l'Ebre a la memòria dels brigadistes" (COMEBE, 2018) and "SIDBRINT y la recuperación de la memoria histórica de las Brigadas Internacionales" (CEDOBI, 2018). He is an expert on database, websites and content management in the field of human sciences, International Brigades of the Spanish Civil War, archives, libraries and 20<sup>th</sup> century documentary collections (Second Republic, Exile in the Civil War, Franco Regime, Transition).

**Yvonne Scholten** is a Dutch writer and journalist, with studies on political sciences. She was correspondent in Italy from 1968 to 1982 and introduced Antonio Gramsci's work in the Netherlands in 1972. She has been doing research on Dutch volunteers in the Spanish Civil War since 2004, and is editor in chief of the database [Nederlandse vrijwilligers in de Spaanse Burgeroorlog](#) since 2014.

**Rocío Velasco de Castro** graduated in Arabic Philology, and is a university expert on contemporary Maghreb and holds a doctorate in Arab and Islamic Studies. Lecturer at the University of Extremadura, she has taught at the universities of Seville, Abdelmalek Essaâdi (Morocco), Artes and Grenoble Alps (France), University of Naples "L'Orientale" (Italy) and the Philipps-University Marburg (Germany). Her main research lines are focused on the contemporary history of the Arabic world, with special focus on Morocco, colonization and decolonization processes of the Arab world and Arab and Islamic feminist movements.  
Contact: [rvelde@unex.es](mailto:rvelde@unex.es).

**Inga Oleksiuk** is an adjunct lecturer at the University of Stettin (Poland). She holds a doctorate in Human and Juridical Sciences, and carried out research studies at the University of Carleton (Ottawa, Canada), at the British Library (London, United Kingdom), the University of Warsaw (Poland) and the University of Naples Federico II (Italy).

**Vjeran Pavlaković** is an adjunct lecturer from the Department of Cultural Studies of the University of Rijeka (Croatia). He holds a doctorate on History from the University of Washington, and has published several articles on cultural memory, transitional justice in the former Yugoslavia, and others on Yugoslavian volunteers in the Spanish Civil War. Among his recent publications are "Remembering War the European Way: Croatia's Commemorative Culture on the Eve of EU Membership" (Pero Maldini and Davor Pauković, eds.), "Croatia and the European Union: changes and development" (2015), "Yugoslav volunteers in the Spanish Civil War" (2016) and "The Controversial Commemoration: Transnational Approaches to Remembering Bleiburg" (2018). He is principal investigator of the project "[Framing the Nation and Collective Identity in Croatia: Political Rituals and the Cultural Memory of Twentieth Century Traumas](#)", funded by the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ).

**Robert Coale** is doctor in Hispanic Studies at the University of Paris IV – Sorbonne, and has been lecturer of the University of Rouen (France) since 2015. One of his main research topics are the International Brigades and the Spanish republican exile in France. He is a permanent member of the research group *Équipe de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sud els Aires Culturelles* ([ERiac](#)) of the University of Rouen and belongs to the Directing Board of the Abraham Lincoln Bridagde Archives ([ALBA](#)) in the New York University (NYU).

**Antonio Selva Iniesta** is the director of the Institute for Albacetense Studies, coordinator of the journal Revista Cultural ALbacetense and co-director of the Center for research and documentation of the International Brigades (CEDOBI). Graduated in Philosophy and Arts, and with a major on Modern and Contemporary History, he has been the director of Banc de Foment (1988-1994) and Caixa Espanya d'Inversions, Caixa d'Estalvis and Mont Pietat in ALBACETE (1994-2010). Author of several books and articles on history, he is also a collaborator in the Department of Ancient History at the University of Murcia and academician at the Royal Academy Alfonso X el Sabio.

## **Press**

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## **About the European Observatory on Memories**

The European Observatory on Memories is a transnational network of institutions and organizations committed to the research and promotion of memory public policies. Their main aim is to contribute to the reflection on recent history, defending diversity and plurality in memory. EUROM is led by Solidaritat UB Foundation with the support of the European Commission program Europe for Citizens.

[www.europeanmemories.net](http://www.europeanmemories.net)

## **About the University of Barcelona**

The University of Barcelona is the top public university in Catalonia in size of student population, around **64,000**, and course offerings, with 73 bachelor degrees, more than 150 university master degrees and **48 doctoral programs**. It holds the first position at a state level in scientific performance, which makes it the main research center in Spain and one of the most important ones in Europe.

The University of Barcelona is the leading higher education institution at a state level in the main international rankings, such as the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARW) or the QS World University Rankings. Also, it outstands in employability, a field which lists it among the top 70 universities worldwide, according to the QS Graduate Employability Rankings.

Member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), the UB has 17 researchers awarded with grants from the European Research Council (ERC). In 2016, The Times Higher Education included the University of Barcelona among the top 25 worldwide with more than 400 years of history.

[www.ub.edu](http://www.ub.edu)

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