

The Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia and the European Observatory on Memories inaugurate the program “1936-1939. Memory of the Spanish Civil War” with a conference of Georges Mink

- “Victory over Fascism: Barcelona 1936” is the start of a series of events organized this in Catalonia to mark the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, and will be attended by Minister Raül Romeva and the Dean of the University of Barcelona, Dídac Ramírez
- The symposium will highlight the anti-fascist resistance, the role of the International Brigades and the women militia in the defence of the Republic
- In addition to Mink, the program will include the participation of international experts such as Robert S. Coale, Mary Nash and José Luis Martín.

Barcelona, July 12, 2016. To mark the 80th anniversary of the start of the Spanish Civil War, the Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia (DIPLOCAT) and the European Observatory on Memories of the University of Barcelona’s Solidarity Foundation (EUROM) organize a symposium to highlight some of the key issues of the conflict that is considered a turning point in the 20th century. This is the first of a series of activities of the program “1936-1939. Memory of the Spanish Civil War”, which has the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Institutional Relations and Transparency of the Government of Catalonia. The conference will take place on Monday, July 18, 2016, at 10am in Aula Capella of the Historic Building of the University of Barcelona. The debate will highlight the anti-fascist resistance, the women militia in defence of the Republic and the role of the International Brigades in the Spanish conflict, and will be complemented by an animated short film about the failure of the military uprising in Barcelona and Catalonia.

The welcome session will be delivered by Dídac Ramírez, Dean of the University of Barcelona, accompanied by Albert Royo, Secretary General of DIPLOCAT and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Institutional Relations and Transparency, Raül Romeva. The Minister will give way to the opening conference of **Georges Mink**, Professor of the College of Europe in Natolin (Poland) and Director of Research at the National Centre for Scientific Research in France (CNRS).

After Mink’s presentation, a panel of experts will address the Spanish Civil War from different perspectives. **José Luis Martín**, Professor of Contemporary History at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), will discuss the anti-fascist resistance in Barcelona and Catalonia; **Mary Nash**, Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Barcelona, will explain the role of women in the militia defending the

Republic, and **Robert S. Coale**, Professor of Hispanic Studies at the University of Rouen (Normandy) and member of the board of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives, will analyse the role of the International Brigades in the Spanish conflict. The event will conclude with a speech by **Jordi Guixé**, director of EUROM.

The victory over fascism

On July 19, 1936, facing a military uprising against the legitimate government of the Republic, Catalonia's forces of order and anti-Fascist militants reacted to crush the coup d'état in the city of Barcelona. Coordination between the Government of Catalonia and trade unions during the preceding days, as well as the loyalty of the Assault Guard and most of the Republic's Civil Guards, were key elements in thwarting the coup. This failure of military insurrection in Barcelona quickly spread to the rest of Catalonia. Hence, one could argue that the Catalan capital was the first city in Europe to defeat Fascism, considering that the Spanish War was the prelude to the Second World War.

WHAT: Victory over Fascism: Barcelona 1936. 80 years of the beginning of the Spanish Civil War
DAY: Monday, July 18 2016
TIME: From 10 am to 2 pm
PLACE: Aula Capella – University of Barcelona. Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 585

Press

European Observatory on Memories

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Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia

The Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia is a public-private partnership that aims to explain Catalonia to the world and to influence international public opinion in order to enhance the image and prestige of the country abroad, creating links and trust relationships between citizens and the institutions of Catalonia and other countries. On our website (<http://www.diplocat.cat/ca/actuacions/jornades>), you will find programs of all the actions we have done until today (videos and much of the conference held).

About the European Observatory on Memories

The European Observatory on Memories –EUROM is a transnational network of institutions and organizations committed to research and promotion of public historical memory policies. Its main objective is to contribute to the reflection surrounding recent history defending memory diversity and plurality. EUROM is driven by the [Solidarity Foundation of the University of Barcelona](#) with the support of the European Commission's program *Europe for Citizens*.

About the University of Barcelona

The UB is the top public university in Catalonia due to its size of student population, 64,000, and its course offerings. The UB is also the principal centre of university research at state level and has become a European benchmark for research activity, both in terms of the number of research programmes it conducts and the excellence these have achieved.

The UB has a prominent position in the most prestigious international rankings: it is the only university in the Spanish State that has managed to get in among the world's top 200 according to the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) —a classification also known as the Shanghai Ranking. Moreover, the UB is the top Spanish university and one of the best 200 universities in the world according to QS World University Rankings 2014-2015. In addition, it is the only Spanish university which is among the 200 best worldwide universities in 25 out of 30 subject areas, according to the QS World University Rankings 2014 by Subject.

The University of Barcelona is member of the most important international excellence university networks, such as the League of European Research Universities (LERU). It has overseen the creation of two campuses of international excellence, the Barcelona Knowledge Campus (BKC) and the Health University of Barcelona Campus (HUBc). It has assimilated their goals as its own to increase competitiveness; these goals include the attraction of academic and research talent, full internationalisation, the enhancement of teaching quality and scientific quality, and an increase in the transfer of knowledge generated at the university to wider society.

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