

**FIRST CALL**

## **The frog hibernation**

***10 years of Memory Laws and Policies in Spain and Catalonia (2007-2017)***

**EUROM, University of Barcelona, November 14-20, 2017**

*Hibernation is more predictive than consequent. Frogs and other amphibians and reptiles use it as a form of protection during the winter to avoid freezing to death. External factors are decisive, but, above all, the attempt to self-protection is essential to prevent death. The risk is very high, but it is also a way to override the vital signs in order to survive, and in some cases, to succeed.*

Ten years ago, in October 2007, Spain and Catalonia approved the laws known as remembrance laws. The Spanish Parliament laid down a "*Law for recognizing and extending rights, and establishing measures in favor of those who suffered persecution or violence during the Spanish Civil War and the dictatorship*", while the Parliament of Catalonia gave the green light to the regional Democratic Memory Law.

The legislation over the recent past reopened concerns and hopes, and the relationship between law and memory has been complex and discussed in both cases. The initial impetus with the approval depleted after a short time, giving way to a period of dormancy or hibernation. Since then, a reasonable period of time has passed, sufficient to make an initial assessment with a historical perspective of the role played by that laws in the development of policies throughout the State.

Which are their real effects? What consequences and reactions did they provoke? What other initiatives have been developed since then? In addition to that, the Catalan and Spanish cases are outlined in a European context, where these issues are no alien; considering, it is a common problem for many member states, as well as for the European institutions themselves when developing public policies of memory and remembrance.

These issues will be developed during the international conference "**The Frog Hibernation: 10 years of Memory Laws and Policies in Spain and Catalonia (2007-2017)**", to be organized by the European Observatory on Memories of the University of Barcelona in November 2017. The program will be developed throughout three thematic axes which will work around the uses, abuses, processes, successes, and gaps of these ten years:

### **Axe 1: Law and the past**

Analysis and study of the Memory laws passed in the different territories of Spain, as well as in the other countries part of the European Union. The aim is to address this

field of work because of its legal aspects, but also due to the social and political effects that have led to the development of "remembrance laws".

### **Axe 2: Remembrance and Heritage**

The acknowledgment of a democratic memory as a social heritage has favored the development of museums, interpretive centers and other "remembrance spaces" where traumatic events as well as the struggles for justice and freedom have been tackled. This axis aims to devote attention to the historical processes from which these sites are created.

### **Axe 3: Remembrance and transmission**

The stories about the past are transmitted through different channels, including literature, educational programs, audiovisual productions and technologies of information and communication. This section will deepen on the real impact of these ways of transmission and dissemination, analyzing their goals as well as the strategies behind them.

We invite researchers to submit papers and intervention proposals by e-mail: [observatori.memories@ub.edu](mailto:observatori.memories@ub.edu)

Please send **abstracts** (300 words) **until March 1st, 2017**. The deadline for communications is June 15, 2017. Further information about the venue location and the confirmation of the proposed dates will be delivered soon.

Please don't hesitate to write us if you have any question.

Kind regards,

**Jordi Guixé i Coromines**

Director

*Monday, 16 January 2017*