

## Press release

### **Franco 40/40: a multidisciplinary program by the European Observatory on Memories to review the 40 years gone by since Franco's death**

November 6, 2015 - The University of Barcelona presented yesterday the project [Franco 40/40: el franquisme en quarantena](#) (Franco 40/40: Francoism under quarantine), a programme of activities that revise Franco's forty-year dictatorship on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his death. The series of activities is organised by the [European Observatory on Memories \(EUROM\)](#) of the [Solidarity Foundation of the University of Barcelona](#), supported by the Barcelona City Council and the European Commission. "The aim is to review the repressive regime that ruled our country for forty years as well as our 40-year democracy, through cinema, art and academic activities", highlights Jordi Guixé, historian and director of EUROM.

The series includes around twenty academic and cultural activities, organised together with the Pompeu Fabra University; the Maritime Museum of Barcelona; the organization Archivists Without Borders; the Spanish film festival of Toulouse, Cinespaña; the network Eduxarxa; the Cipriano García Foundation; the Gernika Peace Museum; the Film Archive of Catalonia; the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, and the University of Perpignan Via Domitia.

Last October, the activity "[Cronistes de carrer. Relats transeünts del franquisme](#)" was developed in four different public spaces in the city of Barcelona where different historical events of the Civil War and Franco's regime took place. **Yesterday evening**, at 7 p.m., the Aula Ramón y Cajal of the Historic Building of the University of Barcelona hosted the presentation of a video that illustrates the activity. Then, Jordi Guixé and university lecturers Núria Ricart and Manel Risques participated in a round-table talk on memory and participation.

The following activity, included in the programme "**Women and memory**", is a symposium centred on women's oppression, particularly gypsy women. It takes place on **Friday 6 November, at 11 a.m.** at the [Faculty of Library and Information Science](#) of the University of Barcelona. The symposium is part of a collaboration agreement that EUROM signed with the Federation of Gypsy Associations of Catalonia (FAGiC) and the association of Austrian gypsy women IG Kultur.

Women and Franco repression, as well as participatory processes to reconstruct collective memory, are the main topic of the activity "**Bus Memòria**" (Memory bus), a route to remember the eleven women who were imprisoned in the former Presó de les Corts and shot death in the Camp de la Bota. **Maria Salvo** together with other members of the Catalan Association of Former Political Prisoners participate in the activity, which takes place on **12 November**.

On the afternoon of 12 November, Luis Farinha, director of the **Museu do Aljube**, a museum that was recently opened in Lisboa, pronounces a lecture that reviews the relationship that the Spanish dictatorship had with other European dictatorial regimes. After the speech, **Ricard Vinyes**, professor of Contemporary History at the University of Barcelona, and **Francisco Ferrándiz**, expert of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), participate in "Fosses, panteons i mausoleus. De les cunetes al Valle de los Caídos" (Graves, vaults and mausoleums. From ditches to the Valley of the Fallen), a discussion moderated by the writer Ignasi Riera.

Activities continue on **17 and 18 November**: a selection of films is screened at the **Film Archive of Catalonia**. The season Cinema and Memory include the documentary films *Franco, un fiancé de la mort*,

Amb el suport de:



by José María Berzoza, and *Robles, duelo al sol*, by Sonia Tercero Ramiro. On **19 November**, **Paul Preston**, prestigious hispanist; **Josep Fontana**, professor at the Pompeu Fabra University, and **Joan B. Culla**, historian, moderated by **Josep M. Muñoz**, director of the publication *L'Avenç*, discuss Franco's memory.

On **20 November**, activities take place at several locations: the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, the Sorbonne, the headquarters of the union Comissions Obreres and the Maritime Museum of Barcelona, where the organization Archivists Without Borders opens the 7th Symposium "Arxius, drets humans i democràcia. Rèmores, avenços i necessitats de futur dels arxius en democràcia" (Archives, human rights and democracy. Hindrance, progress and future needs of archives in democracy).

The lecture series on Franco's death is closed on **23 November** with the debate "Canvis i continuïtats en el sistema científic espanyol des de la transició" (Changes and continuities in the Spanish scientific system since the transition), presented by Albert Preses, professor at the Pompeu Fabra University. Activities are extended until April 2016. The project is closed by the exhibition "**El franquisme en quarantena**" (Franco's dictatorship in quarantine), which inaugurates the new facilities of the Maritime Museum of Barcelona. The exhibition includes the presentation of the work *Síndrome de Guernica*, by Fernando Sánchez Castillo, a display made of metal scrap from Franco's yacht *Azor*.

The entire programme is available on the site of [EUROM](http://EUROM).

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#### About the EUROM

The European Observatory on Memories (EUROM) is a network of institutions and organisations whose main objectives are analysing and promoting the development of public policies that make a contribution towards reflecting on the events in Europe's recent history. EUROM is promoted by [Solidarity Foundation at Universitat de Barcelona](#) within the framework of the programme *Europe for Citizens* by the European Commission.

### About the University of Barcelona

The University of Barcelona is the top public university in Catalonia in size of student population —it has around 66,000 students— and course offerings. It is also the top centre of university research at the state level and it has become a European benchmark for research activity, both in terms of the number of research programmes and research excellence.

The University of Barcelona has a prominent position in the most prestigious international rankings: it is the only Spanish higher education institution included in the world's top 200 according to the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) —a classification also known as the Shanghai Ranking. Moreover, the institution is the top Spanish university and one of the world's best 200 universities in the QS World University Rankings 2014-2015. In addition, it is the only Spanish university included in the top 200 universities worldwide in 27 out of 30 subject areas, according to the QS World University Rankings 2015 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 was selected to lead the Spanish co-location centre of the new Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) in health and active ageing, EIT Health. The University of Barcelona has 301 consolidated research groups and, according to a report elaborated by BiGGAR Economics at the request of LERU, the institution generates 1,400 million euros in Catalan gross value added (GVA) —which represents 0.72% of total Catalan GVA—, and it has a direct effect on 21.870 jobs (2014 data).

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