



EUROM
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OBSERVATORY
ON MEMORIES

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Barcelona holds the European Commission conference “European Citizenship in Challenging Times”

- During May 30 and June 1, 200 representatives from European entities of the citizenship and remembrance fields will gather at the University of Barcelona and El Born Centre Cultural.
- It is organized by the European Observatory on Memories of the University of Barcelona in collaboration with the City Council of Barcelona. The conference will highlight some topics on European identity, emphasising on people’s participation, civil rights and public memory policies.
- Among the speakers there is the Polish journalist Adam Michnik, Director of the newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza* and fundamental figure in Poland’s fight for democracy; the philologist Andreas Huyssen, distinguished author on collective memory issues, and the historian Regine Robin, who will close the conference with an analysis of the current state of European memories.

Barcelona, May 26, 2016. On May 31 and June 1 Barcelona will hold the international conference [“European Citizenship in Challenging Times. Remember, Engage, Debate!”](#), organized by the European Commission with the collaboration of the European Observatory on Memories of the Solidarity Foundation of the University of Barcelona and the City Council of Barcelona. There will be around 200 representatives of European entities of the citizenship and remembrance fields with the aim of debating and putting in common some of the current European topics, with special emphasis on citizens’ participation, civil rights and public memory policies.

The participants will be welcomed on Monday May 30 at the Paranimph of the University of Barcelona with the concert “Farem la revolució, i la tornarem a fer”, by Lúdia Pujol, who will also have the special participation of Manel Camp playing “Rèquiem per a Walter Benjamin”. The performance will remember the thousands of refugees of the wars in the 20th Century and will pay homage to the fights and all the people who are currently getting to Europe seeking refuge. The Vice-Rector for Administration and Organization of the University of Barcelona, Carme Panchón, will welcome the attendants.

The conference will be presented on Tuesday May 31 at 9.30 h, in the Paranimph of the University of Barcelona. Apart from the vice-Rector Carme Panchón, the act will count with the presence of the general Director of Justice and Consumers of the European Commission, Francisco Fonseca Morillo. The journalist Adam Michnik, Editor in chief and Founder of the Polish newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza* will be in charge of the opening conference.



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Over the session of May 31, academics, professionals and representatives for associations and civil society in the European institutions will debate on three boards open to the attendants' participation. Some European identity topics will be exposed, with special emphasis on people's rights, civil participation and democratic commitment.

Wednesday June 1 will be dedicated to European conflict memories. The conference will be transferred to the El Born Centre Cultural i Memòria, which will become the headquarters of the 6th European Remembrance Networking Meeting. This session will gather around 60 representatives of European remembrance entities and, for the first time, it will be open to local entities' participation too. The debates will focus on clear but not always explicit relations, between remembrance, citizenship and solidarity, starting from the current emergency situation lived by the refugees at the European shores and frontiers.

The meeting will start at 9.30 h, by the Director of the European Observatory on Memories, the historian Jordi Guixé, accompanied by the Commissioner of Remembrance Programs of the City Council of Barcelona, Ricard Vinyes, and the representative of the European Commission, Pavel Tychtl.

The philologist Andreas Huyssen, from the University of Columbia, will give the main conference highlighting the construction processes of collective memory in international political conflicts. Considered to be a distinguished author in the study of this field, Huyssen dealt with cases such as Germany's and Argentina's in several works such as *Present Pasts: Urban Palimpsests and the Politics of Memory*. The conference will follow with a series of dialogues about memory conflicts in Europe, with special attention on democratic participation and solidarity construction from inclusive memories.

There will be the participation of –among other people- the Director of the Middle East Studies Centre and lecturer of Middle East and Islamic Politics at the University of Denver, Nader Hashemi; the philosopher Siobhan Kattago, from the University of Tartu (Estonia), and the historian Bruno Groppo, mayor in Working class movement history. The historian and novelist Regine Robin, author of works such as *La mémoire saturée* and *Cybermigrances: Traversées fugitives* will give the closing conference on the current state of the European memories.

At 19 h, the first Deputy Mayor of Barcelona, Gerardo Pisarello, will close the conference.

Interviews with the conference speakers

Interviews can be arranged during the conference according to the speakers' availability. Attached is the complete program.

To arrange the interviews, please contact the Communication Offices of the European Observatory on Memories (Fernanda Zanuzzi, 685 821 203) or the University of Barcelona (Judith Llop, 934 035 544).



Agenda

Welcome concert Lídia Pujol and Manel Camp Farem la revolució, i la tornarem a fer. Rèquiem a Walter Benjamin.	May 30 19 h Paranimph of University of Barcelona
Conference Presentation Francisco Fonseca Morillo , Parliamentarian and General Director for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission; Carme Panchón , vice- Rector of Administration and Organisation of the University of Barcelona; Ada Colau Ballano, Mayor of Barcelona; Raül Romeva , Minister of Foreign Affairs, Institutional Relations and Transparency of the Generalitat de Catalunya.	May 31 9.30 h Paranimph of the University of Barcelona
Opening conference: Adam Michnik	May 31 10 h Paranimph of the University of Barcelona
6th European Remembrance Networking Meeting Presentation: Jordi Guixé , Director of the European Observatory on Memories; Ricard Vinyes , Commissioner for Remembrance Program of the Barcelona City Council; Pavel Tychtl , representative for European Commission	June 1 9.30 h El Born Centre de Cultura i Memòria
Main conference: Andreas Huyssen	June 1 9.50 h El Born Centre de Cultura i Memòria
Closing conference Regine Robin	June 1 18.30 h El Born Centre de Cultura i Memòria



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Press

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About the European Observatory on Memories:

The European Observatory on Memories (EUROM) is a transnational network of institutions and organizations committed with the analysis and promotion of remembrance public policies. It aims to reflect on the recent history of the struggle for democracy and freedom in Europe, advocating for a plurality of memories. The Observatory is driven by Fundació Solidaritat de la Universitat de Barcelona with the support of the European Commission - Europe for Citizens Programme

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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