



Marine Le Pen from the National Front, french political party, at the Zénith in Paris during the 2017 presidential election campaign.

Photo: Frederic Legrand/COMEO/Shutterstock



Brazilian presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro at a rally in Juiz de Fora on 6 September 2018.

Foto: Antonio Scorza/Shutterstock



Italian comedian and political activist Beppe Grillo, the founder of the Five Star Movement (M5S), speaking about the referendum to change the Italian Constitution in December 2016.

Photo: MikeDotta/Shutterstock

## 5th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE MEMORIAL DEMOCRATIC - WALTER BENJAMIN CHAIR

### Free pre-registration

memorialdemocratic@gencat.cat | 936 347 354

### Registration to the walking tour on 30 November (before 22 November)

Portbou Tourist Office

Tel.: (+34) 972 125 161

turisme@portbou.cat

### Ticket reservation for the free concert

Portbou Tourist Office

### Directions

- **MACBA**  
Plaça dels Àngels, 1. Barcelona
- **Memorial Democràtic**  
Peu de la Creu, 4. Barcelona
- **Sala La Congesta**  
Méndez Núñez, 20. Portbou
- **Portbou Tourist Office**  
Passeig Lluís Companys s/n, Portbou

**Main image:** Members of the white supremacist group, the National Socialist Movement, salute the fascist manner during a demonstration in Riverside, California. David McNew / Gettyimages.

Organised by



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Departament de Justícia



Universitat de Girona

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5th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
MEMORIAL DEMOCRÀTIC  
WALTER BENJAMIN CHAIR

# THE WORLD OF TODAY

**From historical  
fascism to postmodern  
reactionarianism and the  
new populism**

CHALLENGES FOR THE POLITICS OF MEMORY

27, 28, 29 and  
30 November  
2019

BARCELONA  
PORTBOU



Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament de Justícia



Universitat de Girona

The current political scene is marked by a rise and the consolidation of a variety of populist propositions around the world and the resurgence of authoritarian political forms that, in many cases, appear in the public sphere which are the successors to historical fascisms. These propositions all share a simplification in their political discourse, schematisation of public debates and the support of direct and hard-hitting solutions to complex problems.

This is global phenomenon that affects nearly every liberal democracy, with the particular characteristics of each country differing according to its history or current political and economic context. This phenomenon can be seen in countries ranging from the United States, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Austria, Finland and Spain to Nicaragua, Brazil, Venezuela, Russia, Turkey, India and the Philippines - just to cite a few that are witnessing a rise in authoritarian and populist tendencies. It is undoubtedly a global trend that is in expansion and whose consequences are unpredictable.

The principal aim of this international conference is to debate the concepts of fascism, the new reactionarism, authoritarianism, and populism as well as to present, through the participation of numerous experts, cases of political projects that have adopted or are adopting these characteristics. Similarly, this political phenomenon will be considered in relation to the role played by the media, social networks, education and public memory policies.

How the media ecosystem and social networks - often seen as self-communication of the masses - relate to the proliferation of these political options and ways of understanding the world is just one of the many critical questions to be posed. Another issue of great relevance is the position of public memory policies *vis-à-vis* the emergence of these political ideologies which threaten individual and collective freedoms, as well as liberal democracy itself. Can we guarantee that history will not repeat itself? What is the significance of misrepresentations and manipulation of history or the trivialisation of political attitudes and concepts inherited from a recent past marked by violent and traumatic episodes?

With a cross-cutting focus and from the disciplines of political sciences, history, philosophy and journalism, this international conference will explore approaches and pose the questions that will help us to establish an accurate analysis of the political complexity of the contemporary political scene.

## Wednesday, 27 November

Barcelona. MACBA Auditorium

### Opening session

6:00 p.m. Institutional presentations

6:30 p.m. *Black shadows of sovereignty. Xenophobic nationalism and new fascisms in the 21st century West.*  
**Donatella Di Cesare** (Sapienza Università di Roma)

## Thursday, 28 November

Barcelona. MACBA Auditorium

### Sessió de matí: conferències

9:15 a.m. Welcome

9:30 a.m. *The world of yesterday: the crisis of European liberalism and the resurgence of fascism.*  
**Maximiliano Fuentes** (UdG)

10:15 a.m. *Long-running fascisms? The special cases of Spain and Portugal.*  
**Carme Molinero** (UAB). **António Costa Pinto** (Institute of Social science - University of Lisbon)

11:45 a.m. Break

12:15 p.m. *After the dictatorship: The extreme right in Spain (1975-2019).*  
**Xavier Casals** (URL)

### Afternoon Session: Round Table

4:00 p.m. **Table 1**  
*Politics in the era of mass self-communication: the media and the social media environment.*  
**Paola Io Cascio** (UB), **Gemma Ubasart** (UDG), **Albert Chillón** (UAB) **Montserrat Nebrera** (UIC).  
Moderator: **Ramon Pellicer** (journalist)

5:30 p.m. **Table 2**  
*Spain's democratic transition 40 years on and the challenge of populist politics.*  
**Álvaro Soto** (UAM), **Marta Rovira Martínez** (UOC/UAB), **Francesc Marc Álvaro** (journalist), **Pere Ysàs** (UAB).  
Moderator: **Ricard Conesa** (historian)

## Friday, 29 November

Barcelona. MACBA Auditorium

### Morning session: conferences

9:30 a.m. *The consolidation of fascist and fascistising projects, 1922-1945.*  
**Joan Maria Thomas** (URV)

10:15 a.m. *A moment of populism against neoliberalism, or a moment of neofascism within neoliberalism?*  
**Éric Fassin** (Université Paris-8)

11:00 a.m. Break

11:30h a.m. *New reactionary experiences: the defeat of liberalism and the algorithmic sentimentalisation of democracy.*  
**José Maria Lassalle** (ICADE, Madrid)

12:15 p.m. **Table 3**

*Memorial heritage, expository context and pedagogy: Do spaces of memory act as preventives?*  
**Montserrat Duch** (URV), **Jordi Guixé** (EU-ROM), **Agnès Sajaloli** (Memorial du Camp de Rivesaltes) and **Jens-Christian Wagner** (Lower Saxony Memorial Sites Foundation).  
Moderator: **Sílvia Marimon** (journalist)

### Afternoon Session: Round Table

4:00 p.m. **Table 4**

*Implementation of public memory policies. Experience and practices vis-à-vis the challenge of authoritarian radicalism and revisionism.*  
**Ricard Vinyes** (UB), **Aintzane Ezenarro**, (director of Gogora, Institute for Memory), **Jordi Font Agulló** (director of Memorial Democràtic), **Francisco Javier Giráldez** (former general director of the department of Democratic Memory of Andalusia).  
Moderator: **Josep Maria Muñoz** (historian and journalist)

5:30 p.m. **Closing Conference**

*From fascists to reactionaries*  
**Josep Ramoneda** (journalist, philosopher and writer)

## Saturday, 30 November

Portbou, meeting point: Tourist Office

8:00 a.m. **Walter Benjamin Tour.** Walking tour from Banyuls to Portbou

Portbou. Sala La Congesta

6:00 p.m. 4th Walter Benjamin Memorial International Prize Ceremony, 2018-2019

6:30 p.m. Free concert (please reserve tickets): *L'últim camí de Walter Benjamin.* Musical and visual performance by **Juliane Heinemann**