

First International
Conference

“SUBALTERN” MEMORIES



LGBTI+
STRUGGLES IN EUROPE

EUROM
EUROPEAN
OBSERVATORY
ON MEMORIES



Fundació Solidaritat
UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA



Generalitat de Catalunya
**Departament d'Igualtat
i Feminismes**



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University of Barcelona - June 21, 2022
Historical building, Capella room
Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 585



europeanmemories.net

This annual conference aims to give voice to different “subaltern memories” understood as those memories related to certain social groups that have been silenced or marginalized.

For this first edition, we will address the memories of the LGBTI+ community which historically suffered harsh repression due to conservative behaviours and policies against sexual diversity that are still in force today in many countries. Above all, this one-day conference aims to commemorate the struggles and achievements of the LGBTI+ communities in defending their rights in order to reach a truly egalitarian society in Europe.

Through historical basis, the experience of LGBTI+ activists, and a transnational perspective, the conference aims to provide attendees with the knowledge to think about the roots of current discrimination and to contribute to a more tolerant and inclusive society.

Organized by the European Memory Observatory of the University of Barcelona’s Solidarity Foundation with the support of the Department of Equality and Feminisms of the Government of Catalonia, and co-funded by the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme of the European Union (CERV) Program.

AGENDA

Simultaneous interpretation (Catalan-English) will be available.

9.00 – 9.30 a.m.

Registration of the attendees

9.30 – 10.00 a.m.

Welcome session

Montserrat Puig Llobet, Vice-rector of Equality and Gender,
University of Barcelona

Nadège Defrère, Team Leader for Non-Discrimination, DG
Justice, European Commission

Xavier Florensa, Director General of LGBTI + Public Policies
at the Government of Catalonia

10.00 – 11.30 a.m.



Keynote: ***Monuments to Gays and Lesbians in Europe. Forms of memory in the public space.***

Stefanie Endlich, Honorary professor of public art at the University of Arts Berlin (Germany), will explain the creative process of some of the most notable monuments and memorials in Europe. Some in recognition of the persecution of homosexuals by the Nazi regime who remember the victims of that time. Others have emerged from the commitment of gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual movements to equal rights and their social recognition in the past and present. The conference will therefore address the aesthetic aspect of these monuments and will focus on their creation process: where do these initiatives come from? What problems and conflicts did they face? What debates accompanied its realization?

Chair: **Jordi Guixé**, director of EUROM

11.30 a.m. Coffee break

12.00 – 1.30 p.m.



First Panel: *“Shantay you stay” - who we remember, who we let go? Queer histories and memories in Italy, Spain, and Poland*

Kamil Karczewski (Poland), Riccardo Bulgarelli (Italy), and Moisés Fernández Cano (Spain), researchers of the European University Institute



Chair: **Oriol López Badell**, coordinator of EUROM



The three interventions explore various ways of telling queer histories and commemorating Queer past in Europe. They focus on three separate case studies rooted in different contexts (Italy, Spain and Poland) and periods (from 1918 to the 1980s). By employing diverse perspectives and methodologies, the panel will bring a heterogeneous and plural picture of an “impossible” queer European history made of a variety of actors, histories, and experiences. It also aims to reveal the diversity of ways in which queer past is remembered (and forgotten) across the continent. One aspect of these ongoing debates is the choice between “queer” and “LGBT” as the words we should use.

1.30 p.m. Break

3.30 – 6.00 p.m.

Screening of the film **“Great freedom”** (2021) followed by a Q&A session with **Thomas Reider**, scriptwriter of the film.

Based on true events and set in post-war Germany, the film explains the struggle of a prisoner in search of his rights and freedom, when he is imprisoned because of his homosexuality.



6.00 p.m. Break

6.15 – 7.30 p.m.



Second Panel: *From the local to the global perspective: Lesbians in Catalonia.*

Mercè Otero Vidal, feminist activist at Ca la dona and Xarxa Feminista;

Sofia Bengoetxea Sabaté, Buddhist nun and trans* activist at EnFemme;

Maria Giralt Castells, director of Gayles.tv, vice-president of the LGBTIQ Chamber and director of Pride Social Barcelona



Chair: **Katy Pallàs**, Association of LGBTI Families



Cis, trans and non-binary lesbians have made their own existence a struggle for their right to be and conquer spaces in which they were not expected. From these spaces, out of focus, they have been raising voices, ideas, writings, creatives, motherhood, ways of doing things, sometimes silently and sometimes silenced. But here they are, in the conquered space and getting closer to the focus.



7.30 – 8:00 p.m.

Closing

Joan Guàrdia i Olmos, Rector of the University of Barcelona

Tània Verge i Mestre, Minister of Equality and Feminisms, Government of Catalonia