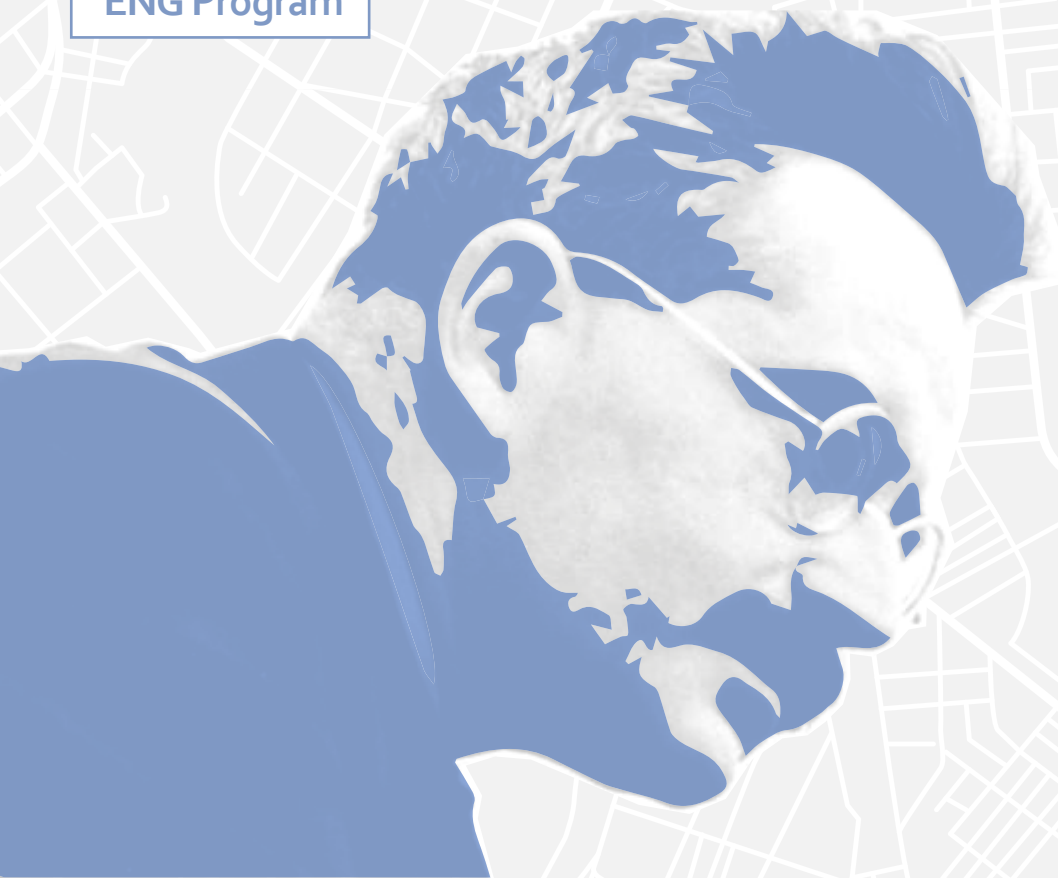


ENG Program



# *Liberal Democracy in Crisis: a global and local issue*

XI WALTER BENJAMIN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Portbou**

26, 27 and 28 September 2025

## XI WALTER BENJAMIN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Over the past decade, political and cultural discussions have been shaped by the upsurge and consolidation of various radical right and far-right movements worldwide. Against this backdrop, debates on the origins and features of the crisis of liberal democracy and the emergence of authoritarian political forces are ubiquitous, and they are often presented in the public sphere as the heirs of historical fascisms and the tumultuous 1920s and 1930s. The proposals of these political movements and regimes, with their leaders at the forefront, have in common simplification of political discourses, schematisation of public debate and advocacy of direct and forceful solutions to complex problems.

This is a global issue which concerns almost all liberal democratic countries, each with its own features related to its history or political and economic context. It ranges from the United States, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Austria and Spain to Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, El Salvador, Turkey and India, to name but a few of those which are seeing these rising authoritarian tendencies. It is a widespread trend with cross-border components which is suitably tailored to local circumstances and expanding with unforeseeable consequences.

This international conference seeks to unpack the current crisis of liberal democracy through the interventions of specialists, taking into account all these factors and with a cross-cutting approach spanning political science, history, philosophy and journalism. It will also examine these political issues of the radical right and the far-right in relation to the role which the conventional media, social media, education, political systems and public policies on memory can play.

### PROGRAMME

#### Friday 26 September. Portbou. La Congesta Hall

---

Opening session

**06.30 pm** Institutional presentations.

**06.45 pm** Opening talk. **Federico Finchelstein** (The New School For Social Research, New York, USA): «The United States, Trump and the Global Far Right: are we back in the 1930s?».

**07.45 pm** **Presentation of the Walter Benjamin International Prize**, VII edició, 2025.

## Saturday 27 September. Portbou. La Congesta Hall

---

Morning session

**10 am** By **Clara Ramas** (Complutense University of Madrid): «Wistfulness and its political uses in a turbulent present».

**11 am** By **Máriam Martínez-Bascuñán** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid): «The radicalised right, hate speech and gender».

**12 noon** Discussion

**1 pm** **Official tribute to Walter Benjamin.** Portbou Cemetery.

Afternoon session

**4 pm** By **Steven Forti** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona): «From Berlusconi to Meloni. Italy as a laboratory of the far right».

**5 pm** By **Pablo Stefanoni** (researcher at the Carolina Foundation and editor-in-chief of *Nueva Sociedad*): «From Bolsonaro to Milei: A reactionary wave in Latin America?».

**6 pm** Discussion and conclusions.

**06.30 pm** Showing of the documentary film *Walter Benjamin, el aura del camino* by **Jacobo Sucari**. Discussion with **Núria Ricart** (EUROM-UB).

## Sunday 28 September. Portbou

---

**8 am** **Walter Benjamin Route. Walking itinerary from Banyuls to Portbou. With artistic intervention by Nau Còclea.**

**Registration:** at MUME before 23 September 2025.  
Tel. (0034) 972 556 533 - [info@museuexili.cat](mailto:info@museuexili.cat)

**Meeting point:** Portbou Tourism Office. Passeig Lluís Companys, s/n  
**Free shuttle to the starting point.**

# XI WALTER BENJAMIN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Organize



Collaborate



Cofinanciado por  
la UNIÓN EUROPEA  
Cofinancé par  
l'UNION EUROPÉENNE

