



\_RTS S\_NT\_ MÒNIC\_

# EUROPE 'S DISTANCES

A SERIES OF LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

ARTS SANTA MÒNICA

From 27 to 29 October 2010

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Concept and coordination: **Simona Škrabec**

Organized by: **Arts Santa Mònica**  
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# Europe's Distances

To speak of Europe in Europe is to speak about ourselves and the space we live in. We have to engage the life we live, but at the same time we need to think about the life we would like to live. In any discussion about Europe there are always traces of that ideal image in which we would like to see ourselves reflected. We Europeans like to make plans for the future, and it could even be said that the Europe we have built is living on credit, with long-term objectives that can never be examined in their entirety, and we are currently projecting ourselves into a future that has yet to arrive. The complexity of Europe is a fact that cannot be addressed in any simplistic way, and we often fail to appreciate how far our forms of speech and thought condition us and our world. The best way of approaching the multifaceted reality of the continent is through knowledge and understanding. This series of lectures invites us to read reality instead of simply living it: we want to analyse the discourses and weigh the dreams we share and think our world critically in order to understand it better.

Concept and coordination: Simona Škrabec  
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In conjunction with Goethe Institut

Organized cycle within the framework of the **EUROPES Festival**

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*All sessions will have simultaneous translation*

**Admission free**

**Limited number of places. Telephone booking recommended  
93 567 11 10 Tuesday to Sunday between 11.00 a.m. and 9.00 p.m.**

# Session Wednesday 27 October

## THE SEDIMENT OF THE PAST

Day-to-day politics relies on the immediate utility of memory, so the future is projected backwards like a shadow that screens the difficult chapters of recent history. Is there a firm commitment in Europe to keeping the memory of the past alive? Can we think Europe critically? Do we know how to use the past to make sense of the contradictions of the present? Is the past ours in the same way that the present is?

Participation: **Dan Diner, Christiane Stallaert, José Enrique Ruiz-Domènec, Gustau Muñoz and Simona Škrabec**

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5.30 p.m. **Opening remarks**

6.00-6.45 p.m.

**Dan Diner, 'The Folds of History. The Transformation of the Memory of World War II in the Era of Globalization'**

This lecture sets out to trace the key shifts in the historical perception of World War II as the basis for a universal moral and epistemic understanding, in the knowledge that this has to be addressed from a number of particular angles: the Western perspective, the East-European viewpoint and the colonial and postcolonial experience. The review of the various phases of the discourse will centre on specific events of the war years and since and put forwards a complex appreciation that goes beyond essentialism while steering clear of relativism with the aim of recapturing the virtues of historical judgement.

7.00-7.45 p.m.

**Christiane Stallaert, 'From 1492 to 1942: Landscapes of Memory of Transmodern Europe'**

According to Rosa María Rodríguez Magda, transmodern Europe includes the heritage of modernity, but has transformed and transcended it. The European landscape can be read as a heterotopic space of its own past, anchored to two emblematic dates, 1492 and 1942, historic moments which articulate the social memory of 21st century Europe. In contrast to the concept of a collective memory, which implies an agreed interpretation and shared values, the notion of a 'compiled' memory (James E. Young's 'collected memory') acknowledges that social memory is made up of a compilation of national, regional and local memories. The places of memory of the European landscape are thus filled with divergent, incompatible and even conflicting meanings. Reading the landscapes of the European memory involves decoding a syntax that is 'radicant' in Bourriaud's sense. On all sides synchronic and diachronic translations link the various transmodern identities and weave the fabric of a 'collected' memory.

8.00-9.00 p.m.

**Discussion**

**José Enrique Ruiz-Domènec: 'Why Europe? History's Answer'**

A review of the enduring traits that have shaped the identity of Europe from the fall of the Roman Empire to the twenty-first century.

**Gustau Muñoz, 'The Contradictory Legacy of Europe'**

As it faces a new era of turbulence, Europe must critically examine a legacy made up of highly contradictory elements. The most valuable contribution it can make to the process of global civilization is to preserve the effectively universalizable central strands of this legacy, rejecting the temptations of complacency or a resigned acceptance of a provincial, marginal and ultimately residual place in the contemporary world. Learning from the critical phases of a lengthy history, thinking in the long term and identifying the logic of an expanded reproduction of the best European impulses are the tasks we should set ourselves

**With Dan Diner and Christiane Stallaert** Moderated by **Simona Škrabec**

## Session Thursday 28 October

# THE IMPULSE OF MODERNITY

Europe is a continent capable of transformation: this is perhaps the most important lesson that the twentieth century has taught us. Europe's human landscapes have been changed brutally by conflict and war, but alongside all this painful experience, Europe has also shared the conviction that progress means continual change, and its artistic movements have nurtured and even engendered a culture premised on transformation. Strident manifestos and subtle drawings alike show that modernity is above all about innovation and the tireless pursuit of all that has yet to be. The Art Nouveau route links Barcelona with Ljubljana, Vienna and Krakow, but at the same time the rebellious spirit of the avant-garde and the expendable landscapes of today make Europe an interconnected space, a dense network of relationships and shared ideas.

Participation: **Joan Ramon Resina, Peter Krečič, Francesc Muñoz, Domènec Font and Manuel Guerrero**

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5.00-5.45 p.m.

### **The European North-South As a Factor in the Emergence and Decline of Modern Legitimation**

Modern political legitimation emerged in Europe as a result of protracted conflict. Along with the modern state and its archetypal legitimation, other modern phenomena appeared: the professional (or in Weber's terms, vocational) politician, the division of powers, and international law as the code that regulates relations between states. But persistence of other forms of legitimation (traditional and charismatic, in Weber's typology) entailed that at the moment the modern legitimation arose, the belligerence of the resulting state (Napoleon's *grande armée*) produced a hostile reaction that forever changed the rules of engagement. The appearance of the partisan on European soil affected the theory of war and its practice, so that two centuries later the nature of conflict suggests the near obsolescence or at least the modification of Weber's typology.

6.00-6.45 p.m.

### **Peter Krečič, 'Modernity as an Aesthetic in the Arts'**

In the wake of the twentieth century, we must ask ourselves what was the predominant aesthetic in which it was lived. We need, in other words, to confront modernity in general. Another imperative is to study from the widest possible horizon all of the tendencies that have emerged in the arts in the last two centuries. Attempting such an unusual approach and putting together a general theory of modernity in the arts entails rethinking some fundamental theses: First: What are the links between modernity and history? Second: What is the relationship between the arts and science? Third: What is the relationship between modernity and the artistic avant-gardes? Fourth: What is the historical genesis of modernity? Fifth: How are we to separate what we regard as modern from what existed before modernity?

7.00-8.00 p.m. Discussion

### **Francesc Muñoz, 'Fragments of the European City'**

The Europe of the TGV and the low-cost carrier revolution is a Europe without distances:

flexible professionals teleworking in the most unexpected places, international students who have become a floating population thanks to cheap air travel, and the vast machinery of urban tourism that postmodernism has bequeathed us. Modernity established the ideal of collective happiness in the health that ensured a comfortable life expectancy. This having been achieved, the new utopias of happiness seek the guarantee of mobility to overcome distance once and for all. Without distance the landscape comes increasingly to resemble a sequence of ephemeral panoramas continually replaced by new ones, like the objects and experiences we consume. The comfort we seek is no longer that of feeling part of the identity of a place, but the opposite: living with a patchwork of landscapes in transit, a collection of cut-outs which we comfortably inhabit in take-away fashion.

**Domènec Font, 'European Fiction'**

The idea of a shared European imagination in the field of cinema and the audio-visual media disappeared over the horizon quite some time ago, but the low level of political debate does not preclude the need for it in a broader aesthetic and cultural context. Fragility, eccentricity and incoherence dominate the space of European fiction and the fiction of a Europe without consciousness. It is time to ask what is common to this undefined space with its many borders and languages and fill its empty rooms with content free of national spirits and compulsory tolls.

**With Joan Ramon Resina and Peter Krečič**  
**Moderated by Manuel Guerrero**

## Session Friday 29 October

# LIVING IN THE INTERSTICES

Europe cannot be broken down into lots of different pieces and then stuck together again like a jigsaw puzzle. Not all of the borders within the continent can be drawn on paper, because not all of the territories can be clearly separated from one another. Instead we must work with the concept of intersecting sets. All of the nations of Europe are familiar with migration and the increased mobility of the population. The rural world has changed and the big cities have become especially complex spaces. Is it possible to define Europe theoretically in such a way that the concept reflects this reality that the continent lives day after day?

Participation: **Miroslav Hroch, Montserrat Guibernau, Ferran Requejo, Francesc Serés i Enric Marín**

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5.00-5.45 p.m.

### **Miroslav Hroch, 'What Does "Nation" Mean Today?'**

If the concept of nation is a legacy of the past, does it makes sense to preserve it in a globalized future? We need to ask ourselves how the nations of Europe were formed from a historical point of view, or whether they are an accidental cultural construct. We must distinguish between two different approaches to building a nation: that of the nation states and that of the nations which — in their origins at least — did not have a state of their own. Another important issue is the imprecision of the term 'nationalism'. Has this always meant the same thing? Can we imagine nationalism without a nation? Or a nation without nationalism? It is useful here to situate nationalism in the context of national identity, patriotism and national consciousness. The European concept of the nation has spread and ended up being exported to other continents. How has transformed original concept as a result of this 'shift'?

6.00-6.45 p.m.

### **Montserrat Guibernau, 'The Birth of a United Europe: Why has the EU created a "non-emotional" identity?'**

A small elite has built up the network of institutions and treaties in such a way as to render the very thought of a 'civil war' between the nations of Europe impossible. Led from above, these processes have forged the idea of a united Europe and, as a result, the European Union, but they have also widened the gap between elites and masses within the European project. In so doing the EU has created a 'non-emotional' identity that is radically different from the sense of national identity that still prevails in the member states of the Union.

7.00-8.00 p.m.

### **Discussion**

### **Ferran Requejo, 'The Weak Fronts of Political Pluralism. Europe and National and Cultural Minorities'**

At the beginning of the contemporary era the liberal dispensations resulting from the revolutions in America and France and the process of constitutional reform in Britain marked a decisive step forward in the gradual emancipation of Western societies and the

embodiment of the values of liberty, dignity, equality and pluralism in the liberal and democratic states and the social market economy we know today. However, this very evolution, together with the fact that our democracies have been conceived and constructed at the state level, has limited the realization of those values, especially in the case of the permanent minorities.

**Francesc Serés, 'The Rats that Ate Culture'**

Literature can be thought of as the desire to make a contribution, to add to the sum of the singularities of many different authors. Does the same thing happen in every linguistic community? How can the literatures of smaller linguistic communities create its stories in the face of competition from other communities? Must cultures always and inevitably be subordinated to the mechanisms of representation and power?

**With Miroslav Hroch and Montserrat Guibernau  
Moderated by Enric Marín**



## PARTICIPANTS:

**Diner, Dan** (Munich, 1946). Professor of History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Director of the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at the University of Leipzig. Member of the Philological-Historical Section of the Saxonian Academy of Sciences. Author of numerous books and articles on 20<sup>th</sup>-century history, the history of the Middle East and Germany, especially the history of National Socialism and the Holocaust. Ernst Bloch Prize from the city of Ludwigshafen am Rhein (2006). His recent publications include: *Zeitenschwelle. Gegenwartsfragen an die Geschichte* (2010), *Lost in the Sacred: Why the Muslim World Stood Still* (2009, Capalbio Prize, Italy), *Disseminating German Traditions: The Thyssen Lectures* (with Moshe Zimmermann, 2009), *Cataclysm: A History of the Twentieth Century from Europe's Edge* (2007), *Gedächtniszeiten: über jüdische und andere Geschichten* (2003), *Feindbild Amerika. Über die Beständigkeit eines Ressentiments* (2002), *Beyond the Conceivable. Studies on Germany, Nazism, and the Holocaust* (2000).

**Font, Domènec.** Professor of Film History and Theory at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Director of the Barcelona International Festival of Contemporary European Cinema. He has published, among other works, *Michelangelo Antonioni* (2003), *Paisajes de la modernidad. Cine europeo 1960-1980* (2002), *La última mirada. Testamentos filmicos* (2000), *La noche del cazador* (1998), *Del azul al verde: el cine español bajo el franquismo* (1976).

**Guerrero Brullet, Manuel** (Mataró, 1964) He has a degree in Romance Philology from the Universitat de Barcelona. He is head of the Arts area at Arts Santa Mònica, Barcelona. Since 1990 he has been coordinator of the centre for new cultural trends KRTU (Culture, Research, Technology, Universals). He is the author of the biographical study *J. V. Foix, investigador en poesia* (Empúries, 1996) and the anthology *Sense contemplacions. Nou poemes per al nou segle: C. Hac Mor, E. Casasses, V. Sunyol, A. Vidal, A. Roig, X. Lloveras, D. Castillo, J. Cornudella i A. Pons* (Empúries, 2001). Of note among the many exhibitions he has curated are *Joan Brossa or the Poetic Revolt* (2001) and *Carles Santos. Visca el piano!* (2006) at the Fundació Joan Miró. Translator of works by Jean Genet, Fernando Pessoa and Eugénio de Andrade, among others. He has sat on the editorial boards of the magazines *Àrtics* (1985-90), *Cave Canis* (1995-99) and *Transversal* (1996-2003), and has been a member of the advisory board of the *Cultura/s* supplement of the newspaper *La Vanguardia* since its launch in 2003.

**Guibernau, Montserrat.** M.A. and PhD in Social and Political Theory from the University of Cambridge. Degree in Philosophy and Education Sciences (specializing in Philosophy) from the Universitat de Barcelona. She is currently Professor of Political Science at Queen Mary, University of London and Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics. She has published, among others, *The Identity of Nations* (2010), *Per un catalanisme cosmopolita* (2009), *The Identity of Nations* (2007; Spanish ed. 2009), *Catalan Nationalism: from Francoism to Democracy* (2004), *Nations without States* (1999), and *Understanding Nationalism* with John Hutchinson (2001) and *The Conditions of Diversity in Multinational Democracies* (2003) with Alain Gagnon and François Rocher. She is co-editor of the journal *Nations and Nationalism* (Blackwell) and a member of the advisory board of the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism (ASEN). She

has been visiting researcher at the universities of Tampere, Pompeu Fabra, Edinburgh, UQAM (Montreal) and the Austrian Academy of Science. Trias Fargas Prize 1998 and Eines d'Assaig Prize 2009.

**Hroch, Miroslav** (Prague, 1932). Professor of History in the Faculty of Humanities at Charles University in Prague. From 1993 to 2000 he was Professor of General and Comparative History at the Faculty of Arts. He has investigated the comparative history of modern Europe, the formation of nations, trade and politics of the seventeenth century and the importance of historical memory. Of note among his recent books are *Comparative Studies in Modern European History: Nation, Nationalism, Social Change* (2007), *Das Europe der Nationen* (2005), *La naturalesa de la nació* (2001), *In the National Interest: Demands and Goals of European National Movements* (2000) and *Social Preconditions of National Revival in Europe* (1985, 2nd ed. 2000).

**Krečič, Peter** (Ljubljana, 1947). Art historian and critic. Since 1978, Director of the Ljubljana Museum of Architecture. Visiting professor at the Department of Landscape Architecture of Biotechnical Faculty in Ljubljana since 1998 guest teacher at the Faculty of Architecture in Ljubljana and since 2004 part time teacher at the Faculty of Humanistic Sciences in Koper. His main field of research and publication is the question of modernism, protomodernism and the avant-gardes. In this context he has made a special study of the life and work of Avgust Černigoj, a Trieste painter and member of the constructivist avant-garde in Weimar in the Bauhaus years, and of the classic modern architect Jože Plečnik, a student of Otto Wagner's and a pioneer of modern European architecture. He is the author of several books and studies on these themes, including *Slovenski konstruktivizem in njegovi evropski okviri* (1989), and *Avgust Černigoj* (1999), devoted to a Trieste painter and member of the constructivist avant-garde in Weimar in the Bauhaus years. In this context he has made a special study of the life and work of the classic modern architect Jože Plečnik, a student of Otto Wagner's and a pioneer of modern European architecture: *Jože Plečnik* (1992), *Plečnik: The Complete Works* (*Plečnik: La lettura delle forme*; *Plečnik: La lecture des formes*, all three versions published in 1993), and *Plečnik in ekspresionizem* (2002).

**Marin, Enric** (Barcelona, 1955). Journalist. PhD in Information Sciences for his thesis on Catalan journalism during the Second Republic. Since 1978 he is professor in the Department of Journalism and Communication Sciences at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He is the author of numerous articles in the field of journalism, mass culture, the history of culture and communication, communication policies and cultural identity and the information society. Of note among his books are the work by several hands *Historia del periodismo universal* (1999), as sole author, *La premsa diària de Barcelona durant la Segona República (1931-1936)* (1991, Antoni Rovira i Virgili Prize), and, with Joan Manuel Tresserras, *Cultura de masses i postmodernitat* (1994, Joan Fuster Essay Prize). A visiting professor at Ohio University (1997), he was Dean of the Faculty of Communication Sciences at the UAB (1991-95), General Secretary of the UAB (1998-2002), member of the Board of the CPC Catalan Journalists's Association (2001-04), member of the Board of Directors of the Corporació Catalana de Ràdio i Televisió (2004-2006) and Secretary for Communication of the Government of Catalonia (2004-2006). In 2010 he was appointed president of the Corporació Catalana de Mitjans Audiovisuals. He is vice president of the Societat Catalana de Comunicació.

**Muñoz, Francesc** (Cadiz, 1968). PhD in Geography and Professor at the Universitat

Autònoma de Barcelona. Càtedra Victoriano Muñoz Oms award for the best doctoral thesis dealing with human values in engineering (2004). Specialist in urban design, town planning and the design of regional strategies. He has been an expert member of Council of Europe missions in these fields and a visiting professor at universities in France, Italy, Slovenia, Portugal and the UK, and in Argentina and Mexico, where he has published essays on the city and urban studies. His most recent book is *urBANALizació: Paisajes Comunes, Lugares Globales* (2008). He currently directs the Urbanization Observatory and the Master's in Intervention in and Management of the Landscape at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Member of the Advisory Council for the commemoration of Cerdà Year (2009-2010) and curator of the exhibition celebrating 30 years of democratic town councils, *Local, Local! La ciutat que ve* (2010).

**Muñoz, Gustau** (Valencia, 1951). Economist, essayist and translator. Universitat de València publications editor, technical director of periodical publications and editor in chief of the magazine *L'Espill*. He is also editor in chief of the magazines *Pasajes* and *Transfer*. He is the author of the books *Herència d'una època* (2006), *A l'inici del segle* (2002) and *Intervencions. Entre cultura i política* (1998), and the editor of *Joan Fuster i l'anàlisi de la realitat social* (2009) and *Els reaccionaris valencians. La tradició amagada* (2010).

**Requejo, Ferran**. Professor of Political Science at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, a regular contributor to *La Vanguardia* and former member of the Central Electoral Board. His main fields of research are theories of democracy, federalism, multinational democracies and political liberalism since World War II. Of note among his recent books are *Federalism beyond Federations* (2010), *Political Liberalism and Multinational Democracies* (2010; Catalan ed. 2009), *Multinational Federalism and Value Pluralism* (2005; Spanish ed. 2007; French ed. 2009), *Democracy, Nationalism and Multiculturalism* (2005), *Desigualtats en democràcia* (2009), *Análisis de experiencias de democracia directa en el ámbito internacional (1995-2007)* (2009), *Las democracias* (2008) and *Pluralisme i autogovern al món. Per unes democràcies de qualitat* (2005).

**Resina, Joan Ramon** (Barcelona, 1956). Head of the Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures and director of the Iberian Studies Program at Stanford University (USA). His last book but one, *La vocació de modernitat de Barcelona. Auge i declivi d'una imatge urbana* (2008), explores the troubled relationship between the urban, literary and political imaginaries. He is the author of numerous books, including *Del hispanismo a los estudios ibéricos: una propuesta para el ámbito cultural* (2009), *El postnacionalismo en el mapa global* (2005) and *La búsqueda del Grial* (1988), and the editor of *Mythopesis: Literatura, Totalidad, Ideología* (1992), *After-Images of the City* (2003) and *Casa encantada: lugares de memoria en la España constitucional 1978-2004* (2005).

**Ruiz-Domènec, José Enrique** (Granada, 1948). Writer, Professor of Mediaeval History and director of the Institute of Mediaeval Studies at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He represents Spain on the EU committee of 27 historians, one for each member country. Of note among his recent publications are *La ambición del amor. Una historia del matrimonio en Europa* (2005), *Il Gran Capitano* (2008), 'L'Héritage Méditerranéen de la culture européenne', in *27 Leçons d'histoire* (2009), *Identità europea o identità mediterranea?* (2008) and *Europa. Las claves de su historia* (2010).

**Serés, Francesc** (Saidí, 1972). Writer. He studied Fine Art and Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Universitat de Barcelona and taught History of Art at the Universitat

Pompeu Fabra and researched the relations between art and anthropology. He has published novels, short stories, plays and collections of non-fiction pieces, notably *Els ventres de la terra* (2000), *L'arbre sense tronc* (2001), *Una llengua de plom* (2002), *La força de la gravetat* (2006), *La matèria primera* (2007), *Caure amunt* (2008) and *Contes russos* (2009). He is working on a series of reports on the changes in the Baix Cinca and Segrià over the last forty years.

**Škrabec, Simona** (Ljubljana, 1968). Essayist and translator. She has a degree in German from the University of Ljubljana and a PhD in Comparative Literature from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Her research is centred on 20<sup>th</sup>-century European literature and the relationship between literary works and the formation of identity and the memory of the past. Her books include *L'estirp de la solitud* (2002), about the tragic sense in 20<sup>th</sup>-century short fiction, and *L'atzar de la lluita* (2005), which explores the concept of Central Europe. With Arnau Pons she coordinated an extensive project on the connections between German and Catalan culture, published as *Carrers de frontera* (2007-2008) in Catalan and German. She has translated books by Jesús Moncada, Jaume Cabré, Maria Mercè Marçal and Gabriel Ferrater into Slovenian, and Drago Jančar, Danilo Kiš, Boris Pahor and Aleš Debeljak, among others, into Catalan.

**Stallaert, Christiane** (Ghent, 1959). Professor of Anthropology and Intercultural Communication at the Catholic University of Leuven and Professor of Hispanic Studies and Translation at the University of Antwerp. Her primary focus is the analysis of multi-ethnic societies, models of coexistence, religious conversions, nationalism, migration and historical memory. Her anthropological research is historical, comparative and interdisciplinary. She has been a visiting professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris), the University of Santa Catarina (Brazil) and the University of Konstanz (Germany), as well as several Spanish universities (the Complutense in Madrid, the Rovira i Virgili in Tarragona, the UIMP and La Coruña). Of note among her published works are *Ni una gota de sangre impura. La España inquisitorial y la Alemania nazi cara a cara* (2006), *Perpetuum Mobile: entre la balcanización y la aldea global* (2004), and *Etnogénesis y etnicidad en España. Una aproximación histórico-antropológica al casticismo* (1998).