

COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

125^È ANNIVERSARY OF WALTER BENJAMIN'S BIRTH
BERLIN, 1892 - PORTBOU, 1940

SUNDAY, 24th SEPTEMBER

International Railway Station in Portbou
(Customs Hall).

Closing Event:
Summer School Walter Benjamin 2017

11:30 a.m. > 13:00 a.m.

Presentation and Performance on the book
L'Estació de Portbou.
Poetry book by Jordi Carrió and photos by
Manel Esclusa.



Reading by **Jordi Carulla-Ruiz**.
Closing by **Carles Duarte**, poet.
With editors' assistance: **Cuixart**
Goday and **Quim Curbet**.

INSCRIPTIONS

Free admission.
Attendance to separate sessions is permitted.
Open to all audiences.

CONTACT

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Walter Benjamin c. 1928



Organizers:



Collaborators:

ESDAP Vic



21–24 SEPTEMBER

SUMMER SCHOOL WALTER BENJAMIN PORTBOU 2017

COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS
125th ANNIVERSARY OF WALTER BENJAMIN'S BIRTH

Director of the seminar: **Sigrid Weigel** (Zentrum für Literatur und Kulturforschung Berlin), with the collaboration of **Chantal Benjamin**, **Natàlia Cantó** and **Pilar Parcerisas**.

Subject: **Memory, Childhood and Exile. "Childhood in Berlin around 1900" by Walter Benjamin.**

Place: Centre Cívic Ca l'Herrero, c/ Méndez Núñez, 2 Portbou.

With the participation of Oberstufen Kolleg an der Universität Bielefeld (Bielefeld, Germany), Escola ESDAP de Vic and Universidad de Murcia.

Visiting entity: European Network of Remembrance and Solidarity from Poland, with the programme "IN BETWEEN", collaborator of EUROM (Observatory of European Memories), and Universitat de Barcelona.

MEMORY, CHILDHOOD AND EXILE IN WALTER BENJAMIN

Memories of our childhood allow us to see and rediscover the past in the form of a dream-like experience. Such memories are often only fragments, that although full of life, stay in a distance. In this sense, they are similar to the relicts of an intense dream after waking up. Our childhood, that reverberates in these memories, which again wake emotions and impressions of the past and catapult them into the present, has become a part of our current self. It is this current self that discovers in the physical matter of an object, a sound, a gesture or a scent a little universe, a former self and a former world, which were lost and which we are able to recover for a short moment, before they disappear again within the realm of the past.

In his work *Berlin Childhood around 1900*, we have the opportunity to participate in Benjamin's magic and nostalgic moments by the help of which he shows us the power, cruelty and tragedy that can hide in such moments, which we once experienced with innocence and which gain a new meaning thanks to time and distance which collective and individual life creates between us and them. Time and lived distance decontextualise those moments from their horizons of concrete experience and order them within new meaningful contexts..

This year the summer school WALTER BENJAMIN PORTBOU wants to explore concepts such as childhood, memory, nostalgia, displacement/alienation, and re-contextualisation on the basis of Benjamin's Berlin Childhood around 1900. We aspire to touch upon the past as concept and experience by the help of intense readings, theoretical reflection, artistic practice and by the help of the magic hidden within the toy, which can invoke one's own and others' childhoods. We will let us guide on our journey by Benjamin's famous phrase: "Finds are, for children, what victories are for adults". Benjamin wrote this work in 1932 when he was forced to leave Berlin because of the rise into power of Nazism movement. This storehouse of memories was his first exile suitcase.

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 21th SEPTEMBER

Centre Cívic Ca l'Herrero

9:30 a.m.

Opening of the Summer School
Walter Benjamin, by **Chantal Benjamin** and **Sigrid Weigel**.

10:00 a.m. > 11:30 a.m.

Lecture by **Sigrid Weigel**:
Childhood as Primal Scenes of Reading Culture.

English language with simultaneous translation.

11:30 a.m. > 12:00 a.m. – Break

12:00 a.m. > 13:30 a.m.

Maria Mateo and one student.
Presentation of the workshop done at Oberstufen Kolleg an der Universität Bielefeld.

Explanation of the work done at Escola ESDAP de Vic. Teachers and students.

16:30 p.m. > 17:30 p.m.

Lecture by **Miguel Ángel Hernández Navarro**, Universidad de Murcia:
Nostalgias of Paradise: the artist as a toy player.

Spanish language with simultaneous translation into English.

17:30 p.m. > 18:00 p.m. – Break

18:00 p.m. > 20:00 p.m.

Carlos Wigger. D.Dr. Professor Emeritus in Philosophy Proper and History of Ideas (Universities of Oslo and Bergen, Norway).

Title: *Today Frankness and Honesty are only possible in small format*.
From the reading of *Childhood in Berlin around 1900*.

English language with simultaneous translation into Spanish.

FRIDAY, 22th SEPTEMBER

Centre Cívic Ca l'Herrero

10:00 a.m. > 11:30 a.m.

Presentation of the film project "Childhood in Berlin around 1900" by Frances Scholz and Aura Rosenberg.

Chapters: The Angel of Christmas, Kaiserpanorama, Pfaueninsel, Zwei Rätsel, Carroussel, Output and Return, Two bands, The Hunting of butterflies, The otter.

Comments and presentation by **Chantal Benjamin** and **Lais Chaiko Benjamin**, granddaughter and great-granddaughter of Walter Benjamin.

11:30 a.m. > 12:00 a.m. – Break

12:00 p.m.

Lecture by **Carme Alda Elorza**:
Caches: Unforgettable scenarios.

Psychoanalyst and member of Escuela Lacaniana de Psicoanálisis. Comunitat de Catalunya. Member of Asociación Mundial de Psicoanálisis.

16:30 p.m. > 20:00 p.m.

Workshop by **David Ymbernon**, visual artist. Toys and small objects. Title: *I would prefer to travel through the poetry*.

SATURDAY, 23th SEPTEMBER

Centre Cívic Ca l'Herrero

10:00 a.m. > 11:30 a.m.

Panel with **Natàlia Cantó**:
Reflective optimism. A look at optimism from Benjamin;
Sven Seebach: *Sacrifice and otherness: Benjamin, Bataille and the economy of excess* and
Amalia Rodríguez Monroy: *From the threshold. At Benjamin's place*.
Moderator: **Pilar Parcerisas**.

EXHIBITION

International Railway Station in Portbou (Customs Hall)

19:00 p.m.

Opening of the exhibition *Memory, Childhood and Exile in Walter Benjamin*, at the International Railway Station in Portbou (Customs Hall), With the participation of Escola ESDAP de Vic and Oberstufen Kolleg an der Universität Bielefeld (Bielefeld, Germany).