

the past: what history has established, he maintains, can be modified by remembrance.

5:00pm.-6:00 pm.

RADIO BENJAMIN. A sound experience.

Walter Benjamin. Experience in gloomy times. Radio scenes. Idea, text and direction on **Claudia Kálasz**. PhD. in philosophy with a thesis on Friedrich Hölderlin. She has been a professor at the Goethe-Institut Barcelona. She is a literary translator of 20th century Catalan poetry into German. He has written about the correspondence between the artist Francesc Abad and Walter Benjamin. Technique and sound: **Detlef Jesgarz**. A Niemandsländ Radioart radio production. A radio essay in an attempt to biograph the thought of Walter Benjamin, using all the resources of radio art. Between voice and sound collages, musical fragments and acoustic effects, quotes and comments recited by various speakers, the scenes dramatically convey how Benjamin's concept of experience develops against the hostile circumstances of his time.

6:00 pm. to 6:30 pm. BREAK

6:30 pm. to 8:00 pm.

Screening of the film LES UNWANTED DE EUROPA. The path of Walter Benjamin in a film by **Fabrizio Ferraro**, 2018. (Subtitled in Spanish). The film focuses on the Republican retreat and the exodus of Walter Benjamin, when he fled into exile on his way to the United States before deciding

to finish his life in Portbou on September 26, 1940.

Sunday, September 8

10:30 am. - 11:30 am.

Presentation of the first edition in Catalan of Walter Benjamin's SONETS /SONNETTE, translated by Arnau Ferre Samon, an edition of the Angelus Novus Foundation and Ediciones del Reremús. Presentation with **Claudia Kálasz** and **Arnau Ferre Samon**, the translator.

12:45 pm.

Floral offering at the cemetery, poetry and music.

Tuesday, September 17

7:00 pm.

Presentation of the book *Sonets/Sonnette* by Walter Benjamin, bilingual German/Catalan edition, at the Laie bookstore, Pau Claris, 85., Barcelona. Presented by: Carles Duarte, poet and Claudia Kálasz, Benjamin expert, with the presence of the translator Arnau Ferre Samon. The other publications of the "Angelus Novus" Foundation are also presented.

Friday, September 27th

4:15 pm.

Presentation / celebration of the 10 years of the Associació Passatges in Portbou at the Musée d'Art Moderne in Céret (France) and screening of an unpublished audiovisual

document with Dani Karavan in Portbou. Invited by Jean Calens and Les Cahiers VUPP in the framework of the Association Prix Européen Walter Benjamin 2024. Acknowledgments: Nathalie Raoux, Friends of the Musée d'Art

Place Walter Benjamin Library, Av. Barcelona, 11



Ajuntament de Portbou

Hotels

Portbou:
Hotel Comodoro
Hostal Juventus
Colera:
Tots som Pops
Gambina
Cervera:
Hôtel Le Belvédère du Rayon Vert

Organized by:



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IX WALTER BENJAMIN SUMMER SCHOOL PORTBOU

PROGRESS AND DISASTER

THE FISSURES OF CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

2024
From September 6th to 8th

PROGRAM

Progress and disaster: the fissures of contemporary society

Walter Benjamin, in the last months of his life and before being overcome by fatigue and persecution by the Gestapo, was able to write theses against the ideology of progress. He declared that infinite growth in the future would not be possible and that the emergency brake would have to be activated. The production and consumption of materials would not be sustainable in a resource-limited world. The theories of degrowth have filtered into sociology, economics, philosophy, ecology and any reflection that deepens the problem that plagues the 21st century, based on an unstoppable growth that is leaving the world without natural resources and delegates human intelligence to the machine. We have chosen this reflection on progress because it is very current. He tells us about a Benjamin who faces productivism, commodity fetishism, the loss of experience and the sensible world, criticism of alienated work, the void of time and catastrophe in history. This catastrophe of which great intellectuals, now recovered and longed for, such as Stefan Zweig and Benjamin himself, have echoed. This Benjaminian thought has influenced thinkers of great relevance. The centenary of the death of Franz Kafka will be addressed. As an international festival of multidisciplinary art and thought in the field of creation and the humanities, it contemplates a training seminar with lectures that include university postdoctoral students, poetry, staged theater, photography, visual arts exhibition and archive of conference contents.

Direction: Pilar Parcerisas (FAN), Cari Oriol Serres (AP) and Vicent Ordoñez (UNED)
Secretariat: Irene Cussó

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Languages Catalan / Spanish

Friday, September 6th

4:00 pm. – 5:00 pm.

Cari Oriol Serres. Philologist in Romance Languages and Professor of Literature.

The relationship between Stefan Zweig and Sigmund Freud and the latter's influence on Zweig's work.

5:00 pm. – 6:00 pm.

Dramatized reading of Stefan Zweig's novel "FEAR", with local actors. Direction: **Cari Oriol.**

6:00 pm. – 6:15pm BREAK

6:15 pm. - 7:15 pm

Maria Mora Tibau. Doctoral student at the Doctoral School of Philosophy of the University Paris I. He studies modern letters and philosophy in Paris. He discovered Benjamin's work in the last year of his degree and, since the Master's, he has been working on his work. Professor of philosophy at the Sorbonne (Paris) and international Ph.D. student between the same University and Rome.

The transparency of the glass. Walter Benjamin and the avant-gardes. Benjamin fully participated in the ideas of the avant-garde, particularly the New Objectivity, the Surrealists, Paul Scheerbart and the Bauhaus.

7:30 pm.- 8:30 pm.

Opening of the photography exhibition of **Patricio Salinas:** THE FOOTPRINTS OF A "FLÂNEUR". Portbou as a space of progress and catastrophe. Portbou International Station Customs Hall. It will remain open until Sunday, September 22.

Saturday, September 7

10:00 am.-11:00 am.

Lluís Montull. Director of the SSTT of Justice, Rights, Memory in the Terres de l'Ebre. Collaborating professor at the UOC. Collaborating professor at the UOC in the Degree in Sociology and the Master's in Contemporary Philosophical Challenges. Until January 2023, professor of philosophy at the Ramon Berenguer IV Institute in Amposta. Several publications on Walter Benjamin, historical memory and political philosophy. Author of the books: *Walter Benjamin and the Limits of Democracy* (2016) and *Experience as Resistance. Readings by Walter Benjamin* (2023).

Walter Benjamin and the ruins of Modernity. The concept of debris in three moments of his thought as the experience of debris is shaping up not only as a defining sign of the modern age and Modernity, despite its claims to the contrary, but also as a way of resisting here, to glimpse a future proposed as an interruption of the catastrophe to which the modern acceleration of time is plunging us.

11:00 am. – 12:00 pm.

Alba Gimenez Gil. Professor-tutor at UNED Barcelona since 2019 Ethics I, and Latest Art Trends in the Degree of Philosophy. He has also taught at the University of Girona, the University of South Wales, United Kingdom and the UNED Sant Boi de Llobregat.

Starving artists. The short story of Franz Kafka and Walter

Benjamin. Based on the title of a short story by Kafka: "An artist of Hungry", which reflects the claustrophobic and unifying atmosphere of the two novels, the affinities and contrasts between the two writers will be explored. Kafka as "spiritual anorexic" and Benjamin from redemption and hope.

Diana González Béjar.

Graduated in Law and Political Sciences from the Carlos III University of Madrid. Practicing lawyer and Philosophy student at UNED.

Alienation in the work of Benjamin and Kafka: violence, dehumanization and justice. Kafka's individual alienation in "The Process" and the dehumanizing experience of the individual in the face of the state monopoly of violence, based on "Benjamin's Critique of Violence".

12:00 pm. – 12:30 pm. BREAK

12:30 pm. – 1:15 pm.

Vicent Ordoñez (UNED). Full Professor of Moral Philosophy (UNED). He has published *El ridículo como instrumento político* (Ridicul as a political instrument) (UCM: 2015) *Espacio y jerarquía* (Space and Hierarchy) (PUV: 2022) and with Beatriz Santiago, *Panorámicas íntimas* (intimate Panoramas) (María Zambrano International Prize 2023. In press).

Ramon Del Castillo (UNED). Professor at UNED, in subjects of philosophy, cultural studies, English literature, Anthropology and History of Art. He has studied figures of Anglo-American Marxism and contemporary materialism.

Among his books, *Filósofos de paseo* (Philosophers on a walk) (2020), on Adorno, Heidegger, Sartre and their relationship with Nature, and *Divinos detectives* (Divine detectives) (2022) on Marxist interpretations of the crime novel.

Dialogue. Departure station: Kafka and Benjamin

1:15 pm.– 1:30 pm.

Commentary and dramatized reading of a story by Kafka, by **Cari Oriol.**

4:00 pm. – 5:00 pm.

Paula Kuffer. Doctor of Philosophy with a thesis on the figure of the witness and the representation of history in W. Benjamin and W.G. Sebald. Professor of Contemporary Philosophy at Pompeu Fabra University. She has been a researcher in Berlin and Buenos Aires. Member of the Postfoundational Contemporary Thought research project. He has participated in national and international conferences, published several articles in specialized magazines, and translated authors such as Sigmund Freud, Walter Benjamin, Doris Lessing and Judith Butler.

Of the remembrance or the power of failures. attacks the myth of historical progress, which proclaims an automatic improvement, a constant evolution of societies towards greater democracy and freedom. The philosopher denounces that, in reality, the mastery of progress presupposes the progress of mastery and only portends an inevitable catastrophe. Faced with this, he looks back and locates utopia in the failures of