

# CATALAN MEDIA, PAST AND PRESENT: PRESS, TV, RADIO AND OTHER NEWS OUTLETS

An international conference  
with speakers from Catalonia,  
Valencia, Mallorca, Ireland,  
Wales, and Germany

**13 SEPTEMBER 2023 - 9.30-17.50**

**QUEEN MARY**

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**IN-PERSON: ARTS ONE, 1.28**

**EVENT FREE TO ALL,  
BUT REGISTRATION  
IS ESSENTIAL**

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Centre for  
Catalan Studies



Queen Mary  
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# **Catalan Media, Past and Present: Press, TV, Radio and Other News Outlets**

13 September 2023

9.30 – 17.50 h

Queen Mary University of London  
Mile End Campus. ArtsOne, 1.28

**9.30 – 9.45**     **Introduction:** Professor John London,  
Director of the Centre for Catalan Studies

**9.45 – 11.05**     **Historical perspectives**

**9.45 – 10.25** Dr Richard Huddleson – *Re-Assessing  
Identity in 'Ressorgiment': Youth(ful) Politics and  
(Post)Colonial Entanglements*

**10.25 – 11.05** Dr J. Àngel Cano – *Joan Fuster and  
literary journalism: his participation in 'Serra d'Or'*

**11.05 – 11.20**     **Coffee break**

**11.20 – 15.00**     **Representing the media and representing countries**

**11.20 – 12.00** Dr Christopher D. Tulloch – *The Media in  
Catalonia: Quo Vadis?*

**12.00 – 12.40** Vicent Partal – *VilaWeb: 30 years doing journalism from the future*

**12.40 – 13.40** **Lunch**

**13.40 – 14.20** Dr John Geraint – *Representing Wales*

**14.20 – 15.00** Craig Willis – *Media Institutions and TikTok: an overview of Catalan outlets in comparison to Basque and Galician*

**15.00 – 17.40** **Personal accounts**

**15.00 – 15.25** Cristòfol Tripiàna – *Working as a proofreader for the Valencian Media Corporation*

**15.25 – 16.05** Sergi Forcada – *The view from abroad: British media coverage of Catalonia and Catalan media coverage of the UK*

**16.05 – 16.20** **Coffee break**

**16.20 – 17.00** Ainhoa Paredes – *Life and work of a news correspondent*

**17.00 – 17.40** Coia Ballesté – *“The BBC of Catalonia”, what is the CCMA and how does it operate?*

**17.40 – 17.50      Closing comments**

**18.00                      Drinks and dinner: own arrangements**

**Venue to be confirmed**

**Please confirm your attendance: [catalan-centre@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:catalan-centre@qmul.ac.uk)**

**For any inquiries, please email  
[catalan-centre@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:catalan-centre@qmul.ac.uk)**

## People and abstracts

### **Dr Richard Huddleson: *Re-Assessing Identity in Ressorgiment: Youth(ful) Politics and (Post)Colonial Entanglements***

The concept of 'youth' is key to unlocking histories, particularly of those nations reawakening from slumber, during the early twentieth century. Catalan youth are no exception, but scholarship so far has focused solely on specific organisations and failed to reckon with the print cultures that fed their will and drive. This paper seeks to re-assess the case of a young Hipòlit Nadal i Mallol (1891-1978), who avoided the military draft and escaped to Argentina in 1912, and his Buenos Aires-based publication, *Ressorgiment* (1916-1972).

Focusing on the publication's early run from 1916 through to 1936, this paper will explore on how youth, as subject and object, were framed and sought out by Nadal i Mallol. Furthermore, as new ideologies poured forth and attempted to engage the youth of numerous nations, this paper also seeks to understand the political edge of *Ressorgiment*, as a Catalan-language publication in a far flung context, during the tumultuous Revolutions of 1916-1923, which completely changed the face of Europe and planted the seed for later carnage.

This paper draws upon research conducted in the Casal de Catalunya in Buenos Aires, and the Catalan collection at the New York Public Library.

**Dr Richard Huddleson** (Riocárd Ó hOddail in Gaeilge) is Assistant Professor in Iberian and Latin American Studies at National University of Ireland, Maynooth. He was previously the postdoctoral fellow in Catalan on the ERC project 'Youth Engagement in European Language Preservation' in Scoil na Gaeilge at UCD, and an Ahmanson-Getty postdoctoral fellow at UCLA. In 2021, he completed his PhD at the Centre for Catalan Studies, Queen Mary, University of London.

## **Dr J. Àngel Cano: *Joan Fuster and literary journalism: his participation in 'Serra d'Or'***

Between 1959 and 1984, Joan Fuster wrote more than 150 articles for *Serra d'Or*. In my conference, I will explain the different stages of his collaboration in this magazine and I will try to define the features that allow us to include his literary journalism in the essay genre.

**J. Àngel Cano Mateu** holds a PhD in Catalan Philology with a doctoral thesis on Joan Fuster and *Serra d'Or*. He has been the Catalan lecturer at the University of Leeds during the two previous academic years and, since September, he has become a full-time professor in the Department of Catalan Philology of the Universitat de València.



## **Dr Christopher D. Tulloch: *The Media in Catalonia: Quo Vadis?***

2023 marks the 40th anniversary of Catalunya Radio and TV3, Catalonia's public broadcasting service. Rather than looking back at the past, this talk examines where Catalonia stands today from a media standpoint. four decades after this landmark moment in Catalan public communication. It takes a look at the broadcasting landscape, the audiovisual sector in general, the print and online press, the magazine sector, the sports press, the Catalan news agency and emerging projects and aims to project challenges for the sector over the coming years.

**Dr. Christopher D. Tulloch** is Associate Professor of International Journalism and Global Communication at the Department of Communication of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona and Learning Unit Lead in International Journalism and Global Media of the Eutopia University Alliance. He is also visiting professor of Global Media systems and Conflict at the University for Peace at the United Nations. A specialist in foreign correspondence, Tulloch has also published extensively in the field of the press and political transitions, journalism ethics and crisis communication.

As for his experience in the field of Catalan media studies, he has published on subjects as

wide ranging as the role of foreign correspondents during the independence movement (2012–2017), the presence of Catalonia in the US press during the Transition (1975–1978) the Catalan News Agency and the global media presentation of Barcelona and Catalonia during the Olympic Games. Over the last 30 years he is also been a regular contributor to Catalan media outlets (TV3, Catalunya Radio, La Vanguardia, CNA, 8TV...).



### **Vicent Partal: *VilaWeb: 30 years doing journalism from the future***

VilaWeb.cat has been at the forefront of the digital press in Europe since 1994. Its history is one of innovation and adaptation, both technologically and in terms of the market, always at the service of the quality press. 30 years later, new challenges await.

**Vicent Partal** is a journalist. Director of VilaWeb, a newspaper he founded in 1995. He is also the president of the Board of Directors of the European Journalism Center and member of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans.



### **Dr John Geraint: *Representing Wales***

Dr John Geraint is one of Wales's most experienced documentary film-makers.

In this paper, John Geraint traces the evolution of how Wales has appeared on screen during the course of his career, from near-invisibility towards a more rounded reflection of the complexity of Welsh experience. The creation of a Welsh-language TV channel, S4C, in 1982, was a political victory which brought major socio-linguistic benefits; but it left under-represented – to themselves and to the wider UK audience – the lives and concerns of the majority of Welsh citizens, who don't speak Welsh. Even in a UK public broadcasting system which, at its centre, is given to thinking of itself as the best and most enlightened in the world, the efforts to address that deficit would entail a long struggle, which, arguably, remains incomplete, even today.

Key to John Geraint's analysis is the complex, interrelated group of meanings bound up in the idea of 'representation'. How a group of people – in this case, a nation – *is represented* shapes how that group is seen by itself and others, how they regard their place in the world and their entitlement to rights the state claims to guarantee its citizens. How television represents Wales – to itself and beyond its borders – is crucial to understanding its significance in Welsh life.

**Dr John Geraint** has produced and directed hundreds of hours of high-quality documentaries for BBC, ITV, S4C, Channel 4, National Geographic, France Télévisions, History Channel, A&E and other global broadcasters, in a forty-year career spent in-house at the BBC and at Green Bay Media, the independent production company he founded with Phil George in 2001.

John was awarded a Ph D by the University of Glamorgan (2012); an MBA by the University of Bradford (1997); and an MA in English by the University of Oxford (1979).

John's debut in fiction *The Great Welsh Auntie Novel* was published by Cambria Books in 2022. He is currently engaged as Creative Director of the Rhondda Heritage project, building an interactive, multi-media Heritage Trail through the iconic former coal-mining valley where he grew up.



**Craig Willis and Sergiusz Bober: *Media Institutions and TikTok – an overview of Catalan outlets in comparison to Basque and Galician***

Within the context of minority language media, scholars and experts point towards the need to adapt to new genres and formats in order to be relevant for all audience segments (Moring, 2013; Jones et al. 2019). Youth media consumption is a particular concern in many spheres. This presentation, therefore, looks at the use of TikTok by public broadcasters and news outlets in Catalan to assess the depth of such adaptation and resulting response of the audience. This will be contextualized by comparison to Basque and Galician language



media spheres. Preliminary conclusions suggest engagement is stronger with less-institutionalised-appearing accounts.

**Craig Willis** is a Researcher at the European Centre for Minority Issues and a PhD Candidate at the Europa-Universität Flensburg. Focused on minority language media from a comparative perspective, his PhD is concerned with the role of non-speakers in the audiences of public broadcasting in minority languages. This is a five case comparison, involving regional broadcasters in Basque, Catalan, Galician, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh. In addition, a second research pole involves newspapers in minority languages, where he has co-authored several publications with his ECMI colleague, Dr. Sergiusz Bober. Alongside these research activities, Craig has also been the Assistant Editor of the Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE) since early 2021.



**Cristòfol Tripiana: *Working as a proofreader for the Valencian Media Corporation***

What challenges does a proofreader encounter when working for a Catalan-speaking outlet? What is special about the linguistic choices made at the Valencian Media Corporation? How can a misuse of machine translators affect our work? I will draw upon my experiences working at À Punt –Valencian Media Corporation– to explore these questions and more.

**Cristòfol Tripiana Traver** has worked as a Catalan Language Assistant and Administrator of the Centre for Catalan Studies at Queen Mary, University of London since October 2022. He has experience translating in private and public sectors and from March 2019 until June 2022 he worked as a proofreader for the Valencian Media Corporation.

## **Sergi Forcada: *The view from abroad: British media coverage of Catalonia and Catalan media coverage of the UK***

A comparative analysis of the stories covered by British media about Catalonia and the stories covered by Catalan media about the United Kingdom. We explore the interests and perspectives of both British and Catalan media when reporting on each other's regions, providing insights into the "view from abroad" and shedding light on potential biases, stereotypes, and agenda-setting.

This will not be based on an academic research project, as it will incorporate personal experience as a foreign correspondent. However, data from the BBC's coverage of stories related to Catalonia and RAC1's coverage of UK stories will be used.

**Sergi Forcada Freixas** is a Senior Journalist at BBC News. He is the editor of the TV bulletins between 12.00 and 15.00 and regularly reports for TV, radio, and digital platforms. He has worked for several Catalan media outlets, including RAC1, Betevé, and TV3.



## **Ainhoa Paredes: *Life and work of a news correspondent (over 20 years)***

I will offer an understanding of the life of a news correspondent, living on the edge with your mobile on 24/7, having to run every time there is a breaking news... I will also be talking about how the profession has changed since I started my career as a journalist. The challenges faced by correspondents: covering news at the same time for TV, radio and newspapers; the experience of working for Catalan and non-Catalan media outlets; adapting to the public you are addressing; working alone in the field far from the headquarters; the use of language (Catalan, Spanish and English at the same time); the fastest evolution of technology of a generation; the internet both as a friend and a foe.

**Ainhoa Paredes** is the UK correspondent of MEDIASET. Before moving to London Ainhoa covered the news of the Balearic Islands for both La Vanguardia and RAC 1. In 2002 she studied an MA in International Relations and Diplomacy at the School of Oriental and African

Studies (SOAS, University of London) having received a scholarship via La Caixa Foundation (Barcelona) and the British Council.

Since then she has worked for, amongst others, El Correo newspaper and Punto Radio. Since 2006 she has been the UK correspondent of Telecinco (MEDIASET).

As a correspondent Ainhoa has covered the most important news in the UK. This has included several general elections (Tony Blair, David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson), terror attacks in London and Manchester, the Scottish referendum, Brexit, the global pandemic, Party Gate, the death of the Queen and the Coronation of King Charles.

She has also contributed to setting up the Latin American programme of the Rory Peck Trust, the London based organisation which helps freelancers from around the world. She is part of the committee of the Foreign Press Association (London).



### **Coia Ballesté: “The BBC of Catalonia”, what is the CCMA and how does it operate?**

The Catalan Audiovisual Media Corporation was created forty years ago by the unanimity of all political forces in the Parliament of Catalonia. Its mission is to offer a quality audiovisual public service; help consolidate and expand language, culture, identity, and the international projection of Catalonia. The group has several television channels, radio and a news web portal. TV3 has been the audience leader in Catalonia since its creation.

**Coia Ballesté Brumós** is the UK correspondent for the Catalan Broadcasting Corporation. She has been the coordinator of several audience-leading programs at Catalunya Ràdio. She has been part of the newsroom for sports, programs and news. She has been Deputy Head of the sports department; has covered several Olympic Games; Football World Cup and has also been part of Joaquim Maria Puyal's prestigious team. She has been Delegate of the CCMA, TV3 and Catalunya Ràdio, in Tarragona and l'Ebre. Member of the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Letters of the Rovira i Virgili University. She has been president of the College of Journalists of Tarragona and vice-dean of the College of Journalists of Catalonia.



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