

The Department of History at Central European University cordially invites you to the first lecture in the Departmental Research Seminar Series 2017/2018 entitled:

Anarchism(s), Past and Present: Catalonia and Spain through the Lens of History

By Julián Casanova Ruiz

Monday, October 30th 2017 at 6.00pm in Nador 11 Building, 004 Smart Room



Two doctrinal currents inspired the anarchist movement: liberal individualism and socialist communitarianism, two doctrines that were difficult to balance in practice despite their claims to natural harmony. The type of anarchism that triumphed in 20th century Spain was one of “communitarianism” and “solidarity”, relying on the popular masses to bring about the success of the revolution. Without that support of a broad spectrum of society, it would never have become a mass movement; it would have been merely a useful ideology for a few rebellious individuals, revolutionary but fragile, dwarfed by the growth of socialism and relegated to verbal violence. But its history was also associated with the bomb and the pistol, the sinister figures of men in black capes clutching sticks of dynamite, gunmen and rabid anti-clerics. Eighty years. That is how long the anarchist seed, its sowing and its harvest lasted. They had always thought that the state could not make people equal. They never tried to launch a vast experiment in social engineering (as communism and fascism did, with the consequences we know). The history of anarchism is not all a bed of roses, but there is in it something more than bombs and pistols. Revisiting the complex history of anarchism(s) in Spain might not only prove beneficial for scholars looking for historical comparisons but could also provide us with an alternative lens through which the recent developments in Spain and Catalonia could be analysed.

Julián Casanova Ruiz is a Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Zaragoza and a Visiting Professor at the Central European University in Budapest. His publications include *Anarchism, the Republic and Civil War in Spain: 1931-1939* (London and New York: Routledge, 2005); *The Spanish Republic and Civil War*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010); *A Short History of the Spanish Civil War* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2012); *Europa contra Europa, 1914-1945* (Barcelona: Crítica, 2011); and, with Carlos Gil Andrés, *Twentieth Century Spain: A History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012). His last book is *La venganza de los siervos. Russia 1917* (Barcelona: Crítica, 2017).

Professor Casanova has been a Visiting Professor in several universities in England, USA and South America, among them the Queen Mary College (London), Harvard University, University of Notre Dame, New School for Social Research (New York), and FLACSO (Quito). He is a member of the Editorial Committee of the journal *Historia Social* and member of the Advisory Board of *The International Journal of Iberian Studies* (Bradford, England) and *Cuadernos de Historia de España* (Buenos Aires, Argentina).

All students, faculty and staff members are welcome to attend!

Drinks to follow!

Organized by:

Dr Balázs Trencsényi (Head of Department), Bence L. Bári, Ágnes Kende and Filip Lyapov
Budapest, 2017