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Catalan Literary Nonfiction 2017

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## Foreword

This is an outstanding moment for Catalan literature. An exceptionally fine tradition, the seductiveness of modernity and a curiosity about other literatures are all to be found amongst its current strengths, which are further bolstered by a well-established and vibrant publishing industry and the efficient work of literary agents.

One of the goals of the Institut Ramon Llull, as the public institution responsible for broadening the reach of Catalan language and culture, is to support authors, translators, publishers and literary agents with the aim of ensuring that Catalan literature is translated, published and read abroad.

This booklet offers 10 excellent essays published in Catalan in recent years. A selection that addresses a variety of trends, topics and genres: philosophic essays; humanistic texts; poetical biographies; rigorous chronicles; narrative journalism, and more. A heterogeneous collection of titles targeted at a wide readership, cultured but not specialised, concerned with art, history, politics, philosophy and poetry. It is not a canon but rather an overview of the current and lively scene of Catalan literary non-fiction.

10 engaging and elegantly-written books by prestigious authors, offering stimulating reflections, which aim to promote critical thinking and aesthetic pleasure in order to enrich our experience of the world.

Josep Maria Esquirol

# Intimate Resistance

## Essay on a Philosophy of Proximity

Esquirol reclaims what is deepest in the human condition and proffers answers with the hospitality and open-handedness of one of the Ancient Philosophers. His book is unusual in both its ambition and its delicacy.

**City of Barcelona Essay Prize 2015**

**National Essay Prize 2016**

We feel adrift in today's high-tech world. We rush to and fro without knowing whither we are bound. We feel stranded, stressed and nihilistic. That is why Josep Maria Esquirol resorts to a radical philosophical step — the quest for meaning. Here, his ambition is comparable with Peter Sloterdijk's. Instead of pursuing totalitarian notions (including

those of Science), Esquirol takes a critical look at the world around us, fleshing out a simple but powerful concept based on proximity. With engaging naturalness, he speaks of a dish of soup, the graffiti on a house wall in Turin, a sleepless night, or the use we make of language. In doing so, he weaves a simple yet compelling theory, namely: that we must resist if we are to shield our innermost being so that we can care for ourselves and help those at our side.



Quaderns Crema, 2015  
pages: 176

**ALSO PUBLISHED IN:**  
Spanish (Acantilado, 2015)

**RIGHTS SOLD INTO:**  
Italian (Vito&Pensiero)

**RIGHTS:**  
Quaderns Crema, Anna Muñoz  
rights@acantilado.es

“[...] The fog of nihilism can seep into everything, given that it is part of the human condition. It is precisely for this reason that the meaning of proximity will never be that of a perfect, happy world. Maybe this will be seen as too modest an ambition but it is not. It could be delusional but equally well, it could not. What can save us?, asked Heidegger. It is not only God, artistic creation and political oratory that hold out hope of salvation — so too does *proximity*.”



Josep Maria Esquirol is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Barcelona (UB), where he directs the Aporia research group. He is the author of numerous studies on contemporary philosophy and gives seminars on the subject at universities abroad.

### SELECTED WORKS

*El respeto o la mirada atenta*  
[Respect or the Attentive Gaze]  
(Gedisa, 2006)

*El respirar dels dies* [Breathing Days] (Paidós, 2009)

*Los filósofos y la técnica*  
[Contemporary Philosophers and the Technology] (Gedisa, 2011)

Marina Garcés

# Beyond The Classroom

## Guerilla Philosophy Texts

Garcés' thought is essentially rebellious in spirit. It subverts the meaning of words that we take for granted and in so doing, invites us to find new meaning in the world.

Philosophy broaches the difficult questions that crop up on the spur of the moment and on which the meaning of our lives depends. Will revolution save us from love? Is world pacification always a utopia to be wished for? Who has the power to ask the questions? In school though, we only find a system that puts words into pre-determined pigeon-holes and strings them together in leaden meanings. This is what led Marina Garcés to publish articles in newspapers. These gems have now been gathered in

book form. Working beyond the classroom, this thinker has waged a kind of guerilla war but instead of focusing on liberating “towns, neighbourhoods and regions”, she has “freed words, capturing their use and meaning”. Accompanying daily gestures — a hug, putting a ballot paper in the ballot box — with quotations from Malatesta and Wittgenstein, Garcés subverts reality and forces us to take sides and think about our lives.



Arcàdia, 2016  
200 pages

**ALSO PUBLISHED IN:**  
Spanish (Galaxia Gutenberg,  
2016)

**RIGHTS:**  
Arcàdia  
Montse Ingla / Antoni Munné.  
arcadia@arcadia-editorial.com

“Beyond the classroom, it seems there is only scope for punishment or flight to the silent, dark corridors to which those in the doghouse get sent. Beyond its bounds also lies the Sun and the adventures of those who spend the whole day cooped up within the classroom walls. Yet there are also things to think about outside the classroom: the torrid desires of those of us who have begun to learn, the resonance of disquieting words, unresolved problems and, above all, the relationship between learning and life — both one’s own and that of the community’s”.



Marina Garcés (Barcelona, 1973) is a Philosopher and Professor at the University of Zaragoza. Her thought is a statement of commitment to life as a common problem. This is why she develops her philosophy both within and beyond the classroom as part of a wide-ranging experiment with ideas, learning and ways of intervening in today’s world. She is the author of several books, including *En las prisiones de lo posible* (2002) [Prisons of The Possible], *Un mundo común* (2013) [A World in Common] and *Filosofía inacabada* [Unfinished Philosophy] (2015). Since 2002, she has been a driving force behind the collective project on thought, *Espai en Blanc* [Blank Space].

#### SELECTED WORKS

*Filosofía inacabada* [Unfinished Philosophy] (Galaxia Gutenberg, 2015)

*Un mundo común* [A Common World] (Edicions Bellaterra, 2013)

Martí Domínguez

# Lucretius' Dream

## A History of Freedom of Thought

Martí Domínguez has written much more than the story of a forbidden book for his is a hymn to enlightened thought.

### Winner of the Carles Rahola Essay Prize 2013

Legend [not to say Saint Jerome] had it that the poet Titus Lucretius Carus went mad after taking a love potion and committed suicide. Lucretius wrote *De rerum natura* [On The Nature of Things]. The story is a convenient way of explaining away the 'strange ideas' in Lucretius' encyclopaedic poem defending the ideas proposed by Greek atomism in which Divine Intervention had no role in how the world worked. *El somni*

*de Lucreci* [Lucretius' Dream] examines the fascinating story of how a copy of the ancient manuscript was found in a remote monastery in Germany. Lucretius' work came to inspire Renaissance men such as Galileo and Enlightenment thinkers such as Voltaire. Later on, it sparked ideas that would lead Darwin to come up with The Theory of Evolution. The result is a book that is a jewel of erudition and a rallying cry for free thought in the face of dogmatism.



Pòrtic – Grup 62, 2013  
360 pages

**RIGHTS:**  
Planeta Group  
Pilar Lafuente  
plafuente@planeta.es

“His [Lucretius’] magnum opus, *De rerum natura* [On The Nature of Things] has lasted over two thousand years and his voice is as clear and resonant as ever. From Lucretius to Darwin, there is a thread that leads through any number of twists and turns to our modern vision of Man. His poem lit the way for great minds, who took him as their Master in thought and used his ideas as weapons in the fight against religious fanaticism”.



Martí Domínguez (Madrid, 1966) has a PhD in Biology, is Professor of Journalism at The University of Valencia, and Director of the Scientific Journal *Mètode* [Method]. He writes for various newspapers, including *El Temps*, *Ara*, *El País* and *La Vanguardia*. Some of his articles are compiled in two collections *Peiximinuti* and *Bestiari*. He received the National Journalism Prize for his work as Director of the journal *Mètode*. As a novelist, Domínguez is author of *Les confidències del comte de Buffon* [Count Buffon's Secrets], winner of the Andromina and the Crexells awards, the University of Valencia Criticism prize, and the Prudenci Bertrana Prize. His work, *El retorn de Voltaire* [Voltaire's Return] received the Josep Pla Prize; *El fracassat* and *La sega* [The Reaping] received the Catalan Critics Prize and the Serra d'Or Critics Prize, respectively.

### SELECTED WORKS

*L'assassí que estimava els llibres* [The Murderer Who Loved Books] (Proa, 2017)

*La sega* [The Harvest] (Proa, 2016)

*El secret de Goethe* [Goethe's Secret] (Edicions 62, 1999)  
Granted the Prudenci Bertrana Award

*Les confidències del comte Buffon* [The Confidences of the Count of Buffon] (314, 1997)  
Granted the Creixells Award

Raül Garrigasait

# The Cosmopolitan Dog and Two Other Specimens

Essay-writing and narration come together in this delightfully erudite book, which explores what it means to be cosmopolitan.

Today's world is one whose limits are 'liquid' as Bauman would say. Being cosmopolitan is something that is imposed on us, often without us being fully aware of it. This erudite book is a blend of essay-writing and narration, and explores three ways of being cosmopolitan. It does so through three models, which while very different, all shed light on the present-day world. The cynic Diogenes renounced culture altogether.

The Flying Dutchman would never belong anywhere, like some tragi-comic tourist. Ramon Mercader, The Chameleonic Catalan who buried an axe in Trotsky's skull, was moved by an idea that he sacrificed his life (and of course, that of his Bolshevik victim) to. The three cases respectively represent Renunciation, Disorientation, and Obsession. The three perils and three temptations are three ways of being cosmopolitan.



A Contra Vent, 2012  
Pages: 132

**RIGHTS:**

A Contra Vent  
Quim Joaquim Torra  
acontraventeditors@gmail.com

“The Cosmopolitan Dog, The Flying Dutchman and The Chameleonic Catalan are the protagonists of this book and each is linked to a certain kind of cosmopolitanism. As the reader flips through the pages, the characters show off their good and bad points, clash with one another and strive to defend the lives they lead. Their stories do not always fit in with our ideas on ‘global citizenship’ and maybe this is what makes these stories all the more stimulating and thought-provoking.”



Raül Garrigasait is a Classic Philologist and translator, especially of Greek and German. He published *Cartes* [Letters], traditionally attributed to Plato, through the Bernat Metge Foundation. He has also translated works by Goethe, Papadiamandis, Rilke, Bauman and Sloterdijk. He is the author of the essay *El gos cosmopolita i dos espècimens* [The Cosmopolitan Dog and Two Other Specimens] and the poem *La tendra mà de cada arrel* [Each Root's Tender Hand] and the novel *Els estranys* [Outlandish Folk].

**SELECTED WORKS**

*Els estranys* [The Strangers]  
(Edicions de 1984, 2017) Granted  
with the Catalan Librarians  
Award



Fina Birulés Bertran

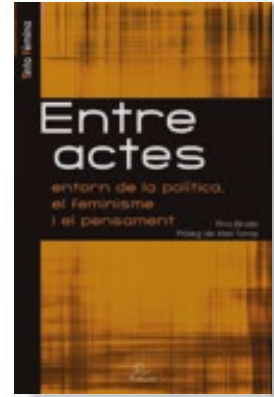
# The Intermission

## On Politics, Feminism and Thought

Fina Birulés says what we do not always want to hear. Being a woman is strongly linked with the scope for freedom at both the individual and the collective level.

Intermissions are those breaks in the play when the stage empties and the audience makes a bee-line for the cocktail bar. Yet far from being barren pauses, they give us a golden opportunity to think things through, undistracted by the action. Fina Birulés uses a kind of ‘intermission’ in her book to give the reader a similar chance for reflection. The texts are split into two parts. The first asks us what we really mean when we talk of ‘women’. This is a question of identity that is not only closely linked to political

responsibility but also to the individual and collective freedoms that are now threatened. The second part sketches the thought of various thinkers throughout the 20th Century, such as Hannah Arendt and Simone Weil, as well as less well-known ones such as Sarah Kofman and Jeanne Hersch. It does not seek to justify their feminism but rather to show that their unorthodox thought helps us wander off “today’s beaten tracks”. The book makes a compelling case and is both deep and revealing.



Edicions Trabucaire, 2014  
170 pages

**ALSO PUBLISHED IN:**  
Spanish (Katz Editores, 2017)

**RIGHTS:**  
Trabucaire  
Mireia Falquès  
edition.trabucaire@orange.fr

“The symbolic poverty of women partly stems from the fact that men’s works and words have been the medium of exchange in their dealings with society and the wider world. It is a world that is not merely unknowing or indifferent — as it is for any newborn baby. Instead, it is a world that does not recognise women or wish to do so unless they don the mental straitjackets fashioned for them. These straitjackets confine women to speaking in received ‘languages’ in the social sphere in ways that preclude representative legitimacy in the free relations between women”.



Fina Birulés Bertran is Professor of Philosophy at Barcelona University (UB). Birulés has written, translated and edited various works on Contemporary Philosophy, basically focussing on the work of Hannah Arendt and other 20th Century philosophers. Her research interests especially cover women philosophers, political subjectivity and issues in feminist theory.

### SELECTED WORKS

*La passió per la llibertat* [Passion for Freedom] (UB, 2004)



Amador Vega

# Passion, Meditation and Contemplation

## Six Essays on Religious Nihilism

Six essays that reveal different forms of nihilism, six 'disruptive' paths for philosophy, religion, poetry and art, written with the delicacy of those who know how to guide us in delving beyond mere appearances.

"I pray to God that I empty myself of God". It is with this paradox that Meister Eckhart [Eckhart von Hochheim] illustrates a form of nihilism — in this case a religious one — that seldom receives much attention. Through negative paths to knowledge, it proposes seeking out experiences of the void — a notion that can be found in all cultures. This quest brings one into contact with the void as the beginning of Creation. Deepening the links between mysticism and

aesthetics, the six essays brought together by Amador Vega in this book reveal different forms — some of them surprising — taken by this religious nihilism. This is a space free of dogmas, in which there are links between Zen philosophy and Western Hermeneutics. The philosopher Kitarō Nishida and the poet Matsuo Bashō commune, as it were, with The Desert Fathers and Ramon Llull, who prove key in interpreting modern artists such as Paul Celan and Mark Rothko.



Catalan (Empúries, 1999 – Fragmenta, 2012)  
200 pages

**ALSO PUBLISHED IN:**  
Spanish (Trotta, 2002)

**RIGHTS:**  
Fragmenta  
Ignasi Moreta  
ignasi.moreta@fragmenta.cat

“Zen, Mysticism and abstraction in Modern Art are all the result of criss-crossing discourses seeking to escape all cultural strictures and limitations. In this respect, they are mould-breaking languages because their starting point is negative forms of expression that make us teeter on the edge of a given cultural world. This book’s thesis is that such negative forms of understanding draw on the experience of nothingness to constitute a kind of thinking that can be termed ‘religious nihilism.’ This nihilism ranges from that of the Shakyamuni Buddha to Meister Eckhart and Mark Rothko.”



Amador Vega (Barcelona, 1958) has a PhD from the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität (Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany) and is Full Professor of Aesthetics at Pompeu Fabra University (UPF). He was *Joan Coromines Visiting Professor* at Chicago University (2007) and the Guest Professor at Université Saint Joseph de Beirut (Lebanon) (2010). He studies Western Mysticism and its links with aesthetics.

### SELECTED WORKS

*Ramon Llull y el secreto de la vida* [Ramon Llull and the secret of life] (Siruela, 2002; English translation:, Herder & Herder, 2003)

*El bambú y el olivo* [Bamboo and The Olive Tree] (Herder, 2004)

*Tratado de los cuatro modos del espíritu* [Treatise on The Four Modes of The Spirit] (Alpha Decay, 2005)

*Sacrificio y creación en la pintura de Rothko* [Sacrifice and Creation in Rothko’s Paintings] (Siruela, 2010)

*Tres poetas del exceso. La hermenéutica imposible en Eckhart, Silesius y Celan* [Three Poets of Excess. The Hermeneutics of The Impossible in Eckhart, Silesius and Celan] (Fragmenta, 2011).

Marc Serena

# This isn't African!

## From Cairo to Cape Town through the Forbidden Love

Marc Serena's book is in the best tradition of campaigning reporting. His work gives voice to those persecuted in Africa because of their sexual choices.

How do Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transsexuals (LGBT for short) fare in Africa? To answer this question, the journalist Marc Serena travelled The Dark Continent for six months between 2011 and 2012 on a journey that covered fifteen countries. The result is a book that highlights the persecution suffered by the LGBT community throughout Africa. "This isn't African!" is what many Africans say when they are asked about love that does not conform to the man-woman combination. The off-the-cuff phrase hides a virulent intolerance that is shared

by governments, religions and the media. Against this background, the people depicted in the book are heroes (and potential martyrs). Marc Serena's account is packed with heart-rending stories. There is the case of a blogger who anonymously relates his sexual experiences in Egypt. Among other things, we learn of the atmosphere in Algeria's Rai music cabarets, and of a woman lawyer who defends gay rights in Cameroon. The book brilliantly reveals the persecution that is often covered up and hidden from the outside world.



La Magrana, 2013  
304 pages

**ALSO PUBLISHED IN:**  
Spanish (Xplora, 2014)

**RIGHTS:**  
Marc Serena  
info@tchindas.com

“People who belong to the LGTB community (often without knowing it) are among the weakest and most threatened people in Africa. They are so vulnerable that nobody dares give them a hand. This also applies to international NGOs. These victims are assailed on a daily basis by governments, society, The Church, family members, friends, acquaintances, and the media. They are scorned or worse in schools, on the street and even in their own homes.”



Marc Serena (Barcelona, 1983) is a journalist and codirector of the award-winning feature documentary “Tchindas”, nominated at the African Oscars (AMAA) 2016 and broadcasted in the US by the PBS. His first book, “Trip to the 25” (2011), is a global snapshot of the Millenian generation that has recieved great sucess in Asia, where it has been published in Chinese and Korean. The book was Nominated by Camino del Cid as one of the best travel books of the year in Spain, and Lonely Planet awarded the blog of the project as the best of the world in a Non-English language. He has just published the photobook “Microcatalonia”, an on the road portrait about rural life in Catalonia awarded with the Carles Rahola Award 2015.

#### SELECTED WORKS

*Microcatalunya* [Microcatalonia]  
(Edicions Sidilla, 2016) –  
Granted with the Pilar Rahola  
Award

*La volta dels 25* [Trip to the 25]  
(La Magrana, 2011)

Albert Roig

# The Dog

## The Life of Rainer Maria Rilke

A biography that turns into a dialogue between poets, this book leads the reader into the mystery that was the raw material for Rilke's poetry.

One day “a scantily-dressed girl” came across a book that Albert Roig had read eighteen years before. She said to him: “This Rilke is an odd man, with such sad eyes like those of a boiled fish”. She might have received a vague reply but instead Roig's answer came in the form of a book. Like the rose in Rilke's epitaph —

*Rose, oh reiner Widerspruch, Lust,  
Niemandes Schlaf zu sein unter soviel  
Lidern*

[Rose, oh pure contradiction, delight  
of being no one's sleep under so  
many lids]

Rainer Maria Rilke wore many masks, behind which lies a mystery. Rilke was the child able to see within a dog, a man who made illness a profession, a lover of princesses, a rake who frittered away the little money he had, the visionary who said that the angels dictate elegies, Rodin's proud secretary. In portraying Rilke's many masks, Albert Roig works with biographical materials and their exegesis but he also transcends them. In a deep, enlightening dialogue, he seeks the mystery that nurtures Rilke's poetry.



Galaxia Gutenberg, 2016  
384 pages

**RIGHTS:**  
Galaxia Gutenberg  
Lidia Rey  
lrey@galaxiagutenberg.com

“From the Grand Hôtel of Bad Ragaz, in the Spring of 1926, a few months before his death, Rilke still had the strength to write to Marina Ivanovna Tsvetaeva. [...] Tsvetaeva had written to him saying that she wanted to visit him at Château de Muzot where he lived and “*only talk about poetry*”. Her mood is melancholy, “*Rainer, it's getting dark. A train siren howls. Trains are wolves and the wolves are Russia. It is not just the train, all Russia howls, calling you*”, and he answered in saturnal tone, “*Lovers and the young, Marina, should not know much of their decline*”; the two poets were never to meet.”



Albert Roig (Tortosa, 1959) is Professor of Rhetoric and Diction at Barcelona's *Institut del Teatre*. He is the author of three collections of poems and actor. Roig has also written *L'estiu de les paparres* [The Summer The Mites Came] and *La societat secreta dels poetes* [The Poets' Secret Society], a pamphlet against 'experiential poets', *Creació del poema* [Poetry Creation], in which he eschews the myth of youth and modernity and ventures into the writings of Stéphane Mallarmé and Paul Valéry and their Catalan equivalents, Josep Carner, J. V. Foix and Carles Riba. The works *I pelava la taronja amb les dents* [And he peeled the orange with his teeth] and *Ars amandi* [The Lover's Art] (2004) and *Cecília de Florejats* (2007) began a cycle of slicker, more imaginative prose that ended in *Gos* [The Dog].

### SELECTED WORKS

*Creació del poema* [The Creation of a Poem] (Proa, 1999)

*I pelava la taronja amb les dents.*  
*Ars Amandi* [And Peeled the Orange with the Teeth. *Ars Amandi*] (Edicions 62, 2004)

Maria-Josep Balsach

# Joan Miró

## Cosmogonies of an Original World (1918-1939)

Balsach, embarks on a voyage of discovery with learning and rigour but also with poetic grace. He tells the fascinating story of how Miró managed to forge his unique pictorial language.

**Granted with the Ciutat de Barcelona Essay Award**

Miró's art is one of primary colours and elemental forms that are given transcendental meaning. These strands in Miró's pictorial language were to make him a key figure in Art History. Miró's path to mastering his unique form of artistic expression was a long one. In this book, M. J. Balsach guides us along it. During the inter-war years, Miró learnt to distil the tensions that marked

his life and style. There was the influence of the Paris *avant-gardes* but he also drew on Primitive Art to symbolise the family farmhouse at Montroig. Gothic Art shaped Miró's ideas on tapestries. Lurking in the background were the terrors of The Spanish Civil War (1936-39). Balsach's precise, erudite text reveals the author's consummate skill in summarising the story, while delving deep into the metaphysical sense of being which Miró sought to express through primary colours and elementary forms.



Galaxia Gutenberg, 2007  
200 pages

**RIGHTS:**  
Galaxia Gutenberg  
Lidia Rey  
lrey@galaxiagutenberg.com

“Miró's work *Natura morta del sabatot* [Still Life with Old Shoe] hints at the awful human suffering caused by The Spanish Civil War. The painting is limned in eerie, hellish colours: “It is the moment when the windows fly from burning houses as the world comes to a fiery end”. It reveals the artist's striving for the greater realism found in the daily objects of his Still Life: “Our night is resplendent, we once again learn how to walk”. In this painting, Miró shows us a ghastly flip side to existence where everything is suffused with an eerie, pulsing glow.”



Maria-Josep Balsach. Professor of Contemporary Art History, and director of the Department of Contemporary Art and Culture at the Universitat de Girona (UdG). She has written numerous theoretical essays on the art and aesthetics of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries from an interdisciplinary perspective. She is currently the director of the European project 'European Live Art Archive (ELAA)', in collaboration with the University of Oxford and GlogauAir, Berlin.

### SELECTED WORKS

*L'art immaterial d'Arnold Schönberg* [Arnold Schönberg's Immaterial Art] (1988) Granted with the International Crística Assaig Award

*El Palacio de Cristal. Arte y utopía en la vanguardia rusa* [The Crystal Palace. Art and Utopia in Russian Vanguard] (2006)

Enric Calpena

# Barcelona: A Biography

All of the many lives of Barcelona in a single biography. Enric Calpena's tome proceeds at a quick clip but with great rigour. The result is a remarkable reference book that tells the epic tale of Barcelona's history in a way that is both very entertaining and scrupulously accurate.

This book tells the story of Barcelona — a city whose roots go back over two millennia — with passion and as if it were a biography. The writer who has pulled off this remarkable feat is none other than Enric Calpena. The *magnum opus* stretches over more than 800 pages, reflecting a combination of encyclopaedic knowledge updated with the latest theories and a great love of the city in which the author was born. With unerring narrative skill, he intersperses the landmark

events — the arrival of The Romans, Barcelona's Mediaeval splendour, the building of the *Eixample* [the 19th Century grid-iron town extension] with pen pictures of the city's restless spirit and bustling, enterprising society. He also reveals Barcelona's habit of acting like a Capital despite not being one. As in Peter Ackroyd's *London: The Biography*, Calpena has written a fascinating reference book full of dazzling insights into the city and the forces that have shaped it.



Edicions 62, 2015  
832 pages

**ALSO PUBLISHED IN:**  
Spanish (Destino, 2015)

**RIGHTS SOLD INTO:**  
Mandarin Chinese (Peking University Press)

**RIGHTS:**  
Planeta Group  
Pilar Lafuente  
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“There is an invisible but strong thread that links us to Barcelona's citizens through The Ages. Bàrcino, Barchinona, Barshiluna, Barcelona has always been my city but I did not know this until fairly recently.”

“Barcelona, unlike many of the world's other cities, has an unusual gift: it is capable of enthralling people who do not live in it, enamouring travellers, tourists and passers-through. It is hard to find someone that Barcelona does not impress. Some speak of the city's light — maybe because they do not know Barcelona's grey winter days. Others talk of Barcelona's mixture of the bourgeois style found in Paris and the colours, smells and tastes that epitomise The Mediterranean. Yet others speak of the city's imposing avenues, such as Passeig de Gràcia, la rambla de Catalunya and the Rambla itself..”



Enric Calpena (Barcelona, 1960) is a journalist and professor of Communication at Ramon Llull University (URL) in Barcelona. Specialising in historical fiction for the general public, he has been director and scriptwriter of numerous historical documentaries for television. He also runs radio programmes on history and writes articles on this subject.

#### SELECTED WORKS

*Guerres dels catalans* [Catalan Wars] (Pòrtic, 2003)



## Grants, Fellowship and Other Services

### Translation Grant

Grants for the translation of Catalan literature: fiction, non-fiction, children's and YA books, poetry, theater and graphic novels.  
Recipients: Publishers.

### Promotion Grant

Grants to promote abroad Catalan literature (fiction, non-fiction, children's and YA books, poetry, theater and graphic novels), including participation in international literary festivals and presentations and promotional plans for new works in translation.  
Recipients: Publishers, Literary Events Organizers.

### Children's Illustrated Books Grant

Grants for the publication abroad of illustrated books by illustrators settled in Catalonia or Balearic Islands.  
Recipients: Publishers.

### Translators in Residence Grant

Grants for translators working on translations from Catalan to stay for two to six weeks in Catalonia.  
Recipients: Translators.

### Travel Grants for Writers

Grants for writers to finance travel costs to carry out activities, to which they have been invited.  
Recipients: Writers in Catalan.

Please feel free to visit <http://www.llull.cat> to find out more about our Grants Programme. Institut

### Institut Ramon Llull Fellowship

Every year the Institut Ramon Llull (IRL) organises one fellowship targeted at international publishers and agents to take place in Barcelona.  
The invited professionals have the chance to be on the ground and to acquire firsthand an in-depth perspective on the matter in order to build networks with Catalan publishers companies and literary agencies.  
Travel and accommodation expenses during the fellowship will be covered by the IRL.

### Presence at International Book Fairs

The IRL attends the following book fairs: London, Paris, Bologna, Warsaw, Jerusalem, Beijing, Frankfurt, Sharjah, Istanbul and Guadalajara, informing about its services and activities.

The IRL manages and organises the presence of Catalan Culture as Guest of Honour at international book fairs. Catalan Culture was Guest of Honour at Turin Book Fair (2003), Feria del libro de Guadalajara (2004), Frankfurter Buchmesse (2007), Göteborg Book Fair (2014) and Bologna Children's Books Fair (2017). As well as that, the city of Barcelona was Guest of Honour in Paris (2013) and Warsaw (2016).

### Other Services

The IRL promotes networking between the international publishers and agents and the Catalan publishing sector. The members of the Literature and the Humanities Dpt. will be pleased to provide international publishing professionals with the contacts of Catalan authors, publishers or agents.

The IRL also offers information about the translation of Catalan literature through two databases:  
-TRAC at the IRL website [www.llull.cat/trac](http://www.llull.cat/trac): to find out what works of Catalan literature have been translated.  
-TRALICAT at the IRL website [www.llull.cat/tralicat](http://www.llull.cat/tralicat): to browse by language the profile and contacts of literary translators from Catalan.

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