



## MORE SOCIAL DIVERSITY, LESS SOLIDARITY?

*“In multiple ways the word solidarity is patiently looking for flesh which it could become. And it won’ t stop seeking eagerly and passionately until it succeeds. In this search of flesh by a word we, the inhabitants of the 21st century, are both agents and objects of the quest. We are the point of departure and the final destination, but also wanderers following this route and tracing it with our footsteps” (Zygmunt Bauman)*

Scientific direction:

CIDOB

BARCELONA  
CENTRE FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS

## STARTING POINTS

It is fairly common nowadays to hear apocalyptic discourses on the loss of social cohesion, camaraderie and solidarity. Sometimes this is linked to phenomena like urbanisation, individualisation and capitalism, at other times globalisation is blamed, along with industrialisation, migration and the new inequalities within and between countries. The combinations of these elements are infinite and recurrent. The social expression of this demoralisation about the future is a feeling of unease rooted in distrust and growing rivalry between individuals. In all cases, greater cultural diversity and plurality in our societies are given as causes of this loss, corroding shared values and norms and reinforcing the dichotomy between solidarity and diversity.

It is difficult to think about solidarity without evoking the perspective of abstract moral principles, the virtues of understanding, the well-intentioned rhetoric that speaks of integration and coexistence to give the message that society is diverse: a diversity that does not question either difference or conflict in a society supposedly without cultural crossings or encounters. But in a globalised world immersed in deep transformation, coexistence is damaged and solidarity fragments into moments, one-off instances of solidarity that lack an established context to orient them and give them meaning.

That is why we believe new convivialities require new forms of solidarity. The context has changed: geographical mobility and technological impact make our society more diverse or diverse in another way. The ambiguity of globalisation and the uncertainties caused by the technological revolution encourage the distrust of institutions, conventions and social values. Uncertainty generates confusion around our identity and where we fit into the future.

What solidarity do we speak of in the 21st century? What is it based on? To what extent does solidarity depend on social, political and economic developments? Does solidarity divide or unite? Does solidarity need a social framework to generate rights? And what happens when solidarity is institutionalised or enshrined in law?

To face today's challenges to solidarity, it is essential to take into account mutual social interdependence and a principle of collaboration between individuals. Solidarity is not implanted, it is born out of a feeling of loyalty among some members of a society in search of a common destiny.

We will talk about conditions and forms of solidarity, of limits and threats and the relationship of solidarity with “insiders” and “outsiders”, between the internal and external.

We will rethink solidarity, contextualising the concept in new realities, interactions and interdependencies. In parallel, we propose critical work based on experiences, phenomena and interests for the thinkers, planners and actors to jointly produce the bases of a new perspective on civic solidarity.

## DIALOGUES

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### 1 - NAMING

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*Globalisation's ambiguity means, on the one hand, greater social proximity and cultural similarity – even functional interdependencies – and, on the other, a growing diversity that speaks of threat, crisis and insecurity. New boundaries and fault lines are appearing that are diverse in nature and define social groups as different and unequal in relation to each other, creating areas of fragmentation, tension and conflict. New movements of people and objects are taking shape, as well as of knowledge and technology, theories and practices, facts and fictions.*

### RETHINKING SOLIDARITY: REALITIES AND FICTIONS

14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 · 18.30 – 20.30h

Dialogue between **Rokhaya Diallo**, journalist, director and writer, and **Marina Garcés**, philosopher and professor at the Open University of Catalonia. Moderated by **Moussa Bourekba**, researcher at CIDOB.

Which fictions, collective and/or individual interpretations, help us understand events and have feelings of solidarity? How should we think about a future solidarity between individuals living in a single national territory but with a past that differentiates and discriminates?

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### 2 - CONTEXTUALISE

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*If place and time formed the matrix of a supposedly shared national and cultural identity, growing diversity makes it necessary to seek solidarity beyond temporal and territorial limits. We will seek new solidarities in specific places (here), where people from different professional fields interact and experience relationships that give sense to the place. In time (now) interpersonal daily practices can generate new forms of solidarity for understanding, sharing and handling diversity.*

### SOLIDARITY: COEXISTENCE IN DIVERSITY

20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 · 18.30 – 20.30h

Dialogue between **Stijn Oosterlynck**, associate professor in Urban Sociology at the University of Antwerp, and **Daniel Gascón**, writer and editor of Letras Libres. Moderated by **Eva Garcia**, senior research fellow at CIDOB.

How, here and now, can we give greater weight to relationships than to territory, to something dynamic rather than static? Does solidarity only grow out of consensus? And does conflict unite or divide? How can we talk about solidarity in a context of increasing polarisation and radicalism?

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### 3 - TRANSCULTURALISE

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*In global processes, the concept of transculturalism has emerged with great intensity as a way to locate the diversity of references as a deterritorialised and abstract experience. The acceleration and expansion of movements, actions and interactions encourages new translocalities, which make it more difficult to produce locality as a feeling of (shared) belonging. These new translocalities generate transformations at both local and global levels which require sequences of similarity and difference and contrasts and implications to be understood in a different way.*

#### **SOLIDARITY BEYOND IDENTITY**

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 · 18.30 – 20.30h

Dialogue between **Paula Meneses**, professor and researcher at the Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra, and **Josep Ramoneda**, journalist and philosopher, editor of the magazine *La Maleta de Portbou* and director of the Escola Europa d'Humanitats in Barcelona. Moderated by **Jordi Moreras**, associate senior researcher at CIDOB.

Do global processes strengthen or weaken solidarities? In this transnational global world, is the local nostalgia or condition?

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### 4 - TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

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*Solidarity is essential to social cohesion, but what happens when that solidarity becomes law? Its institutionalisation raises questions about rights and obligations. On the one hand, as people are citizens with rights, it is an essential step, but on the other, when solidarity is enshrined in law it is depersonalised and ends up removing responsibility from citizens.*

#### **SOLIDARITIES: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 · 18.30 – 20.30h

Dialogue between **Carlos Gómez Martínez**, president of Section 3 of the Provincial Court of the Balearic Islands, and **Danilo Martuccelli**, sociologist and full professor at Paris Descartes University (USPC). Moderated by **Yolanda Onghena**, associate senior researcher at CIDOB.

On what bases can interventions in the name of solidarity against the identity barriers between groups be legitimised? Are we witnessing the abandonment and dismantling of what Bauman in his day called the traditional "factories of solidarity"?



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## 5 - COMMUNICATE

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*All discourses – social, cultural and even political – speak of crisis and refer to a radical transformation in our perception of things. The categories that guided our ways of being, our values and social interactions are increasingly channelled through the internet and digital media, and less and less through the intermediaries of traditional relations based on coexistence, custom and human interaction.*

### SOLIDARITY 2.0

19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 · 18.30 – 20.30h

Dialogue between **Víctor Sampedro**, professor of Public Opinion and Political Communication, Rey Juan Carlos University, and **Máriam M. Bascuñán**, Op-Ed editor at El País and professor of Political Science at the Autonomous University of Madrid. Moderated by **Carlos Delclós**, sociologist and writer.

What effect do the media have on the connections between members of the new generation? Do social networks facilitate a new "altruism" or create a "false solidarity"?

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## 6 - PARTICIPATE

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### PROPOSALS FOR INCREASING SOLIDARITY IN SOCIETY

9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 · 18.30 – 20.30h

Debate between **Carlos Giménez**, director of the Institute of Human Rights, Democracy and Culture of Peace and Non-Violence (DEMOSPAZ) and professor of Social Anthropology at the Autonomous University of Madrid, and **Yolanda Onghena**, associate senior researcher at CIDOB. Moderated by **Moussa Bourekba**, researcher at CIDOB.



**Obra Social "la Caixa"**

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## CALENDAR

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