

Biographical sketches of the new members of the History-Archaeology Section



Teresa Abelló i Güell was born in Vinaixa (Lleida) but is a Barcelonan by adoption. She is an associate professor of Contemporary History at the Universitat de Barcelona. She earned her degree at the same university in 1979 with a thesis entitled *El neomaltusianisme a Catalunya: Luís Bulffi i la Liga de Regeneración Humana*.

She worked as a researcher at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam from 1982 to 1984 and earned her doctorate from the Universitat de Barcelona in 1984 with a thesis overseen by Josep Termes, which Edicions 62 published in 1987 with the title of *Les relacions internacionals de l'anarquisme català, 1881-1914*. It clearly explains Catalans' participation in the reorganisation of an anarchist international from the 1880s until the outbreak of World War I, along with the repression sparked by terrorism; this was not a phenomenon exclusive to Barcelona, although that city did witness one of its most tragic episodes.

Her career as a researcher is related to the study of social movements, specific aspects of the workers' movement and anarchism, as well as cultural factors related to them. In this sense, she has been a member of consolidated research groups such as the "Grup de recerca i anàlisi del Món Actual" and the "Grup d'Estudis d'Història de la cultura i el intel·lectuals", which have resulted in her participation in countless national and international conferences and her authorship of monographic chapters in different collectively-authored books and numerous articles in specialised journals.

In addition to the book published from her doctoral thesis, she is the author of *El movimiento obrero en España, siglos XIX y XX*, published in Barcelona in 1997; *El debat estatutari del 1932*, published by the Parliament of Catalonia in 2007, which focuses on the discussions held in the Courts around the text of the Statute of Autonomy until it was approved; the monograph *Vinaixa, passat i present*, published by the Institut d'Estudis Ilerdencs in 2010; and *La CNT, papers de l'exili i de la clandestinitat*, published by Afers and the Centre d'Estudis Històrics Internacionals in 2013, which examines the debates and internal dissidences of the Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (CNT) in exile during the Franco dictatorship.

She has contributed to numerous collectively-authored works. Her most important ones include the chapters she

wrote for volumes six and seven of the *Història de Barcelona. El segle XX. De les annexions a la fi de la Guerra Civil*, published in 1995, and *Escolta Espanya! Catalunya i la crisi del 98*, published by Proa in 1998, which she co-authored with Josep Termes.

Individually, noteworthy projects include her contribution to volume VIII of *Història, política, societat i cultura al PPCC*, published by Enciclopèdia Catalana in 1995, where she analyses the dynamics of urban working-class society in the new industrial society; her text on "L'obrerisme i els conflictes socials a la fi del segle" as part of the book *La resposta catalana a la crisi i la pèrdua colonial de 1898*, published by the Generalitat de Catalunya in 1998; her text on "La repressió fins al reconeixement internacional de règim" for volume V of *El Franquisme a Catalunya*, published by Edicions 62 in 2006; and her reflection on the Catalan exile in volume VI of *La guerra Civil a Catalunya*, also published by Edicions 62 in 2007. Furthermore, she contributed to volumes I and III of *La Segona República (El temps de les il·lusions 1931-33 and Guerra i Revolució 1936-39)*, published by Ara Llibres in 2015.

In the field of politics, she was the co-author of the book *Lluís Companys, president de Catalunya: biografia humana i política*, published in 2006 by the Generalitat de Catalunya, and she contributed to volume II of *Il Mazzinismo nel mondo* published by Domus Mazziniana de Pisa in 1995, in which she assessed Mazzini's influence on Spanish republicanism in the 19th century.

In line with her aforementioned research interests, worth noting are her texts on "El control de la natalitat com a mitjà revolucionari a principis del segle XX" in *Prensa cultural i intervenció política dels intel·lectuals a la Catalunya contemporània, de 1814 a 1975*, a book published by the Universitat de Barcelona in 2005, and the chapter analysing how the thorny social question was addressed in such a well-defined institution as the Ateneu Barcelonès, written for the book *L'Ateneu Barcelonès, un segle i mig d'acció cultural*, published by Magrana-RBA in 2006.

In the realm of relations between working-class social groups and the cultural avant-gardes, she contributed to volume I of the book *La Transició a Catalunya (1975-1984)* published by Edicions 62 in 2008, with a chapter on "La cultura catalana a l'inici de la transició, un esforç titànic per recuperar la memòria i la identitat".

Also important is her study on the relationship between the workers' movement and the cultural avant-gardes published in *SALVAT-PPASSEIT poetavantguardistacatalà*, which was issued by Edicions 62 and Arts

Santa Mònica in 2010, and “Política y vanguardias culturales: la configuración de un sector intelectual al entorno de la Mancomunitat de Catalunya, y la construcción de las mitologías urbanas barcelonesas”, which appeared in the book *Claves del Mundo Contemporáneo*, published by Comares in 2013.

More recently, she wrote “La Tancada d’intellectuals a Montserrat” for the book *Barcelona 60’s. Entre Caputxinada i Gauche Divine*, published by Éditions Hispaniques de la Sorbonne in 2018 (the outcome of an international gathering held at the Sorbonne in 2017).

As a result of the research she conducted within different research projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Universities, Research and Development, she has contributed to the collectively-authored works *Les identitats a la Catalunya Contemporània*, published by Galerada SCCL (2009) by analysing “La identitat obrera en la historiografia: representacions i autorepresentacions del moviment anarquista català al segle XIX”, along with “La CNT davant el desafiament de la reorganització sindical de la dècada dels seixanta” in *Quan tot semblava possible. Els fonaments del canvi cultural a Espanya (1960-1975)*, published by Publicacions de la Universitat de València in 2018.

Turning now to analyses of specific personalities, she has written interesting texts on Joan Peiró in *Llums enmig de la barbàrie. Memòries sobre el salvament de vides durant la Guerra Civil a Catalunya*, published by Memorial Democràtic in 2013. Additionally, in her study on Salvador Seguí, she offers a historiographic survey of the relatively broad, and repetitive, range of publications on this workers’ leader and the reasons for them, published in *Naciones en el Estado-Nación: la formación cultural y política de naciones en la Europa contemporánea*, issued by Base in 2014, which was the outcome of the “Galeusca” historiographic reflection workshop held in Bilbao that same year.

As an editor, she has worked most prominently on *La dictadura franquista. La institucionalització d’un règim*, published by the Universitat de Barcelona in 2012, and the book paying tribute to Josep Termes, entitled *Josep Termes. Catalanisme, Obrerisme, Civisme*, published by Afers in 2013. In the latter, not only did she serve as the editor, but she also wrote an analysis of Termes’ historiographic work entitled “Josep Termes, historiador de l’obrerisme”.

On a more practical level, she has published numerous articles in the *Diccionari Biogràfic del moviment obrer als Països Catalans*, published by Publicacions de l’Abadia de Montserrat in 2000, and in the *Diccionari d’Història de Catalunya*, published by Edicions 62 in 1992. She also contributed to the *Atles de la Guerra Civil a Barcelona*, issued by Edicions 62 in 2009, and she participated actively in the “Projecte Almirall. Portal del Pensament i la Cultura del segle XIX” spearheaded by the Ateneu Barcelonès between 2014 and 2017, the results of which can be found online.

In terms of her work geared towards society at large, in addition to numerous contributions to magazines (*L’Avenç, Sàpiens, El Temps, Revista d’Etnologia de Catalunya, Revista Oficial del Col·legi de Doctors i Llicenciats, El Ciervo, Gimbernat*, etc.), she has also coordinated the dossier entitled *Totes les dones de la Guerra Civil* which appeared in issue 198 of *Sàpiens* in 2018. At the Centre d’Estudis Històrics Internacionals (CEHI), she helped gestate the courses on *Conflictes i convergències: de la crisi a les revoltes àrabs* in 2012 and *Fora de la llei. Violència, criminalitat i agents no estatals al segle XX* in 2019. And more recently, to commemorate the La Canadenca strike, she coordinated the course entitled “La Rosa de Foc. Obrerisme i moviments sindicals a Barcelona durant el primer terç del segle XX (1909-1936)”, organised by the Arxiu Històric de la Ciutat de Barcelona and held at the Archive between November 2018 and March 2019.

Her extensive research has led her to constantly publish articles in prominent specialised scholarly journals. The numerous articles she has published (more than 30 of them) have appeared in *Estudios de Historia Social*: “El conflicto entre la CNT y la familia Urales-Montseny” (1985) and “El proceso de Montjuïc ante la opinión pública europea” (1987); in *Historia Social*: “El proceso de Montjuïc y la condena internacional del régimen de la Restauración” (1992); and in *Afers*: “El movimiento anarquista (1874-1914), entre el catalanismo i l’internacionalismo” (1992) and “La historiografía romàntica liberal espanyola i el Rissorgimento: la figura de Garibaldi” (2005).

We can also cite her articles published in the journals *Cercles*: “Líders obrers i avantguardes culturals: la presència de l’obrerisme en la Barcelona de la primera postguerra europea” (2005) and “Cientifisme i anarquisme a principis del segle XX: la difusió del neomaltusianisme” (2006); in *Espanya Contemporània*: “El mito de Garibaldi en el anarquismo español” (2004); in *Estudis Històrics i documents dels Arxius de Protocols*: “Una personalitat a les portes de la mort: el testament de Francesc Ferrer i guàrdia (1854-1909)” (2010); in *Trípodos. Revista digital de comunicació*: “Maragall davant la Setmana Tràgica” (2010); in *Bulletin d’Histoire Contemporaine de l’Espagne*: “La Semana Tràgica. Violencia y política principios del siglo XX” (2012); in *Alcores*: “Anarquismo y cosmopolitismo en la Barcelona de finales del siglo XIX: los Hombres de *El Productor*” (2013); and in the newsletter of the Societat Catalana d’Estudis Històrics: “Fernando Tarrida del Màrmol. Anarquisme i cosmopolitisme” (2016); as well as the literature view which appeared in 2010 in issue 3 of the journal of the History-Archaeology Section of the Institut d’Estudis Catalans, *Catalan Historical Review*, with the title: “Anarchism in the Catalan-speaking countries: Between syndicalism and propaganda, 1868- 1931”.

In addition to serving as a guest speaker in numerous national and international conferences, and participating in or presiding over sessions, she has also helped organised several international conferences, including the *6th International Conference on History and Cinema. Images*

of the Revolutions of 1968 (Barcelona, 2018), *A 80 anys del cop d'Estat de Franco. La Generalitat de Catalunya i la guerra Civil* (Barcelona, 2016), *La dictadura franquista. La institucionalització d'un règim* (Barcelona, 2010), *Col·loqui internacional sobre la Segona República* (Tarragona, 1981), and currently the *Postguerres/Aftermaths of War* conference, which was held in Barcelona in June 2019.

She is a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Cercles. Revista d'Història Cultural* and the Advisory Board of the journal *Segle XX. Revista catalana d'història*. From 2011 to 2016, she was the Deputy Director of the Centre d'Estudis Històrics Internacionals at the Universitat de Barcelona (a centre founded by Dr Jaume Vicens Vives). She is the coordinator of the journal *Índice Histórico Español* (founded with this name by Vicens and geared towards publishing literature reviews on a variety of topics).

Since 2016, she has been a member of the jury for the Ferran Soldevila History Prize awarded by the Fundació Congrés de Cultura Catalana.

In 2009, she curated the exhibition entitled “La Setmana Tràgica als barris de Barcelona. Motius i fets” organised by the Institut Ramon Muntaner (IRM), which resulted in the publication of the book *La Setmana Tràgica de 1909. Motius i Fets* by the IRM in 2001.

Since 2015, she has been the scholar in charge of the UB portal “SIDBRINT. Memòria històrica de las Brigades Internacionals” (Digital Information System on the International Brigades) [<http://sidbrint.ub.edu/>].

She was a member of the now-defunct “Mediterranean Cultural History Network” (1998-2001) promoted by the aforementioned Grup d'Estudis d'Història de la Cultura i els Intel·lectuals, with the participation of ten European universities; this network was recognised by CIRIT in 1999.

Therefore, beyond the subject of the history of anarchism, on which she is an authority, Teresa Abelló has examined the overall political history of Catalonia, both institutional (the Statute of 1932) and biographical (Lluís Companys); she has worked on cultural history, as in the history of the Ateneu Barcelonès; and she has cultivated the history of historiography, such as in her study of the works and personality of her master, Josep Termes. She has also cultivated both monographic research and more popular works. Her efficacy in congresses and doctoral-level university programmes is proven. The contribution she can make at the Institut d'Estudis Catalans promises to be extraordinarily profitable for the institution.

Albert BALCELLS



Monserrat Bacardí i Tomàs

(1962) has been a full professor at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) since 1997 (she joined it as an associate professor in 1992) and has held the rank of chair since 2014. She has a Bachelor's degree in Spanish Philology (1985), a PhD in Spanish Philology (1991) and another Bachelor's degree in Catalan Philology

(1996), all from the Universitat de Barcelona. She teaches in the Faculty of Translation and Interpretation at the UAB.

Since 1986, she has published more than 60 articles in Spanish and international indexed journals (*Ausa, Bulletin Hispanique, Caplletra, Ínsula, Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies, L'Espill, MonTI, Revista de Filologia Románica, Rivista Italiana di Studi Catalani* and *The Translator*, among others), along with 10 books and 45 book chapters. She has served as the coordinator or editor of 35 books, including *Cent anys de traducció al català (1891-1990)*. *Antologia* (1998), *Anna Murià. El vici d'escriure* (2004), *El Quixot en català* (2006), *Traductores* (2006), *Una impossibilitat possible. Trenta anys de traducció als Països Catalans (1975-2005)* (2010), *Diccionari de la traducció catalana* (2011), *La traducció catalana sota el*

franquisme (2012), *Les traductores i la tradició* (2013), *Gràcia Bassa, poeta, periodista i traductora* (2016) and *Maria Dolors Orriols, viure i escriure* (2019).

As a researcher, she has been awarded four research terms, participated in two financed projects and served as the lead researcher in three others. Since 2014, she has been the coordinator of the “Grup d'Estudi de la Traducció Catalana Contemporània” Consolidated Research Group (a status achieved after first having gone through the Emerging category). These projects have centred on the history of Catalan translation and the works of writers like Gràcia Bassa, Pere Calders, Joaquim Carbó, Ramon Folch i Camarasa, Anna Murià, M. Dolors Orriols, Teresa Pàmies, Joan Sales, Rafael Tasis and Joan Triadú.

She has participated in around 50 conferences, in both Spain and abroad (some of them in Latin America). She has done research stays in Buenos Aires (where she worked with the archives of the Casal de Catalunya and the Obra Cultural Catalana) and at the Pontificia Università Antoniana in Rome. She has directed 18 doctoral theses. Likewise, she has extensive experience organising conferences of all kinds; she has coordinated doctoral and Master's programmes at the UAB; and she has been or is a reviewer of around a dozen publications, of the funding issued by the Institució de les Lletres Catalanes and of the City of Barcelona awards. She is also a member of numerous editorial committees. She has served as the editor-in-chief of *Lletra de Canvi*, issued by the Pòrtic publishing

house, and the head of contributors at the newspaper *El Observador*.

Despite the variety of authors with which she has worked, Montserrat Bacardí stands out as one of the points of reference in the history of translation and literary reception in the Catalan-speaking lands, one of the fields of research in the humanities which has developed the most in the past 25 years. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that ever since it was created in 1998, she has directed the prestigious journal *Quaderns. Revista de traducció*, published by the UAB.

Her research interests set her on the path to what is currently one of her main jobs: serving as the director of the *Càtedra Jordi Arbonès*, housed in the UAB's Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, since it was created in 2003. This chair manages the legacy of this illustrious, prodigious translator, along with those of the editor Josep Pedreira, the writer Rafael Tasis and the translators Francesc Arnó and David H. Rosenthal.

This condensed introduction cannot conclude without mentioning the book *Diccionari de la traducció catalana* (2011), with a vast number of contributors, which she jointly oversaw with Dr Pilar Godayol from the Universitat de Vic. Its quality has made it the prime reference in

this field of study. Thanks to this volume, a must-read in the field, Catalan humanities have not been subsumed into what is usually called “the history of translation in Spain”.

Finally, it is worth noting that her work has earned her several awards: the Humanistic Research Award (2000) from the Fundació Enciclopèdia Catalana for the *Diccionari de traductors* project; the Rafel Cornellà Literary Portrait Award (2009); the Premis Recull de Blanes award for *Ramon Folch i Camarasa. Retrat del perfecte escriptor no gens mediocre*; the Serra d'Or Critics' Award (2012) in the Research (Humanities) category for the *Diccionari de la traducció catalana*; and, to the immense joy of the authors of this introduction, the 2019 Fundació Mercè Rodoreda Award granted just a few weeks ago for her work on the writer from Osona, Maria Dolors Orriols, who has been rediscovered in recent years.

Because of her brilliant dedication to research on Catalan literature and her unquestionable commitment to the country and its language, the members of the History of Literature area of the History-Archaeology Section suggest her candidacy as a member of the IEC.

Ramon PINYOL



Marià Carbonell i Buades was born in Palma de Mallorca on 9 July 1955 and earned his Bachelor's degree in art history from the Universitat de Barcelona in 1983, with a thesis which was later published as a book entitled *L'Escola del Camp de Tarragona en l'arquitectura del segle xvi a Catalunya* (Diputació de Tarragona, 1986; Vèrtex Award). He earned his doctorate from the same university in 1989 with the thesis *L'arquitectura classicista a Catalunya (1540-1659)* under the direction of Ignasi de Solà-Morales. In October 1984, he joined the Art Department at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, where he has taught and researched, first as an adjunct professor and then as the head of the programme in 1985, as full professor in 1990 and as chair in 2011. He was a member of the Comissió Territorial del Patrimoni Cultural de Barcelona (Servei de Patrimoni Arquitectònic) of the Generalitat de Catalunya between 1997 and 2008. He was a member of the committee to track construction at the cathedral of Mallorca (2000), and since 2005 he has been a member of the Scientific Committee of the Institut Internacional d'Estudis Borgians (Valencia). Between 2010 and 2012, he was the lead researcher on a project in the first call for Recercaixa applications entitled *Art en perill. Cens i memòria de la destrucció*, which sought

to document the works of art from the modern era in Catalonia which were lost throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. He also participated in the international PICTOR project, which studied the social status of painters during the Renaissance in southern Europe. He has done several research stays in Venice and Rome, and has had seven knowledge transfer contracts with public administrations. He has curated four exhibitions and participated in numerous national and international scholarly gatherings. He is a member of the editorial board and advisory committee of several specialised journals.

Dr. Carbonell's field of research encompasses architecture and art from the modern age in Catalonia and Mallorca, as well as occasional contributions on the contemporary era in institutional and private art collections on Mallorca. He was trained under the tutelage of the sorely-missed IEC member, Joaquim Garriga, whose first disciple he became, and hence he appears as a contributor – primarily on the decorative arts – to Garriga's notable work on the 16th century in the *Història de l'art català* issued by Edicions 62 in 1984. Renaissance-classicist architecture in Catalonia was the subject of his earliest research in both his aforementioned Bachelor's and doctoral theses. Yet his broad research and sights have never ignored international connections, as also demonstrated by an early study (1992) on the artistic patronage of the Valencian Roderic de Borja (1431-1503), who served as Pope Alexander VI, a topic which he has revisited and which justifies his current work as a member of the Scientific

to document the works of art from the modern era in Catalonia which were lost throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. He also participated in the international PICTOR project, which studied the social status of painters during the Renaissance in southern Europe. He has done several research stays in Venice and Rome, and has had seven knowledge transfer contracts with public administrations. He has curated four exhibitions and participated in numerous national and international scholarly gatherings. He is a member of the editorial board and advisory committee of several specialised journals.

Committee of the Institut Internacional d'Estudis Borjans, headquartered in Valencia.

He has revived the personalities of different Mallorcan painters from the Baroque era, such as Guillem Mesquida (1675-1747), to whom he devoted two ground-breaking articles in 1993 and 1998 and ultimately an exhibition with a catalogue in 1999; Miquel Bestard (1592-1633), with an article in 1996 and an exhibition and catalogue in 2007; and finally Miquel Cantallops (1678-1755), who was active in Mallorca and Rome, with an article in 1999 and an exhibition in 2005. Baroque sculpture and Mallorcan altarpieces have also been the subjects of his research, either in contributions to numerous collectively-authored works, such as a volume about *La Seu de Mallorca* in 1995, or in tribute books, but most importantly monographically in the book *Art de cisell i de relleu. Escultura mallorquina del segle XVII*, published in 2002.

In order to understand the unique features of art on Mallorca, Carbonell has been keenly attentive to the island's status as a place that is open to constant artistic exchanges with the Iberian Peninsula, Italy and other islands in the Mediterranean; hence his interest in studying the journeys taken by local artists, as well as the arrival to Mallorca of works by masters from other places, and therefore the importance of patronage and the phenomenon of collecting. In this sense, it is important to recall his 2000 article within a volume on the Order of Malta on Mallorca; his text on the Riberas owned by Antoni Gual, the secretary of the Duke of Medina de las Torres during his viceroyalty in Naples, published in 2009; and finally the seminal book on the rich collection of classical art and the painting gallery of Cardinal Antoni Despuig i Dameto (1745-1813), *El Cardenal Despuig: Col·leccionisme, Grand Tour i cultura il·lustrada*, Palma, 2013.

Carbonell's work and expertise have also been recognised outside academia through the institutional assign-

ments he has been awarded, such as when he was asked to study and catalogue the heritage art collection from the Council of Mallorca, first as a whole in 2001, then on its historical building in 2011, and once again in greater detail on the painting collection in 2012. Another example is his assignment to catalogue the painting and drawing collection of the Parliament of the Balearic Islands in 2015. The Barcelona Town Hall also commissioned him and Rafael Cornudella to conduct the scientific study on the art collection of the monastery of Pedralbes, which led to an exhibition and museographic design entitled *Pedralbes. Els tresors del Monestir* in 2005. But most importantly, the Generalitat itself has commissioned several institutional books from him related to the Palau de la Generalitat, an essential example of Catalan Renaissance architecture. His dedication to this topic, generically in his Bachelor's thesis, continued with a 2002 article which outlines the transfer of the chapel of Sant Jordi in the mid-16th century; it then took shape in different contributions to official publications in 2003, 2004 and 2005; and it finally culminated in a comprehensive study which he oversaw entitled *El Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya. Art i Arquitectura* (Generalitat de Catalunya, Departament de la Presidència, Barcelona, 2015, 2 vols.), with contributions by different experts, which exhaustively analyses the entire complexity of the monument and studies its rich artistic heritage.

Today, Dr Carbonell is the most prominent scholar on the Catalan and Mallorcan artistic heritage from the modern age, and thanks to his dual residency in both Barcelona and Palma and his open, fluid research in these two places, his membership will unquestionably strengthen the IEC's presence on the Balearic Islands and deepen our section's research capacity.

Bonaventura BASSEGODA



Miquel Molist Montaña (Manlleu, Barcelona, 1956) is the Chair of Prehistory at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He studied at the Universitat de Barcelona, where he trained under Joan Maluquer de Motes and Miquel Tarradell, and at the Université Lyon-2, where he earned a PhD in Oriental Prehistory and had the opportunity to work with the

French school of André Leroi-Gourhan and with Jacques Cauvin and his team in the Near East. He was director of the Museu Nacional d'Arqueologia de Catalunya and has curated several exhibitions in different museums. He has been an ICREA-Acadèmia researcher and has been or is a

member of the editorial boards of several scholarly journals.

His research has focused on two major fields of study: the recent prehistory of Catalonia and the earliest agricultural societies in the Near East (Neolithic). In the former, he has studied the habitat and forms of burial from the Late Bronze Age in the upper region of the Ter River with the necropolis in Collsavenc (Tavertet). He participated in uncovering and excavating a set of 9 monumental graves, including the grave of Padró (Tavertet), which led to the recognition of a new type of megalithic grave ("chamber or dolmen with complex mound") dating from the late Old Neolithic.

He has studied the prehistoric settlements in the Pre-Pyrenees, Eastern Pyrenees, La Garrotxa and Alta Garrotxa. For ten years, he excavated the habitat of the Bauma del Serrat del Pont (Girona), a large shelter with a

stratigraphic sequence ranging from the Roman era to the Mesolithic period.

In 2006, he launched the Prehistory on the Plain of Barcelona project in conjunction with the Museu d'Història de Barcelona (MUHBA) and the Archaeology Service of the Barcelona Town Hall, which is still underway. The study of the sites such as the Caserna Sant Pau del Camp, Carrer Reina Amalia and Plaça de la Gardunya have revealed a series of small settlements and burial areas in the current zone of La Raval and La Sagrera neighbourhoods between the mid-6th and 2nd millennium cal BC.

His second main avenue of research revolves around the Near East. He founded the "Seminari Arqueologia Prehistòrica del Pròxim Orient, SAPPO" Research Group, which has forged alliances with national and international groups. He has excavated in the desert regions of Syria, such as Umm-el-Tlel (El Kowm, Syria) (1987-1995), in the Euphrates Valley at sites like Tell Halula (1991-2011), in Turkey at Akarçay Tepe (southeast Anatolia) (1999-2008) and at Chagar Bazar (Djezirée, Syria) (1999-2010).

All these projects revolve around studying the earliest agricultural settlements, with an analysis of their cultural and socioeconomic features. He engages in interdisciplinary analyses of the cultural and economic changes that came about with the shift from groups of hunters/gatherers to sedentary establishments, which shed light on one of the most important transformations in humanity, and he does so in the very cradle of this change, the Euphrates Valley, from which it radiated out to other parts of the world, especially to Europe, including the Iberian Peninsula. The presence of a team of experts in bioarchaeology is essential, given the question of the first crops or domesticated animals, bringing not only the necessary biological approach but also its interrelation with the dynamic of the human groups.

Miquel Molist's contributions include studying the sedentarisation and formation of the first settlements at the excavations in Tell Halula and Akarçay Tepe, where the investment in labour, the innovation in the forms of habitat and the architectural work are associated with new forms of production and subsistence. The houses built with sun-dried brick whitewashed with lime form a dense, homogeneous fabric with similar storage capacities and similar waste materials. However, in this early phase of farming societies, differences among the houses can already be seen in the access to products or materials with exogenous origins by the different family units (represented by the different houses). The discovery of graves underneath the houses, with a very direct association between the buried people (with their grave goods) and the family unit, have revealed that only some members of this community had access to certain products like native copper and chalcedony necklaces. That is, they had access to networks in which semiprecious products circulated. Should we see this as the origin of inequality? It is likely, and this is one of the hypotheses which is cur-

rently being fine-tuned to properly define its characteristics.

Another major contribution is the origin of ceramic productions. The new data discovered in these past 20 years of research, many originating and proven from the investigations in the sites in the Euphrates region studied and overseen by Miquel Molist, have been extremely significant. It has been found that ceramic appeared simultaneously in different areas in southeast Anatolia and northeast Syria in a precise, brief window of time between 7,000 and 6,900 BCE. Likewise, cooking vessels have been found from the very start, despite the fact that it was previously believed that the first ceramic vessels were used for storage.

Since 2014, Dr Molist and Professor Anna Gómez-Bach from the UAB have been working in the region of Iraqi Kurdistan, where they are studying the earliest agricultural societies in unique ecological areas, namely the Zagros Mountains, at the Gird Laskhir (Erbil) site in what is called Upper Mesopotamia, and the Banahilkh (Soran) site located near Shanidar in the middle of the northern Zagros Mountains, which dates from the 6th millennium cal BC.

This project, which is currently underway, is helping fill the gaps in our knowledge of the easternmost areas of the Near East resulting from the complicated political and military situation in recent decades. The contact zone between Mesopotamia and the northern Zagros Mountains has always been characterised by a widespread phenomenon of livestock transhumance. It is a connecting zone between the plains of the Tigris and the highlands, and this fosters seasonal livestock movements. Even today, semi-nomadic peoples engage in this activity, which may be rooted in recent prehistory and survived throughout protohistory and ancient history. This is the search for another system explaining the origin and consolidation of farming societies. In the first phase, currently underway, different settlements of the last hunter-gatherers have been found, and one settlement from the era of the earliest farming societies is being excavated at the foot of the Zagros Mountains in Kurdistan, as well as a study and excavation of a settlement on the Erbil plain, as an example of the occupation of the plain. In all of these, the results have yielded another very interesting component: the description of the "archaeological cultures" throughout a broad region and a well-defined timeframe. The clearest example is the definition of the material features of the different cultures like the Halaf or Hassuna, among others, in the regions located between the west and east of the Near East, where it is essential to define the sociological and historical phenomena because they served as the engine of change. They are cultural mosaics in space and time in which phenomena involving the exchange, dissemination and mobility of human groups took place.

The results of this research have been published both in specialised journals and in scholarly books and monographs from both Spain and abroad.

Also worth mentioning is Dr Molist's museum activity, most notably the period when he served as the director of the Museu Nacional d'Arqueologia de Catalunya (2000-2004), while in the 1980s, he had been appointed by the Generalitat's Department of Culture to be director of the Museu Comarcal del Montsià (Amposta). The varied temporary exhibitions held in different museums (National Museum of Damascus, MAC, Museu de la Gar-

rotxa, etc.) are often yet another way of disseminating archaeological projects already conducted. The most recent exhibitions include "Els primers pagesos al Pla de Barcelona", which he and Anna Gómez-Bach jointly curated in a show produced and exhibited at the MUHBA from 29 April 2016 to 12 February 2017.

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