Programme

All plenary sessions will take place in the Sala Mirador at the Barcelona Centre for Contemporary Cultura (CCCB).

The following plenary sessions will be held during the #BCNvsOdi International Conference:

Thursday, 2 March

4.15 pm Registration and welcome
Presentation of an exhibition entitled “Això (no) és real” (“This is (not) real”), livened up by the BCN Anti-rumour Network

4.45 pm The Conference officially opens
Ada Colau, the Mayor of Barcelona

5 pm Round table 1: Bans on hate speech: a threat to freedom of expression?
Legal means are a tool for combatting hate speech in social networks. By the same token, restricting hate speech could also endanger freedom of expression. Even so, under the European framework for human rights, freedom of expression is not an absolute right and often clashes with human dignity and the right to non-discrimination. This debate will be discussed in detail during the conference and limits to freedom of expression will be explored as a necessary starting point for establishing a responsible strategy in the fight against hate speech in social networks.

Moderator: Esther Vera, Editor of the newspaper Ara
Speakers: Eric Heinze, Professor of Law and Humanities at Queen Mary University of London; Olga Jubany, Lecturer at the University of Barcelona and Gavin Phillipson, Professor at the University of Durham

6.30 pm Main speech
Laurie Penny, Journalist, essayist, public speaker, writer, activist and blogger.

8 pm End of the first day

Friday, 3 March

9 am Round table 2: Potential and limits to legal means as a strategy for combatting hate speech on social media
The anonymity, immediacy, immeasurability and transnationality of social networks raise important challenges for the legal fight against hate speech and protecting victims: problems with identification, data requirements, conflicts of jurisdiction, etc. The conference will explore these challenges from not just legal and policy perspectives but also the points of view of the victims of hate speech.

Moderator: Juan Luis Sánchez, Sub-editor of eldiario.es
Speakers: Carolina González National Police Corps inspector and @policia community manager; Laia Serra, Lawyer at the Barcelona Observatory against Homophobia; Esteban Ibarra, President of the Movement against Intolerance and César Strawberry, Writer, composer, singer and spokesperson of the group DeF Con Dos.

10.30 am Coffee break

11 am Round table 3: Social networks and hate speech: perspectives in the light of victims’ experiences
Limiting hate speech also represents a challenge for the social network platforms. The large number of messages that are managed and the delicate balance between commitment to freedom of expression and restriction of abusive content make it hard for social network platforms to fight against this problem. But insufficient moderation in networks has consequences for victims. The conference will explore the difficulties encountered by the platforms as well as the impact that the lack of moderation has on victims.

Moderator: Sergi Picazo, Chief editor and founding member of El Crític
Speakers: Kira O’Connor, Twitter; Fatiha El Mouali, Spokesperson from the Catalan Unity Against Fascism and Racism platform and Helios Fernández, Co-author and person in charge of documentation of the Resource Guide against Anti-Gypsism

12.30 am Parallel workshops (see the Workshops section for accessing descriptions on each)

2 pm Lunch

3 pm Round table 4: Cities against hate: strategies from local areas
Cities are currently an important space for political and social transformations as well as a privileged place for positive community life between various groups. The fact that cities constitute key places for citizen action and social innovation makes them ideal spaces for combatting the prejudices that underlie online hate speech. The conference will explore the potential of cities to fight against hate speech in social networks as well as the challenges they face, and identify strategies that can be implemented locally.

Moderator: Gemma Pinyol, Expert on the European Council’s “Intercultural Cities” programme and coordinator of the Spanish Network of Intercultural Cities (RECI)
Speakers: Emilia Saiz, Assistant Secretary-General to United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG); Irena Guidikova, Department Director at the European Council and coordinator of the “Intercultural Cities” programme; Gavan Titley, Senior Lecturer at the University of Maynooth and Aida Guillén, Director of Citizen Rights and Diversity Services, Barcelona City Council

4.30 pm The Conference finishes
Jaume Asens, Fourth Deputy Mayor of Barcelona City Council. Area of Citizen Rights, Participation and Transparency.

6 pm End of the second day

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Workshops

The workshops aim to be practical sessions where a group of participants can meet up to discuss and debate a specific topic and share experiences.

The three goals behind the workshops are as follow:

1. To share strategies for tackling hate speech in social networks and identify good practices, especially in local areas.
2. To awaken the participants’ interest in launching specific initiatives for tackling hate speech in social networks.
3. To identify and create contacts between participants with the aim of establishing a future network of activists on hate speech on the internet in Barcelona.

Workshops will be held in Catalan and/or Spanish but there will be no simultaneous translation service.

The following workshops will be held during the #BCNvsOdi International Conference:

12:30 pm, Friday 3 March

Workshop: 1

How and when to share: strategies for digital literacy of educators based on international experiences

If young people are digital natives and are always up to date on the latest new developments. What can educators contribute (in a broad sense) if a priori they have fewer abilities, skills and expertise than students? What type of positions, strategies and tools can they use for promoting non-discrimination, especially in social networks? How can they identify the main areas for implementing their initiatives? In what way can they support the work of others, including the European educational community, which has already followed this path? How to lose our fear of the digital gap? How to work and reflect without having adapted educational spaces?

Experience of the project I:CUD Internet: creatively unveiling discriminations shows that international cooperation and work among equals efficiently paves the way for educational work. The workshop will show several practical cases for tackling digital literacy, provide suitable materials for use (an educational kit against online discrimination) and illustrate these hypotheses with practical exercises geared towards action.


Workshop: 2

Building networks of activists against hate: the potential of joint action in interacting with abusers

The aim behind this workshop is to develop ideas for generating, organizing and coordinating networks of activists that can tackle harassment on the grounds of discrimination, looking for empowerment and the creation of cross-cutting solidarity links between the various groups attacked.

Facilitator: Alberto Martín-Pérez Rodríguez, Training Manager, FELGTB - Spanish Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Transsexuals and Bisexuals Andrea Momoitio, Journalist and coordinator of Pikara Magazine.

Workshop: 3

Resisting and dismantling Islamophobic speech on social networks

Islamophobia is a power structure and form of violence that finds an amplification in social networks that rewards the simplest, most binary and confrontational speech to the detriment of better positioned reflections and categorical minds. If the model’s structure is not destroyed with its tools, how can we tackle Islamophobia in networks without copying its methods, without using the facility of simplification and binarism? How do we do this, bearing in mind the place of the declaration, whether or not we are Muslims, and how does this place change speech possibilities? In what way can a narrative be generated that is not simply reactive to major Islamophobic declarations? And, likewise, how do we tackle online attacks? How do we protect others and ourselves? How do we put up a resistance on the network as well as a collective experience?

Facilitators: Brigitte Vasallo, Intercultural mediator and feminist, anti-racist activist and Daniel Ahmed, Activist in the field of sexual diversity and gender in Islam.

Workshop: 4

Fighting hate speech in the social networks through raised awareness: how to reach the unconvinced

As part of the strategies for raising awareness in social networks on stereotypes and rumours that foster discrimination against and disrespect towards certain groups, this workshop will be aimed at proposing and considering new strategies for messages to reach the circles of the unconvinced.

Facilitators: Dani de Torres, Director of the Spanish Network of Intercultural Cities (RECI) and adviser to the European Council