

Title of paper

The role of Torremolinos in the Queer History of Spain: New Narratives beyond Madrid and Barcelona.

Paper abstract (300 words max.)

The progress in recent decades in the achievement of civil rights within the LGTB community in Spain (decriminalization of homosexuality, equal marriage, Trans law) has led to a review of the role that different organizations and cities (Barcelona, Madrid) have played in the achievement of these rights.

2017 marked the 40th anniversary of the first demonstration for LGBT rights in Barcelona (June 1977), organized to demand the repeal of the *Ley de Peligrosidad* (dangerousness law) passed during the Franco dictatorship. That demonstration had replicas a year later in cities such as Madrid, Bilbao and Seville and, at the end of that year, the withdrawal of homosexuality from the dangerousness law was achieved. 2018 marked the 40th anniversary of these demonstrations, ephemeris that continued in 2019 with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots in New York (USA) which, historically, has meant the beginning of the homosexual liberation movements.

These commemorations were accompanied by a process of revision of the role that cities such as Barcelona or Madrid had played in this journey. However, it became clear how the peripheries and, therefore, the subaltern discourses, were displaced. Thus, the role that tourist areas such as Torremolinos, already since the sixties, had as a destination for the international LGBT community in the context of Franco's dictatorship and the emergence of LGBT activism during the democratic transition, remained in the background. Proof of this was the opening of what is considered the first gay bar in Spain, Tony's bar, in 1962. During almost all that decade and coinciding with the developmentalist economic policies, Torremolinos became the destination of the national and international LGBT community, in what was a kind of island in the context of the Franco dictatorship.

This situation ended on the night of August 24, 1971 with the events known as *The Great Raid*, in which some 140 people were arrested and which led to the subsequent closure of much of the leisure area of Pasaje Begoña, the epicenter of LGBT culture and, ultimately, the end of an era. This fact has motivated the recent declaration of Pasaje Begoña as a place of LGBT Historical Memory by the Spanish Congress of Deputies in 2019.

One-page CV or biographical statement with contact information

Javier Cuevas is a professor of Art History at the University of Malaga (Spain), and a member of the Institute of Gender and Equality (IGIUMA). He has directed the research project *Cruising Torremolinos* during the biennium 2019-2021 (website below). He is the

editor, together with Ángel Néstore, of the book *Cruising Torremolinos. Cuerpos, territorio y memoria*, which will be published by December 2021 (tirant lo blanch – humanidades). He has created, together with A. Néstore, the seminar of Queer Studies at the University of Malaga, in which international referents of queer studies such as Geoffroy Huard have participated. He has conducted research stays at the University of California, Berkeley (2019), during which he was able to consult the funds of the GLBT Archive of San Francisco.

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