



★ NETWORKING EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

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**Session IV**

## **Project Presentation: Documentary “08001” by Christian Plähn**

Director of the documentary “08001”

### **About Raval**

08001 is the postal code of the Barrio of Raval in Barcelona in Catalonia, Spain. Barcelona is one of the new meccas of European culture; a city with 1.6 million habitants, it has a huge cultural output compared to its physical size.

In this vibrating capital a distinct microcosm in its center stands as a unique symbol for its mixture of global flair, and real and virtual migration. The Raval is a well-defined district, having once housed the city walls, and being now the most transformed neighbourhood of the city. It consolidated its claim as an industrial nucleus during the 19th century, began life in the 20th century not only as the breeding ground of the emerging trade union movement but also as one of the most densely populated areas of the city, with an advanced state of degradation. A torturous network of narrow streets close to the port housing the poorest strata of society, emigrants and prostitutes who earned their living in the neighbourhood so-called Barrio Chino.

In the 80's the area was the subject of an elaborate and ambitious urban plan, the PERI, by the city's administration. The project involved the compulsory purchase of lands, the construction of new housing to accomodate the affected families and the demolition and remodelling of existing buildings. Even though the project was the cause for much protest, the area has come to permit a certain coexistence, combining its inherited poverty with artist studios, private art galleries, commercial offices, the University, the newly opened Museum of Contemporary Art (MACBA), and Barcelona's Centre for Contemporary Culture (CCCB). The Barrio is famous for its high output in music, multimedia, art, design, architecture and theater, influenced by the different cultures coming together in Raval. The inhabitants, from Europe, Africa, South America, and Asia, live here side by side, in a mix of tradition and progress.

### **The Project “08001”**

Over the period of almost two years Christian Plähn was capturing the daily life in the neighbourhood of Raval in Barcelona. He accompanied varios habitant of all social and religious groups, the poorest as well as the richest as well as the police, firemen and cleaning workers on their daily routes through the Barrio.

Out of this material the documentary “08001” was made. The cinematic design of this project is to be clearly distinguishable and stand out from a classic reportage or documentary film style. The film does not follow a story in the classical way; it does not use any interviews, a narrative voice or music which is not part of the ambience in the image. Instead the camera is observing simple situations following its main protagonists as a silent observer in their ordinary life. The viewer finds himself observing simple routine from different perspectives as if he were precisely on location, encountering the usual cloud of conversation as it occurs on the street.



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The main goal is to give a kind of snapshot of people's lives in the neighborhood and to find a visual access to personal points of view on Raval.

The stories of the inhabitants tell a lot about the various aspects of the location. The combination of many of those stories, in which the camera changes situation and thus perspective over time without any comment, builds a 24-hour day in the neighbourhood, a snapshot of an ordinary weekday in wintertime.

### **08001<sup>3</sup>**

Apart from the documentary film project “08001”, the material is also used in a three screen video installation, which is using more material, out of the over 100 hours of scenes of the daily life captured in the time in Raval. In this installation, the viewer can either experience the simultaneity of three different story lines or get more information about particular scenes, with the possibility of three different views on a certain place. This multiscreen system gives the scenes greater depth, and allows the integration of more perspectives than in the classic version of the film, intensifying the viewers’ experience of the diversity in the neighbourhood.

**More information and a trailer can be found on the projects website at [www.08001.eu](http://www.08001.eu)**

