

**Barcelona, 29 February 2020:**

**First Seminar of the EIFI Seminar Series 2020: "Humanist ethos, affectivity and melancholy". Seminar with Raúl Fornet-Betancourt**

In the Catalan capital, which positions itself as a world centre for new technologies, this seminar, which opens the 2020 EIFI series on the general theme of "Affectivity, cognition, the human soul", has met with a strong response. More than 30 participants, mainly from the city and the surrounding area, attended, including numerous scientists and experts from the humanities and social sciences, theology and philosophy, education and the social sector.

The seminar, led by Raúl Fornet-Betancourt, begins with a programmatic introduction to the new seminar series. The one-day seminar on "Humanist ethos,



and melancholy" will focus on three main topics: In the first lecture, the question of the humanist ethos in our time will be addressed, before the relationship between affectivity and melancholy is presented and explored in depth from an anthropological perspective. The third lecture offers a re-reading of humanistic approaches in European

cultural history in order to work out their melancholia and to put them up for discussion as ways of human liberation.

These presentations provide a rich stimulus for intensive reflection and an enriching exchange. It is undoubtedly one of the special experiences of this seminar that questions or comments that arose were spontaneously taken up, deepened and included in the further development of the topic. A way of working that enabled new insights into the issue and motivated the continuation and deepening of this dialogue at subsequent meetings.