



FIRST MEETING OF THE REGIONAL GROUP LATIN AMERICA, MEMORY STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The Construction of Memories in/from Latin America and the Caribbean

September 14th - 17th, 2022
Bogotá D.C., Colombia

Call for Papers and Panels

Since the formation of republics in Latin America and the Caribbean in the 19th century, their decolonization processes, their periods of dictatorships or guerrilla warfare, and their "democratic transitions" in the last decades of the 20th century, the processes of memory construction have played a fundamental role in the way history and political-social conjunctures are read, as well as the actors involved.

These processes have become scenarios of permanent conflict and tensions in the region since the end of the last century and particularly at the beginning of the present one, within the framework of ideological disputes in the face of the failed social, economic and political promises of recent democratization processes, as well as the emergence of social-political conservatism and new social and armed conflicts and states of exception. In this order, debates have been opened about the legitimacy of their actors, their temporalities and the definition of which issues, histories and social collectives deserve to be remembered and in what way. In these debates, dimensions, processes and forms of socialization of memories also emerge, tensing their potential political, cultural and social effects, and redefining at every step specific agendas aimed at the new generations. In this sense, dimensions such as territory, gender relations, subjectivities and the media, among many others, offer new challenges to define and promote different memorialization processes with unthinkable effects on political, social and cultural processes of the present.

This **First Meeting of the Latin American Regional Group of the Memory Studies Association** (MSA) seeks to generate an international academic space to address the debates and tensions that arise around the processes of memory construction and its studies in Latin America and the Caribbean. It seeks to contribute to the strengthening of a network of Memory Studies in our region, deepening and rescuing the alliances that are woven between academia, government institutions and community organizations of different scope, active in the processes of memory in different countries. To this end, we propose a broad and at the same time specific look at the memory processes in the region, their ways of establishing and confronting diverse narratives, and the ethical and political challenges involved in their study and practices, with the aim of deepening the debates around these complex processes and promoting perspectives that foster greater democratization of our societies. Finally, dialogues and comparisons with experiences from other continents and regions are also proposed to contribute new perspectives, approaches and experiences to a state of the art in research on regional memory processes, as well as to outline specificities and theoretical and methodological proposals specific to academic productions and practices and activism from our region.

We invite abstracts of papers and panel proposals, as well as artistic or pedagogical proposals, within one of the following thematic areas:

- 1. Memory, Resistance and the Future of Democracies:** This axis proposes to debate on the processes of resistances, social movements and collective action for memory in relation to the construction of democracy and democratic openings. It incorporates reflection on the repertoires of resistance from collective memory. This axis pays special attention to memory as an exercise of resistance to war and violence, as an exercise of dignity and also to highlight the relationship between social mobilization, memory and its possible implications in the construction of democracy.
- 2. Theoretical Approaches to Memory from Latin America:** This axis is proposed as a space for reflection on the different categories and politics of memory in connection with the historical contexts and processes of Latin America. These contexts refer to the dictatorships, civil wars, revolutions and armed conflicts that have taken place in the continent during the 20th century, as well as to the different social and religious conflicts led by ethnic and political groups in the last decades of the 20th century or by empowered and indignant citizens in recent years of the present century.
- 3. Conflicts and Political Violence:** This axis will receive proposals that explore recent social and political conflicts related to memory in Latin America. Special attention will be paid to those conflicts that have led to the emergence of episodes of political violence where the meanings and representations of the past play a fundamental role. It is expected to generate a reflection that connects different levels of analysis, at regional, national and/or local level in order to problematize the role of memory, its uses and abuses in contemporary political conflicts in the region. At the same time, it seeks to open a dialogue based on the treatment that different national and local experiences have given to these violent pasts.
- 4. Human Rights and Justice:** In Latin America, the demands of memory arise in the midst of the denunciation and mobilization for human rights, that is, not as an autonomous and self-referential

goal, but as an object of work subsidiary to the demands for truth and justice of collectives and individuals who have denounced and resisted different forms of violence, human rights violations and impunity. Today we are witnesses to the diversity and complexity of the memories constructed by the human rights movement in the region, of its discourses and practices. This axis invites us to reflect on the different trajectories of human rights organizations and activists, and their work for memory and justice. In this sense, it is interesting to put into perspective the different experiences (political, social, community) that have promoted justice processes both locally and nationally. Hence, the axis seeks to generate a debate about the different forms of justice, reparation and recognition.

5. **Truth Commissions and Reparations:** This axis focuses on those academic productions and research that problematize the ethico-political and socio-cultural challenges of reparation initiatives and truth commissions in our region, in their historical, socio-political and cultural specificities (in relation to what is called "transitional justice"), as well as reflections from comparative perspectives that include the articulations between justice, truth and memory, as well as subjective, social, economic and political aspects of these initiatives, the role of human rights organizations and other non-governmental organizations and their articulations with States/governments and transnational institutions.
6. **Media and Memory:** The communication and memory roundtable aims to investigate the role of mass media in the production, distribution and socialization of memories. It seeks to learn about the various analyses of mass memorialization processes through the written press, radio, television, as well as through memorialization communities in digital and transmedia (online) platforms and the definition of cyber-identities for victims, witnesses, solidarity groups and perpetrators in conflicts and the processes of overcoming them in Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. **Spaces, Places and Geographies of Memory:** This axis of work calls for the presentation of research and productions that reflect on places of memory, geographies and spaces of memory. It intertwines the more classical notions of "places of memory" with the opening to reflections from the geographies and cartographies of memory.
8. **Memory, Art and Cultures:** This axis focuses on the role of art and cultural production in the formation and transmission of memory in Latin America. Painting, sculpture, cinema, literature, digital art and architecture are not only repositories of cultural memory but also play a fundamental role in the generation of memory processes. How do artistic objects and practices interpret the past? What formal strategies do they articulate? What mnemonic communities do they create? This axis seeks to deepen the role of artistic practices and cultural productions in the construction of cultural memory, exploring the specificity of aesthetics to propose new relationships between the past and the present.
9. **Memory and Cultural Diversity:** This axis focuses on multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research that recovers the memory of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and cultures that have arrived in Latin America as a result of migrations (Jewish, Muslim, Oriental, etc.). This memory is a tool to preserve their identities as part of the multiculturalism and plurinationality of the States and as an artifact of struggle and resistance to colonial and global homogenization.
10. **Sensory and Affective Memories:** In recent years, the affective turn and gender studies have given back a central place to the body, so much so that also in memory studies, there is a renewed interest in issues not only of corporeality but also in sensory expressions and impressions and their relation to memory. Exploring the interconnections between affects, senses and memories brings epistemological, theoretical and methodological challenges to the table. Questions of the (in-)separability of body and consciousness, the ontological status of affects, and the role of the researcher and their involvement in the generation and transmission of affects are just some of them.

- 11. Memories, Subjects and Subjectivities:** Memory reveals itself as inscription on a subject and the subject, likewise, produces memories. Around testimonies, narratives, literature and personal expressions of memory, subjective effects are transmitted and shared that, in turn, orient, define and perpetuate the collective work of memory as well as its physical and institutional supports. Likewise, singular expressions of memory often reveal the direction of the politics of memory and truth, while at the same time revealing its failures, gaps and holes. In this tension between the personal, the singular and the subjective, the enduring and perennial forms of memory are in conflict and reveal what is said and what is silenced; what is visible and what is invisible; what is remembered and what is forgotten.
- 12. Gender and Memories:** This line of work focuses on research and productions from different disciplines that incorporate the gender perspective -as well as feminist and sexual diversity approaches- in studies on memories, identifying different effects of gender order in its configurations and in the struggles around the contents, practices and supports of memory, as well as in the processes of memorialization.
- 13. Museums and Virtual Networks:** Virtual museums and their settings are new topics in museology, memory studies and practices. The concept is not yet a consensus among specialists as it requires a deeper debate on the possible museological actions exercised on the web, especially in social networks. There is an urgent need to understand the role of museums on the Internet and their impact on social memory. In addition, the discussion of collaborative experiences in museums and virtual networks is important, especially in relation to autonomy and new museum objects. We also highlight the importance of technologies for the birth of new memory objects, as well as for expanding the probabilities of memory expression by native cultures and socially excluded groups.
- 14. Memories and Conservative Political Processes:** This axis proposes to discuss the different ways in which "right-wing", "new right" or "military right" political forces, among others, intervene in the memorial disputes about the recent past. The interest is to focus on the updating of reactionary, authoritarian and even negationist discourses that seek to devalue the paradigm of human rights and redefine the democratic experience of the present in Latin America.
- 15. Archives and Memories:** This axis proposes to discuss the destruction, discovery, reconstruction, production, conservation, access and uses of archives of political repression and resistance in Latin America and the Caribbean. Considering archives in their different recording media: documentary, digital, oral, audiovisual and other archives, the aim is to reflect and discuss the conditions of production, methodologies, scope, recording technologies, preservation, uses and public access.

General Information:

The Meeting will be held in both face-to-face and virtual modalities, depending on the health regulations in place at the time at the host institutions.

During the Meeting, there will be plenary lectures by specialists in Memory Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinated panels and round tables for the presentation of individual papers.

Proposals for individual papers and panels will be received in **Spanish, English and Portuguese**.



Coordinated panels may include up to four members, whose roles will be divided between presenters, and an additional commentator or coordinator.

Submission of abstracts for individual papers, panel proposals, posters/poster boards, book presentations and artistic proposals should be made UNTIL **April 15th, 2022** through the following form: <https://tinyurl.com/mr7b4p5u>

Acceptance of proposals will be communicated during the month of May 2022. Registration fees for speakers and attendees will be announced in a future Circular.

Important dates

Submission of proposals	until April 15th, 2022
Communication of results	until May 31st, 2022
First Meeting of the Regional Group Latin America Memory Studies Association	September 14th - 17th, 2022

Organizers

- Regional Group Latin America, Memory Studies Association (MSA).
- Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá/Colombia.
- Centro de Memoria, Paz y Reconciliación (CMPR), Bogotá/Colombia.

For more information regarding the event, please contact: americainamsa@gmail.com

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