INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

BODY, SCIENCE, MEMORY AND POLITICS IN CONTEMPORARY EXHUMATIONS

ILLA-CCHS-CSIC, Madrid
July 2-3, 2015



Project I+D+i "The past below earth: Exhumations and memory politics in contemporary Spain in transnational and comparative perspective" (CSO2012-32709)

Archaeologist Zoe Crossland describes mass exhumations as existing "at the intersection of multiple evidential regimes that articulate different and often conflicting expectations for archaeological practice" (2013: 122). The closing conference of the I+D+i project *The past below earth: exhumation and memory politics in contemporary Spain in transnational and comparative perspective* will pause on these multiple evidential regimes and consider the ways in which the exhumed body produces meanings – scientifically, socially, politically and culturally – in the context of mass grave exhumations.

Over the last ten years, exhumation practices have become increasingly important in attempts to come to terms with violent pasts. With that, the exhumed body has shaped and transformed not only forensic and judicial values and practices, but also political, social and cultural discourses. This conference seeks to bring into dialogue the different practices, methodologies and theoretical concerns that approach the modern memory and human rights regime from the perspective of the exhumed body as a material and discursive object. By generating cross-disciplinary debate and putting into dialogue comparative case studies, we approach exhumed bodies from a transnational and comparative perspectives objects of analysis that can help illuminate the complexity of making meaning and staking claims through our engagements with bodily evidence in the public sphere.

How does the exhumed body, understood as an object of technical, cultural memory and as a performative subject, relate to and draw on an emergent transnational map of memories and violent pasts?

The conference will take place in Spanish and English. Simultaneous translation will be available.

Free entry with registration. To register, please contact us before June 29th at politicasdelamemoria@gmail.com with the following information: (1) Name and ID and (2) whether you need an attendance certificate.

Organization:

Chairperson: Francisco Ferrándiz (CSIC)
Scientific Committee: Lee Douglas (NYU/CSIC), Francisco Etxeberria (UPV-EHU/ ARANZADI), Marije Hristova (U Maastricht), Zoé de Kerangat (CSIC/UAM), Julián López (UNED), M.Laura Martín-Chiappe (CSIC/UAM), Alfonso Villalta (UNED).

Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, CSIC
Salón de Actos
C/ Albasanz, 26-28, Madrid.
Metro Ciudad Lineal y Suanzes (L5)

Thursday July 2nd

08:30 – 09:00 Conference's opening remarks

09:00 – 10:30 **Keynote**

Jorge González (UCM La Habana) *Rescuing the remains of Che Guevara* (Spanish)

10:30 – 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 13:30 **Exhumed bodies and Human Rights**

Stephanie Golob (CUNY-Baruch) *The once and future citizen: Exhumed bodies within domestic, regional and international legal frameworks*

Carlos Beristain (U Deusto) *Bodies and truth commissions* (Spanish)

Morris Tidball-Binz (ICRC) *Principles and recommendations for humanitarian forensic actions: Experiences with the International Committee of the Red Cross* (Spanish)

Alejandro Baer (U Minnesota) and Natan Sznaider (AC Tel-Aviv) *Truth and testimony: From text to bones in Holocaust memory*

14:00 – 16:00 LUNCH

16:00 – 18:30 **Exhumed bodies: Case studies**

Paloma Aguilar (UNED) y Francisco Ferrándiz (CSIC) *Exhumations and the press during Spain's transition to democracy: The case of 'Interviú'* (Spanish)

Sarah Wagner (GWU) *Innovation and intervention: The forensic work of identifying Srebrenica's missing, twenty years on*

Ángel del Río (UPO) *Uncomfortable bodies in Andalusia* (Spanish)

Queralt Solé (UB) *Bodily politics in the Civil War Battlefields of Catalonia* (Spanish)

Friday July 3rd

09:00 – 11:30 **Techno-scientific bodies**

Zoe Crossland (U Columbia) *Testifying bodies*

Paco Etxeberría, L. Herrasti y L. Ríos (Aranzadi) *Exhumations and forensic labs* (Spanish)

Luis Fondebrider (EAAF) *Trans-migrant bodies in Mexico* (Spanish)

Elisabeth Anstett (CNRS) *About the 'necro-market' and the globalisation of mass exhumations*

11:30 – 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00 – 14:00 **Bodies as social processes**

Jean-Marc Dreyfus (U Manchester) *A diplomacy of corpses after WWII*

María García (UNED) *From body to relic* (Spanish)

Francisco Ferrándiz (CSIC) *From tears to pixels: Emotional transfer during Spanish exhumations* (Spanish)

14:00 – 16:00 LUNCH

16:00 – 18:30 **Bodies as cultural productions**

Antonius Robben (U Utrecht) *Sovereign bodies: The cultural production of disappearance and re-appearance in Argentina*

Lee Douglas (NYU/CSIC) *Visualizing remains in Spanish exhumations*

Marije Hristova (U Maastricht) *Literature: From ghost to body* (Spanish)

Germán Labrador (Princeton U) y Ulrike Capdepón (U Columbia) *From exhumed to evicted* (Spanish)

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