Research Workshop

Transformative (Re)Inscriptions: Testimonio and the Economy of Representation in Luz Arce’s *El Infierno*

Luz Arce’s testimonio, *El Infierno* (1993), recounts her lived experiences as a former political prisoner of Chile’s Pinochet dictatorship and later, as an unwilling collaborator with the regime’s secret police, the DINA. Arce’s autobiographical testimonial narrative, written in light of her testimony at the Rettig Commission, calls the dominant discourses of the “official truth” into question from the marginalized position of a “traitor.” Analyzing Arce’s text using the theories of Dori Laub and Judith Lewis Herman from the field of trauma studies situates Arce’s testimonio as a complex example of scriptotherapy used to recover her sense of agency after unspeakable trauma.

Friday, February 5
Noon
339 O’Shaughnessy

Presenter:

Catherine Brix

Catherine Brix currently a fourth-year doctoral student in the Ph.D. in Literature Program and Gender Studies Graduate Minor at the University of Notre Dame. She is originally from Ankeny, Iowa and completed BA degrees in Spanish and Art at Central College in Iowa. She spent a year studying Spanish literature and translation studies at the Universidad de Granada in Spain during her undergraduate formation. Catherine went on to complete her MA in Spanish at the University of Northern Iowa.