

Although auto/bio/graphical literature is complex and heterogeneous, it constitutes a visible, separate strand in the contemporary literature in Argentina (2000-2020). In their auto-narrations, Argentinian men and women writers of different generations, with different ideological and artistic views, provide their unique perspectives, not only to talk about their present socio-political reality (involvement in social movements, experience of exclusion, corporeality, identity-making), but also engaging close past (dictatorship, resistance, post-memory).

In spite of a growing interest of the readers with the contemporary embodied autobiographical texts in Argentina, there is not enough research or methodological reflection regarding the topic. The newest Argentinian autobiographical literature, which involves many theoretically intriguing and socially relevant texts, calls for a synthesizing. The aim of this project is to meet this demand, i.e. to analyse and describe the characteristics of the contemporary life- and memory- writing in Argentina (2000-2020) and to reconceptualise the research on embodied life- and memory narrations.

**Research Questions:** a) How is social reality represented in the most recent, Argentinian life- and memory-writing?; b) In what ways does the corporeal turn affect auto/bio/graphical practices and what new elements does it introduce?; c) In what ways do the new, embodied life- and memory narratives engage history and historical memory?; d) What social games are at play in the Argentinian life-narratives of the 21st century?

**Initial Hypothesis:** a) In the 21st century a shift in Argentinian life-writing occurs towards new, political auto-narrations, b) With this political shift, the body becomes one of the key elements of the life-narratives and a new kind of corporeal, relational, socially engaged autobiographical subject emerges; c) It seems necessary to elaborate a new research model for political and embodied life- and memory writing, autonomous yet in dialogue with the already-existing methodologies and theories.

According to our hypothesis, we are witnessing a renewal of the genre, as a result of which different trends clash and the past convictions, such narcissism and individualism characteristic for the traditional life-writing and the postmodern concepts of the end of history and the end of ideology are being rejected.

**Project aims:** a) we will redefine the key issues in life- writing studies Argentina in light of the newest research in humanities; b) we will create an outline of Argentinian autobiographical literature of the past twenty years; c) we will situate life- and memory- narratives within the Argentinian literary production; d) we will identify the most typical trends in the recent embodied autobiographical literature of Argentina; e) we will explore the ways in which social reality and social engagement are depicted in autobiographical literature.

The team will focus on researching the collective and individual, universal and particular identity-making strategies in literature. The team members will explore the elements of social critique in the texts, as well as attend to the attempts of performative participation of literature in the social debates regarding community-making. In the light of recent social changes occurring in the Spanish-speaking countries, especially in Argentina, the aim of which is the emancipation of the excluded, more research is needed to redefine social engagement in life- and memory- writing.

Because of the historical context and due to the current social changes in Argentina, the team will research the embodied and relational autobiography from the point of view of memory and trauma. Our interest in memory studies comes from the assumption that autobiographical literature in Spain and Argentina was shaped by the traumatic historical events, which are still present in the collective memory.

**Methodology:** Our research will use tools from historical studies, theoretical methods, analytical methods and cultural studies: a) **historical studies:** we will investigate the newest autobiographical trends in the context of the previous research in the literary history of Argentina, b) **theoretical methods:** we will reconceptualize the main assumptions of autobiography studies in Argentina from the perspectives of the new research findings in humanities, c) **analytical methods:** we will use corpora of autobiographical texts to corroborate our hypotheses, d) **cultural studies:** we will analyse autobiographical texts in conjunction with social discourses, social movements and social games depicted in the literary texts.

The project will result in a series of 6 articles in Spanish and a final manuscript of the monograph in English presenting the research findings.