

In the 1990s, there was a significant change of the research paradigm in Holocaust studies: the uniqueness model, widespread in the previous decades, was replaced, by the “transnational” and “transcultural” theories. These approaches do not contest the place that the Holocaust has occupied in the Western public sphere since the 1960s, serving as a paradigm for genocide. Instead, they propose to consider the Holocaust as a crucial metaphor for barbarism that could provide a possible reference for other histories of institutionalized violence, but without fostering the so-called competitive model of remembrance, in which the focus on memorialization of one traumatic event threatens to overshadow other painful histories.

However, in this transcultural research context, surprisingly little attention has been paid to Latin America. In this cultural setting (unlike in Europe and the United States), the Holocaust consciousness has not been considered crucial for the formation of the present collective identity and the researchers specializing in the decolonial approach to Latin American culture do not typically refer to the Holocaust memory, as it tends to be perceived as one of the hegemonic, Eurocentric narratives, from which the Latin American subjects should liberate themselves. Recently, however, a growing number of Latin American Jewish writers have been increasingly drawing from the Holocaust memory, using it as a vehicle for articulating and understanding other histories of violence. This “multidirectional” model of remembering has been used in contemporary Latin American Jewish literature both to reinterpret the past (e.g. the 20th century conflicts, such as the military dictatorship in the Southern Cone or the Guatemalan civil war, but also previous events, such as the 19<sup>th</sup> century Conquest of the Desert) and to address present injustices whose origins can be traced back to the colonial times (e.g. racism, forced displacements, global capitalism-related forms of domination). The project’s main objective is analyze the ways in which the cross-references between the legacies of the Holocaust and colonialism are represented in the recent Latin American Jewish literature written in Spanish (from the 1990s to the 2020s).

The transdisciplinary and transcultural approach allows us to elaborate a model of analysis that is geographically and culturally located rather than blurred by the universalizing paradigms. Moreover, it would be applicable in other literary, cultural, and political contexts, in which the “multidirectional” approach to the collective memory could shed a new light on the entanglements of the Holocaust and colonial violences and how they continue to be perpetuated in the present.

The findings of the research will be presented in 4 articles to be published in English and Spanish in renowned journals. The project’s final results will be discussed in a monograph in English, whose manuscript will be submitted to one of the renowned academic publishing houses.