

'Memory Speaks from Today': analyzing oral histories of female members of the MIR in Chile through the work of Luisa Passerini

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Resumen

This article engages the work of Luisa Passerini in order to analyze the oral histories of women who belonged to the Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria (MIR) in Chile during the 1960s and 1970s. It argues that a theoretical framework that considers the interplay between memory, testimony, and gender as well as a transnational historical perspective can help explain how feminism and 'new left' groups emerged from the revolutionary 1968 context. Of primary concern is the manner in which certain gendered aspects of the MIR women's experiences-particularly the brutal sexualized political violence they endured at the hands of the state-have been historically silenced and also how, more recently, women's testimonials have helped to break that silence. Finally, the article proposes that feminism, both as a mode of critical thinking and as a social movement, will allow us to more fully 'hear' the testimonies of these women and to understand how their memories are 'speaking from today.'

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Editorial

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