

**Panel 4: Gender and Migration**

**Moderator: Kari Winter**

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**El exilio de la infancia: memorias y retornos**

**Leonor Arfuch (Universidad de Buenos Aires, IIGG)**

En el marco de las dolorosas migraciones actuales, mi trabajo se propone abordar la problemática del exilio político, donde la opción de salir “fuera de límites” se juega a menudo entre la vida y la muerte, a partir de una experiencia singular: la de hijos cuyos padres tuvieron que escapar del accionar represivo de las dictaduras latinoamericanas, la de Chile (1973- 1989), la de Argentina, (1976-1983). Hijos que nacieron en el exilio, afectados por la carga traumática familiar, exiliados-hijos, los que partieron, junto con sus padres a un incierto destino, llevando apenas unos pocos objetos como vestigios de lo que fue el hogar. Algunos de ellos fueron luego dejados en Cuba, al cuidado de “padres sociales” en comunidad, cuando sus padres militantes decidieron volver a sus países a enfrentar las dictaduras. Mi análisis se centrará en la obra reciente de cuatro mujeres que vivieron esas experiencias, cuya narrativa también está fuera de los límites de los géneros (genre) canónicos: dos escritoras, Verónica Gerber-Bicceci y Laura Alcoba, con novelas autobiográficas y autoficcionales; dos cineastas, Macarena Aguiló (Chile) y Virginia Croatto (Argentina), con documentales autobiográficos y testimoniales. Pese a las diferencias de estilo al abordar una experiencia común, aparecen inequívocamente marcas de género (gender) -miradas, imágenes, apreciaciones, valoraciones- que expresan una peculiar subjetividad, donde lo personal se articula a la memoria colectiva y tiene, por ende, un definido impacto ético y político.

**Childhood Exile: Memories and Returns**

**Leonor Arfuch (Universidad de Buenos Aires, IIGG)**

In the context of contemporary forced migrations, my paper tackles the problem of political exile. I will take as my main area of concern a unique experience—that of children whose parents were obliged to escape the repression of the Chilean (1973-1989) and Argentinian (1976- 1983) dictatorships and for whom living “outside the lines” was often a matter of life and death. I am referring to children born in exile and who were affected by family trauma, or exiled-children who moved with their parents toward an uncertain destiny, carrying with them only a few objects as vestiges of home. Some of these children were later sent to Cuba to live in the care of “social parents,” caretakers who took responsibility for the children when the children’s militant parents decided to return to their countries of origin to fight against the dictatorships. My analysis will focus on recent works by four women who have lived through these experiences and whose narratives lie “outside the

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lines” of canonical genres: Verónica Gerber-Bicceci and Laura Alcoba (Argentina), who have written autobiographical and self-fictional novels; Macarena Aguiló (Chile) and Virginia Croatto (Argentina), who have produced autobiographical and testimonial films. Despite differences in style, we find in their cultural production some undeniable marks of gender –looks, images, assessments- that reveal unique subjectivities. In all of these narratives, personal experience interfaces with collective memory and, for that reason, has an important ethical and political impact.

Leonor Arfuch is Full Professor at the University of Buenos Aires, in the Social Sciences School. She is also Director of Research on Cultural Studies at the Gino Germani Research Institute (UBA), where she has conducted several projects since 1992. She works on questions of subjectivity, identities, memory, and narrative in literature, arts, and the media from a multidisciplinary perspective that combines discourse analysis, literary critique, semiotics, and aesthetics. She has been a Visiting Professor at Essex University; Universidad Autónoma de México; Iberoamericana, Pedagógica, Pontificia Universidad Católica, and Universidad Diego Portales, among others. She also served as a Tinker Visiting Professor at Stanford. She was awarded the UBA Thalmann Scholarship (1998); the British Academy Professorship Award (2004); and the Guggenheim Fellowship (2007). She is the author of several books, including: *La entrevista, una invención dialógica* (1995, 2nd edition 2010); *Diseño y Comunicación. Teorías y enfoques críticos* (1997); *El espacio biográfico. Dilemas de la subjetividad contemporánea* (2002); *O Espaço Biográfico: Dilemas da Subjetividade Contemporânea; Crítica cultural entre política y poética* (2008); *Identidades, sujetos y subjetividades* (2002); *Pensar este tiempo. Espacios, afectos, pertenencias* (2005); *Imperfecto. Lecturas críticas del acontecer* (2008); *Visualidades sin fin. Imagen y diseño en la sociedad global* (2009).