

Em/bodying human rights in testimony

Studies in Comparative Literatures and Arts Colloquium

Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014
United Nations-designated
World Day of Social Justice

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Pond Inlet, Brock University

**Writing after political
violence and trauma**

The organizers, Cristina Santos and Tracy Crowe
Morey, would like to extend a special thanks to:

Humanities Research Institute
Department of Modern Languages, Literatures
and Cultures
Faculty of Graduate Studies
Social Justice Research Institute
Social Justice and Equity Studies
Centre for Gender and Women's Studies

Original poster artwork by Spade
Poster design by Diane Coderre



Keynote speaker



Nora S. Strejilevich, is an Argentinean writer whose literary production is a means to “work through” the legacy of state terrorism on the basis of her own experience as a survivor and exile. After her liberation from the “Athletic Club” concentration camp in 1977, she was granted political asylum in Canada. She has published prose, poems and essays. *Una sola muerte numerosa* (1997, 2006) has given Strejilevich international recognition. This testimonial novel was awarded the Letras de Oro National Award (U.S., 1996). It was

translated into English (*A Single Numberless Death*, 2002) and was adapted to theatre (U.S. 2002). In Italy, Strejilevich’s story inspired the movie *Nora* (2005).

The presenters:

Sharon Abbey teaches courses in social studies and women’s studies and was the founding member of the Centre for Collaborative Research. Her research interests include holistic education, reflective practice, women studies and gender equity, maternal pedagogy and images of motherhood, as well as narrative inquiry and embodied knowing.

Jonathan A. Allan received his PhD from the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto in November 2012. His dissertation — “The First Time and the Mourning After: On Love, Loss, and Virginity” — explored anecdote, critical theory and psychotherapy.

Hugo DeMarinis is the co-author of the testimonial *Madre de Mendoza* (Corregidor, 2013) and also serves on various editorial boards such as the *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, and the international journals *La quinta pata* and *El ciudadano*, both from Argentina.

Patricia Harms is an associate professor in the History Department and co-ordinates the Gender and Women’s Studies Program at Brandon University. Her research interests include Latin American women’s history, comparative indigenous histories and transnational gender and women’s movements. She recently began to work with Latin American women immigrants in Brandon.

Steven Rita Procter is a PhD candidate whose dissertation explores the relationship between national traumas and the production of avant-garde or experimental literary movements. He is currently involved with several memorial and archival projects that aim to catalogue testimonial responses to both 9/11 and the Arab Spring, and will soon be publicly launching the York University Oral History Project.

Adriana Spahr’s research reflects her long interest on the cultural, political and historical components in literature and focuses on the use of the monstrous as element of control in Latin American society. Her publications include *La sonrisa de la amargura: 1973-1982 la historia argentina a través de tres novelas de Osvaldo Soriano* (Corregidor 2006) and *Madre de Mendoza* (Corregidor 2013).

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10 a.m. Welcome:

David Fancy, interim director, MA in Studies in Comparative Literatures and Arts; Douglas Kneale, Dean, Faculty of Humanities

10:20 Introduction, Cristina Santos: “Em/bodying human rights in testimony.”

10:30 Keynote speaker — Nora Strejilevich. “Writing after political violence and trauma.”

11:30 Coffee break

11:45 Jonathan A. Allan (Gender and Women’s Studies and Department of English, Brandon University). “Affecting testimony: experiments in prose and pedagogy.”

12:05 p.m.

Sharon Abbey (Department of Teacher Education, Brock University). “Testimony as reflective transformation.”

12:25 Question period

12:45 Lunch break

1:30 Steven Rita Procter (Department of English, York University). “The aesthetics of witnessing from afar: Chilean and Arab Spring dictatorship novels.”

1:50 Patricia Harms (Department of History and Gender and Women’s Studies, Brandon University). “Voices in the wind: Latina testimonies from the prairie.”

2:10 Hugo De Marinis (Department of Languages and Literatures, Wilfrid Laurier University) and Adriana Spahr (Department of Humanities, MacEwan University). “The challenge of testimony: the Argentinean case.”

2:40 Question period

3:00 Invitational roundtable

Moderator: Tracy Crowe Morey

Presenters: Claire Masswohl, CEO of Welland Heritage Council and Multicultural Centre; Deyanira Benavides, Community Legal Worker, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic.

4:30 Closing remarks