Violence in Argentine Literature and Film, 1989–2005

Edited by Carolina Rocha and Elizabeth Montes Garcés

Why has violence been a predominant topic in contemporary Argentine film and literature? What conclusions can be drawn from the dissemination of violent images and narratives that depict violence in Argentina? In Argentina, the problem of violence is rooted in the country’s long experience with authoritarian rule as well as in more recent trends such as the weakening of the state and the rule of law brought about by neoliberal reforms. The eleven essays that make up this collection seek to interpret and analyze the extent to which violence communicates structural inequalities or lines of fissure in contemporary Argentina resulting from the transformations that the state, the economy, and society in general have experienced during the past two decades.

Applying a variety of critical approaches, the contributors explore violence in Argentine cultural productions as it relates to four broad themes: the body as site of physical violence, the legacies of Argentina’s authoritarian past, the collapse of the myth of the Argentine nation, and the current battles over how to define particular “social and geographical places” in the context of an increasingly violent society.

Carolina Rocha is Assistant Professor at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She holds a PhD from the University of Texas and specializes in contemporary Southern Cone literature and film. She is the editor, along with Hugo Hortiguera, of Argentenean Cultural Production during the Neoliberal Years. Her articles on Argentine film have appeared in Revista de Estudios Hispánicos, Studies in Latin American Popular Culture, Ciberletras and Bulletin of Spanish Studies.

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