

100 YEARS

Institute of Argentine and American History "Dr. Emilio Ravignani"



100
AÑOS

INSTITUTO DE HISTORIA
ARGENTINA Y AMERICANA
DR. EMILIO **RAVIGNANI**

FACULTAD DE FILOSOFÍA Y LETRAS

.UBA200





Translated from Spanish within the framework of the English Translator Residency of “Juan Ramón Fernández” Institute of Higher Education in Modern Languages, Cátedra M. Propato, by Camila Aceval, Paulina Baldan, Sofía Boari, Lucila Debernardi, Iván Jurisic, Ileana Martínez and Belén Sánchez Sañudo, in June 2025.

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Foreword

This brochure was created in mid-2021, in the framework of the Institute's centennial anniversary. Now, four years later, history has continued its course, and the world, as well as our country, has undergone major changes. It is encouraging to see that, even in an extremely challenging national and global context, our work has continued at a good pace. Always paying attention to the advancements in our field of specialization and the tools that become available in rapidly evolving times, the Institute has incorporated new activities and services. We have created, for example, the Digital History Area, focusing on a field of enormous projection in the present and future. The recent boom in new technologies, as well as the next-generation products that they offer for research and teaching, will no doubt completely transform the landscape of social sciences in the coming years. Furthermore, in the face of these changing times, the Communications Area has had a very dynamic development, generating high-traffic content with an impact on social media, and positioning our Institute as one of the most visible in its specialty. We have reinforced the Archive Area, recruiting, after a rigorous selection process, an excellent preservation specialist. With the aim of reaching a wider audience and making high-quality scientific content available to society, we have introduced outreach courses taught by renowned historians, to great success. Additionally, we have launched an offering of physical archive preservation and digitization services, taking advantage of the expertise developed in one of Argentina's most experienced and prestigious document digitization laboratories. We have launched the *Colección Saberes*, in which our researchers have the possibility of publishing their own books. We have opened a young researchers' room, in which our research assistants and visitors may work. We have updated our Programs' work plans, whose activity these years has been very intense, as usual. We have additionally created new networks and research groups—which aim to tackle current, high-impact problems—bringing together specialists in our Institute and from other prestigious academic institutions, both from our country and abroad. Through an initiative from one of our researchers and with the unanimous approval of the Internal Council, we have named our Library "Professor José Carlos Chiaramonte," in memory of a renowned historian and former Director of our institute who passed away in 2024.

The support received from institutions such as the Fundación Williams and the Fondo Nacional de las Artes not only has enabled us to carry out essential tasks and acquire equipment, but also means a recognition that makes us proud, as it is the result of our participation in highly competitive and strictly evaluated contests. The AHIRA project, which provides digitized versions of a huge number of Argentine cultural magazines from the 19th and 20th centuries, has achieved unprecedented visibility in recent years, clearly demonstrating the interest and value generated by initiatives undertaken in the humanities. It was awarded the Konex Prize in Literature in 2024, which was great news for our Institute.

During these years, the Institute has hosted, as always, many conferences of distinguished colleagues from abroad and from within the country, apart from various activities from our working groups. By way of example, we would like to mention the 8th GEALA Conference on Afro-Latin American Studies, which attracted a large audience and showcased the huge advances in the field. Also, the Institute participated in many initiatives carried out in collaboration with other institutes, the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, the University of Buenos Aires, and other institutions in the field. The joint work with the “Luis Ordaz” Institute of Argentine and Latin American Art History is worth noting. As part of this initiative, within the framework of an agreement signed by the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters and the Municipality of Avellaneda, the invaluable archive of *Las Obreras de la Cruz*, a Catholic social welfare association from the early 20th century, has been rescued. Our collection of historical documents has been enriched with the significant legacy of the Roberto M. Ortiz and Family Fund, donated by his descendants, Alejandro and Emiliano Silva Ortiz (Roberto M. Ortiz was President of Argentina, 1938-1942). We also received a new set of historical documents from the Dürnhöffer collection and many books for our library, in addition to other donations currently in progress. We have completed the digitization of the Institute’s historical publications, which are frequently consulted as research materials. And our journal, which also celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2022, continues to be one of the most prominent peer-reviewed publications in the field.

At a time when resources are lacking and, even more concerning, the role of the humanities in the current world—among them, the role of history—is being questioned with remarkable misinformation on its usefulness, its value and its potential, the tasks done and our ongoing projects are highly inspiring. We thank the University of Buenos Aires, the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, and CONICET, as well as our technical and administrative personnel, and the researchers, research assistants, authorities, individuals, and institutions that have supported us and continue to support us.

Buenos Aires, September 2025.

Dr. Julio Djenderedjian, Director

Introduction

The Instituto de Historia Argentina y Americana “Dr. Emilio Ravignani” (Institute of History of Argentina and the Americas “Dr. Emilio Ravignani”) is celebrating 100 years (1921-2021). On December 5, 1921, by Resolution of the Higher Council of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), the original Historical Research Section, based in the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, was turned into an institute, named Historical Research Institute. In 1956, it was given the name of Emilio Ravignani, who had been director of the Section and then became the first director of the newly created Institute. In November 2011, the Ravignani Institute became an Implementation Unit (IU) with double reporting: to UBA and CONICET (the main Science and Technology agency of Argentina). Thus, in the midst of a devastating global pandemic and such a challenging context for scientific research, our commemoration coincides with the 200th anniversary of the University of Buenos Aires (1821-2021).

The Ravignani Institute is a distinguished center of excellence in research on the history of Argentina and the Americas, and an international reference for scholars studying Latin American history. This brochure aims to briefly explore its long history, main research lines, diverse working groups, rich document and bibliographic collection, and its various activities, including publishing, exchange, dissemination and training of human resources.

In fact, the Institute has been actively participating in the critical review of the history of Argentina and the Americas through multiple activities within its Research Programs, Working Groups, Networks and Seminars. Moreover, several of its projects were gradually integrated into international networks to promote the increased mobility and exchange of professors, researchers and fellows between the Institute and different research centers in Argentina and abroad. In addition, new researchers and research lines, particularly regarding the history of Argentina of the 20th and 21st centuries, were steadily incorporated. In line with this temporal and thematic expansion, the Institute and CONICET have recently carried out a collective project (PIU-CONICET) on an issue that is very relevant today but is rooted in a complex past, constituting a remarkable achievement: “Las dimensiones de la desigualdad en la larga duración. Economía, sociedad y política en el espacio rioplatense, siglos XVI al XX” (“Dimensions of Inequality in the Long Term. Economy, Society and Politics in the Río de la Plata region, 16th to 20th Centuries”).

Amid the vicissitudes of Argentina's political and institutional life, the 100th anniversary of the creation and ongoing research efforts of Ravignani Institute is a milestone that we are pleased to celebrate and share. Our great challenge is to preserve its fruitful history, institutional life, research diversity, connection with teaching and plural collective work to further broaden its national and international scientific and academic outreach.

Dr. Noemi Goldman, Director



History Section
of the Faculty of
Philosophy and
Letters in 1917, in
Caras y Caretas,
No. 973.

A Brief History of the Institute



The Instituto de Historia Argentina y Americana “Dr. Emilio Ravignani” originated in the Historical Research Institute at UBA's Faculty of Philosophy and Letters. The original Institute was part of the Faculty's Historical Research Section that had been created by resolution of the Board of Directors in June 1905 and whose activities began in March 1906.

In October 1912, the Section was reformulated, and its publications office became a standing committee. Luis María Torres was appointed director and Emilio Ravignani, head of research. Rómulo Carbia and Diego Luis Molinari joined as honorary members in 1914, and Carlos Correa Luna, in 1915. When Luis María Torres resigned to take on the role of director of the La Plata Museum of Natural Sciences, he was replaced by Ravignani, who was appointed on August 5, 1920.



Room of the
Institute of
Historical
Research.

On December 5, 1921, UBA authorities turned the Section into an Institute, marking the creation of the Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas. Emilio Ravignani continued to serve as the director of the newly established Institute until late 1946.

From the beginning, the Institute was a pioneering and central institution in developing the professionalization of the discipline and in historical production. The Institute played an important role—before and after the University Reform in 1918—in



Emilio Ravignani, Ricardo Levene, Rómulo Carbia and other historians speaking at a commemorative event broadcast by Radio Nacional, around 1940.



the major process of institutionalization of science within the UBA framework. This process had a particularly strong impact on several disciplines within the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, which resulted in the creation of 16 new Institutes in the Faculty between 1921 and 1942. At the very beginning, the Ravignani Institute was located at 961, Florida street, and then it moved to 221, 25 de Mayo street along with other Institutes of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters.

Hence, the Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas emerged as a space dedicated to the practice and socialization of researchers specialized in Río de la Plata history and, in particular, to the compilation and publication of documents related to the history of Argentina and the Americas. For years, the Institute promoted and financed the work of copyists and researchers, such as José Torre Revello or León Baidaff, both in national and European archives—mostly Spanish, but also French, English and German ones. The publications plan included

edited collections of documentary sources, such as the series Documents for the History of the Río de la Plata Viceroyalty, Documents for Argentine History or Argentine Constituent Assemblies, and original monographs. Correspondence and exchange among Argentine and foreign colleagues was very active and fruitful as well. One of the Institute's priorities was the publication of a scientific journal. The Historical Research Institute Journal was first released in 1922, and eventually became one of the most prestigious academic publications specialized in history in Argentina and the region.

Thus, during the first decades of the 20th century, within the scope of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, both the



Section and Institute laid the foundations for creating and later consolidating a crucial space for the professional training of historians.

From 1948 until Juan Domingo Perón was overthrown in his second presidency, the Institute's director was Diego Luis Molinari. In 1955, he was succeeded by Ricardo Caillet Bois, who remained in this position until 1973. Emilio Ravignani, who had been an active director of the Institute for many decades, died on March 8, 1954 and, as a tribute to him, the Institute later adopted his name.

In those years, as new generations of historians emerged, different tensions between the more traditional and renewed forms of historiographic production appeared, within a political environment that was already experiencing substantial changes. In the face of a predominant institutional and diplomatic history linked to the New Historical School—an objective historiographical movement in early 20th-century Argentina—the interest in new topics of demographics, society, economics and quantification was reignited. Along with the study of the Argentine past, the historical research of the Americas was also strengthened, particularly focusing on the colonial period and the 19th century.

Between 1973 and 1974, the Institute was directed by Rodolfo Ortega Peña and Eduardo Luis Duhalde, and later co-directed by Hebe M. García and Ana Lía Payró. In September 1974, when the University of Buenos Aires was placed under direct government control, those authorities were replaced first by Jorge Ocón first and then Federico Ibarguren. Following the coup d'état of March 1976, Ricardo Caillet Bois returned as director and held that position until his death in 1977, when he was succeeded by Daisy Rípodas Ardanaz. After the military dictatorship ended and university life normalized, Eduardo Saguier was appointed director in 1984.

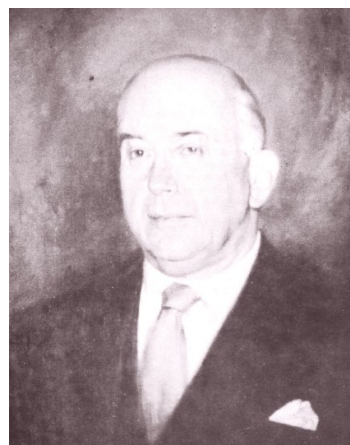
Amid the renewal of the historiography field, brought by the return of democracy and the refoundation of university institutions, José Carlos Chiaramonte was appointed director of the Institute, serving in that position from 1986 to November 2012. Under his direction, a wide range of new objectives—highly important for the Institute's historical dynamics—were accomplished. These included the emergence and strengthening of research teams, with a sustained increase in new researchers and areas of work that would lead to the creation of the Institute's research Programs and Seminars and, later, the Working Groups. During



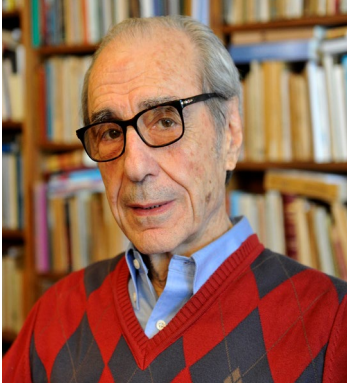
Diego Luis Molinari



Ricardo Caillet-Bois



José Carlos
Chiaramonte



Chiaramonte's 25 years in charge, the Institute recovered its former prestige and became a benchmark for historical research.

Likewise, a major institutional reorganization was carried out, involving its library and archive of historical documents. The Institute's journal was also relaunched, marking the beginning of the third series of the *Instituto de Historia Argentina y Americana Dr. E. Ravignani Journal*. Furthermore, the *Instituto Ravignani Notebooks* series was created.

In 2007, the Instituto de Historia Argentina y Americana "Dr. Emilio Ravignani" was declared an Institute of the University of Buenos Aires, based in the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters. In November 2011, at the initiative of Prof. Chiaramonte, the Institute became an Implementation Unit reporting to both the University of Buenos Aires and the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), under the Framework Agreement signed in August 2005 between the two institutions.

Jorge Gelman



With this new structure, at the end of 2012, Jorge Daniel Gelman became the first director appointed through a competitive selection process, with Alejandro Cattaruzza as vice director. They led an exemplary, collective and enriching period of institutional life, with the support of the Board of Directors, made up of representatives elected by the members of the Institute. During this period, dissemination activities and research conferences increased. Due to the death of Dr. Gelman in December 2017, Dr. Cattaruzza stepped in as interim director.

Noemí Goldman



In April 2019, the current Director, Noemí Goldman, was appointed director after a competitive selection process together with vice director Julio Djenderedjian and an Internal Council which, in line with UBA's new provisions, replaced the aforementioned Board of Directors, expanding its representation. The main challenge for the Institute's new management is to strengthen and expand the integration of its scientific, academic and cultural objectives in its various lines of research, as well as to ensure the organizational means are in place to carry them out. This also involves promoting the development of specific collaborative initiatives across the various research, service and dissemination departments of the Institute.

Members and Staff



The Institute comprises trained researchers (78) and researchers in training (59), 48 of whom are fellows from UBA, CONICET and the National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation (Agencia I+D+i), totaling 137 researchers.

The Institute has a highly trained research support staff, both technical and administrative (24), belonging to the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters (UBA) and CONICET, whose tasks are distributed among the following departments:

- Academic Secretariat
- UBA and CONICET Funding Administration
- Library
- Historical Archive
- Historical Heritage
- Journal and Publications
- Communication
- Computer Science



The Institute's
building façade.



Library and Newspaper Library



The purpose of the Ravignani Institute Library is to meet the information needs of a spectrum of users ranging from researchers to students of Social Sciences and Humanities. It has an important collection specialized in the history of Argentina and the Americas, which makes it one of the most renowned libraries in the country.

From the beginning, the Library has had a prominent place within institutional projects. It was enriched through the search and duplication of documentary material from national and foreign repositories, the Institute's and its members' own publications, and the bibliography acquired as a result of exchanges and donations through an extensive network of academic contacts spanning the Americas and Europe. This collection has served as the raw material for a wide range of research.

Due to sustained efforts, the Library already had a considerable bibliographic collection in the 1940s, which was enhanced by later additions, including Dr. Ravignani's personal library and archive after his death. Subsequently, important donations were received, both from national and international institutions and from private libraries. Among the latter are those made by former directors Ricardo Caillet Bois, Eduardo Saguier and José Carlos Chiaramonte; by Jorge Zapico as well as Luis Alberto Romero, who donated copies from the personal library of his father, José Luis Romero.

Another valuable addition was made in 2019. Its worth came not only from the collection itself, but also from the fact that it



belonged to the personal library of Jorge Gelman, a former Ravignani director who passed in 2017. Contributions were also received from foreign institutions, including the Mapfre 1492 Collection published in the 1990s by the Mapfre Foundation.

Within the important bibliographic and documentary heritage of the Institute, the "Reservados" collection, composed of original antique books and manuscripts, deserves special attention. The 187 pieces of immeasurable historical value belonging to the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries underwent restoration and preservation in 1998 with the assistance of a grant from the Mellon Foundation to support a program of assistance to Latin American libraries and archives. For some years now, a budget item has been destined for the restoration of deteriorated pieces.

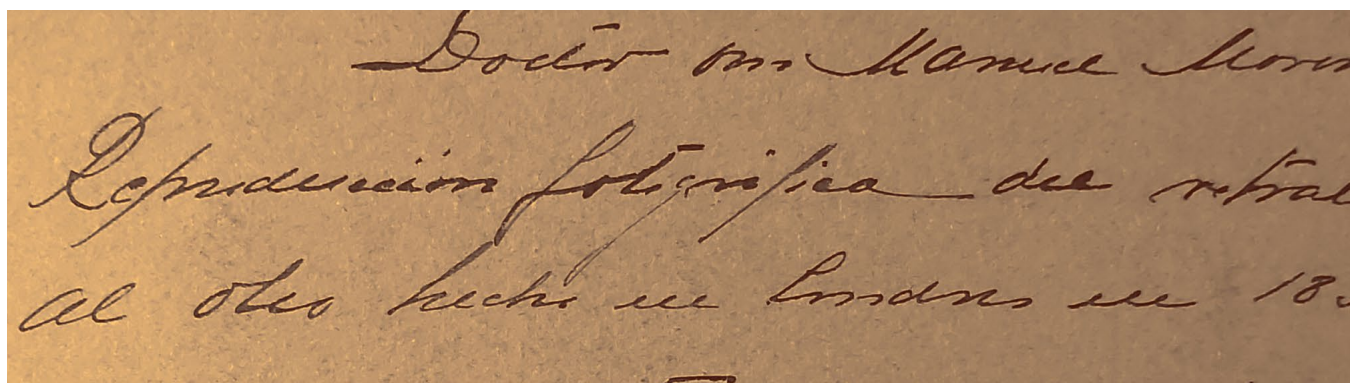
At the same time, since its inception, the library has regularly received publications donated by its researchers. Another way of increasing the bibliographic collection is through the incorporation of pieces acquired by the Institute's researchers with resources from project grants, both from the University of Buenos Aires and CONICET, as well as from Agencia I+D+i.



The consultation of the Library and Newspaper Archive collection by means of manual files was replaced by electronic databases a few decades ago. Any user can access the complete catalogue either through the integrated system of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters or on our website. The collection currently amounts to 50,477 entries, comprising 31,615 books, 2,174 magazines, 1,615 CDs and DVDs, with the rest of entries being articles included in periodicals.

The Library's news is shared on social media and the institutional website.

Historical Archive



The Institute's Historical Archive safeguards the permanent collection of documents produced by the institution in the exercise of its missions and functions. It includes the Collection of Historical Documents derived from the activities of copyists and collaborators, including valuable documentary sources obtained in various national archival institutions, such as the Archivo General de la Nación (National Archive of Argentina, or AGN) or the Mitre Museum, and international sources, such as the General Archive of the Indies or the General Archive of Simancas, among others. The institutional collection also comprises 4,450 German microfilm takes about late-18th and 19th-century Argentine history gathered by the Foreign Section, created in 1968 with a donation by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. Another important asset is the collection of press clippings on historiographical activity published in newspapers such as *La Prensa* and *La Nación* between 1920 and 1970.

The Institute's Historical Archive also safeguards other archives and collections that have been acquired through donations and/or agreements. Among them are the personal collections of two of its directors, Emilio Ravignani (1920-1946) and Jorge Gelman (2012-2017), and the documentation stemming from José Carlos Chiaramonte's research, who was at the lead of the Institution between 1986 and 2012. Other collections that are also preserved are those belonging to writer Alberto Gerchunoff and visual artist Manuel Kantor, which were donated by Professor Sofía Kantor, as

José Torre Revello with other historians of The Americas and staff of the General Archive of the Indies in a tribute to José Toribio Medina. Seville, October 10th, 1928.



well as two other significant collections related to the Argentine business history of the 19th and 20th centuries: that of Franz Mallmann, donated by Arturo Mallmann, and that of Grupo Teubal.

Among manuscripts and early printed books, the following stand out: the 1848 Testamentary documents of Martín de Alzaga, the 1816 *Manifiesto del Congreso a los Pueblos* and the speeches delivered at the opening event of the Literary Salon (Salón Literario) founded by Marcos Sastre in 1837, as well as Dámaso Larrañaga's Journal of Natural History (*Diario de historia natural*) (1808-1814).

As a result of generous contributions, the Institute also preserves several microfilmed collections such as *Diarios Argentinos de fines del siglo XIX y principios del XX*, donated by the Library of the Honorable Congress of Argentina; *Prensa obrera argentina, 1915-1944*, donated by Professor Waldo Ansaldi; and the Pedro de Angelis Collection, acquired with the help of Professor Ricardo Rodríguez Molas and whose originals are in Rio de Janeiro's National Library.

In the context of the Bicentennial of the May Revolution, the Historical Archive embarked on a project of identifying 19th-century newspapers from the Río de la Plata area and the inland by surveying the AGN, National Library and Mitre museum catalogs. The results are offered in a list of 19th-century periodicals available for consultation by researchers and the general public. The information compiled is not intended to be exhaustive, since only the three aforementioned reservoirs could be surveyed, but it is as complete as possible according to the proposed objectives, especially with regard to paving the way for professional research and consulting of primary sources.

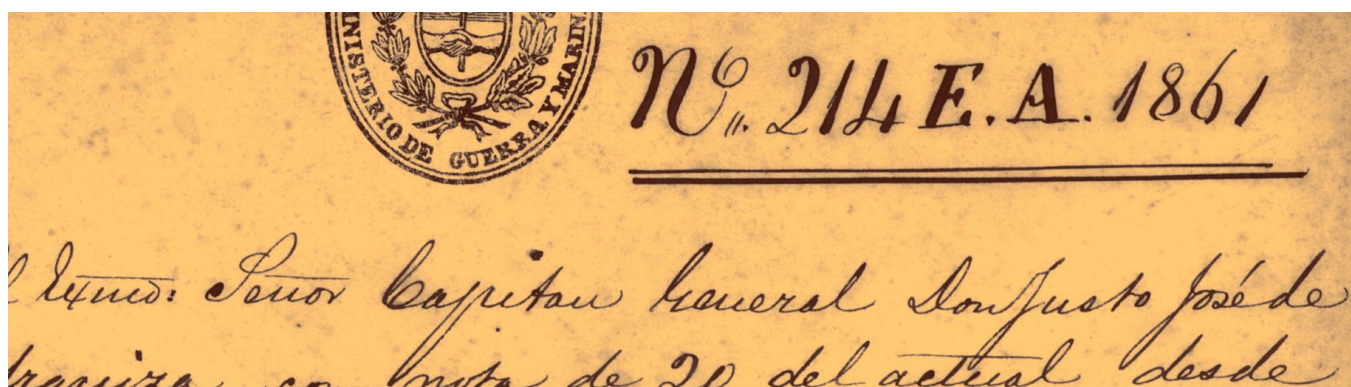
In 2020, the project titled *The Institutional and Management Archive of Director Emilio Ravignani: Diagnosis and Strategies for its Visibility and Public Consultation in the Framework of the Commemoration of the Institute's Centenary (1921-2021)* was launched. With specialized advice, a team of professionals from the Historical Archive, Library, Historical Heritage and Computer Science departments is dedicated to the tasks of evaluating new archival criteria, identification,

organization, description of the collections and processing of documents, with the aim of automating consultation and access to documentation.

Handwritten copies of documents from the General Archive of the Indies from the late 1920s.



Historical Heritage Project



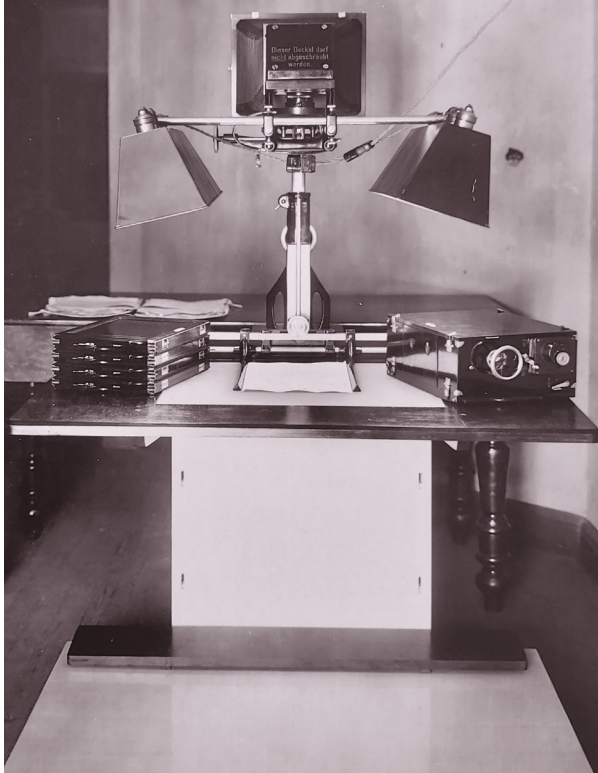
The Historical Heritage Project is an initiative aimed at researching and analyzing the different applicable technologies for digitizing historical documentation, using quality standards that ensure that the value and functionality of the collections are preserved. As a result of this Project, a major part of the bibliographic and documentary collection of the Ravignani Institute has been digitized.

The Institute has a long tradition of activities related to the survey, detection, storage and publication of historical documentation, through analog technologies such as handwritten copies, edited transcriptions, photographs or microfilms.

In tune with technological changes, in 1994, the Institute began to examine the computer systems that the most prominent libraries and documentation centers in the world were implementing to solve the problem of digitizing documentary and bibliographic collections of historical value in order to evaluate the possibilities of replicating these initiatives locally. Both thanks to these experiences and to a grant from the Antorchas Foundation and the donation of equipment from IBM Argentina, the Historical Heritage Project, i.e. the first digitization laboratory with its own computer service network, was installed. In 1997, one of the first sets of digitized materials was made available for consultation at our headquarters and, since 2000, this digital collection has been accessible on the website.

This significant initial achievement was reviewed in articles featured in leading Argentine media outlets and, in 2001, the Historical Heritage Project was declared "of cultural interest" by Argentina's

German equipment for photographing historical documents, from around 1935.



Digitization scanner.



Honorable Chamber of Deputies of the Nation, which singled it out as "the first center of digitized historical archives in Argentina".

In 2003, the computer infrastructure was renovated thanks to a subsidy obtained in the project competition organized by the National Fund for Science and Technology (FONCyT). Modern equipment, specifically designed for digital preservation, was also acquired, including a high-resolution, high-productivity planetary scanner suitable for processing old and fragile book bindings, a Hasselblad camera with high-resolution digital backup, a storage server with redundant backup systems and new, high-performance computers.

The new equipment increased the production and consultation capacity of digitized documents according to international standards. This is how, in the early 21st century, the Historical Heritage Project became a reference center in the digitization of historical documentation, which allowed transfer activities to be carried out to benefit other cultural institutions in our field, such as the Historical Archive of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Province of Buenos Aires, the CONABIP and the Historical Archive of the University of Buenos Aires.

As a result of this activity, a considerable amount of materials has been digitized and can now be accessed from the Institute's website. The materials range from manuscripts and original prints to serial publications and critical editions of sources, published by the Institute throughout its history. Many of these materials have been made available online at the Institutional Digital Repository of the University of Buenos Aires (SISBI-RDI-UBA).

The main tasks related to original manuscripts are the organization, cataloguing,

microfilming and digitization of important document collections, such as those belonging to Brigadier General Juan Facundo Quiroga and Dr. Rufino de Elizalde, implemented through agreements with the Library of the Honorable Congress of Argentina (in charge of microfilming the originals), the ACN and the Center for Historical Studies and Information Parque de España (CEHIPE).

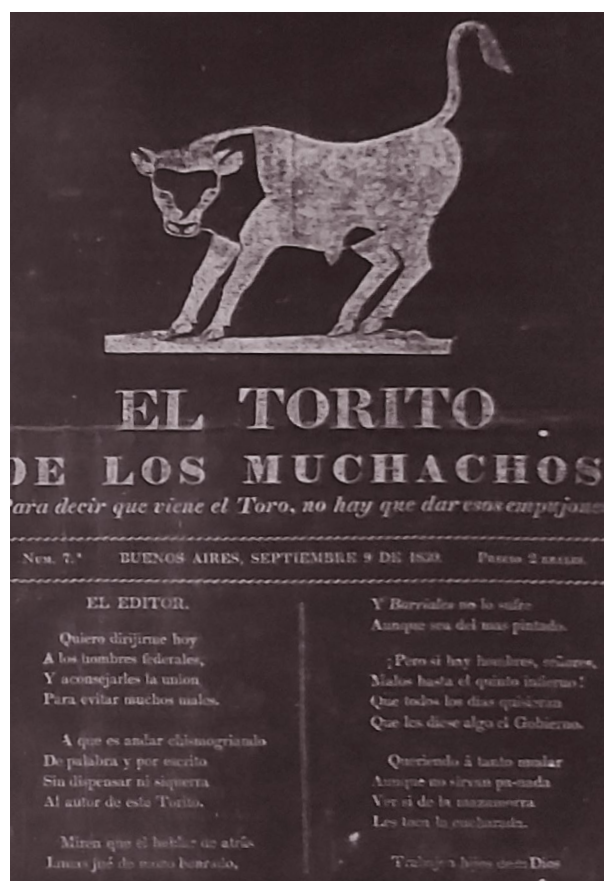
The collection of documents of Dr. Mariano Moreno and his family (1787-1880) and that of ecclesiastical documents from the 17th to 19th centuries, both belonging to the private archive of Eduardo O. Dürnhöfer, should also be noted.

Recently, the digitization of Alberto Gerchunoff's collection, which consists of manuscripts and photographs, has been undertaken, thanks to a new subsidy from CEHIPE. The final project was the result of collaborative work between the Historical Heritage and Historical Archive departments, which were in charge of the preliminary cataloguing and previous organization of the collection, with the dual purpose of preserving the original documents and facilitating digital access to the collection for researchers and the public. This collection was digitized during 2020 and will soon be available online.

Some of the Institute's publications that are already digitized and available online include the volumes of the *Argentine Constituent Assemblies*, the volumes of the *Archive of Brigadier General Juan Facundo Quiroga* (1815-1827), the documents relating to the constitutional organization of the Argentine Republic and those corresponding to the *Argentine Library of Rare American Books*.

This material includes monographic studies and, above all, critical editions of sources related to the history of Argentina and the Americas. Currently, there are around 35 works compiled in the digital collection, and shortly others will be added to complete the nearly 100 publications whose digitization has been prioritized due to the reduced number, age and delicate state of conservation of existing copies. This is the first stage of a longer-term project that aims at digitizing all the institutional publications of the Ravignani Institute.

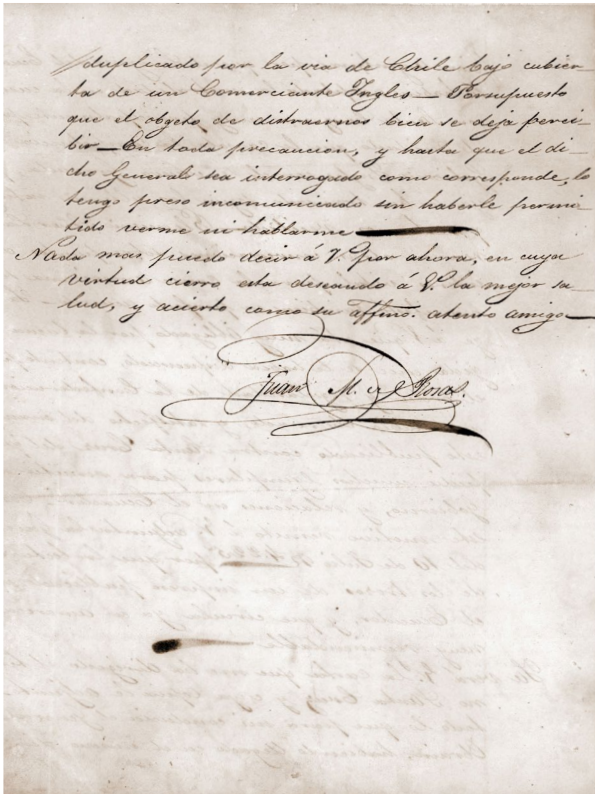
Photograph taken around 1935 of the front page of issue 7 of the newspaper *El torito de los muchachos*, September 7th, 1830.



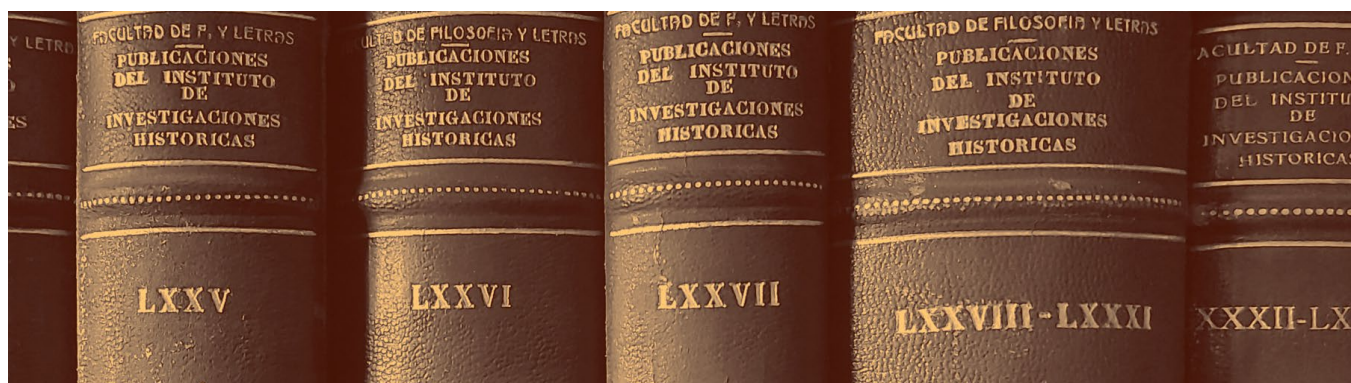
Digitized copy of a letter from Juan Manuel de Rosas to José Gregorio Calderón, dated 1837.

The Institute's first (1922-1945) and second series (1956-1982) of journals have also been digitized and made available online, encompassing thousands of pages and a vast amount of information.

The collaboration between the Historical Heritage Project and the Institute's Library has resulted in the digitization and consultation of these publications, as part of the initiatives developed to commemorate the centenary of the Institute's creation.



Publications



Instituto de Historia Argentina y Americana Dr. E. Ravignani Journal

The Institute's journal (*Boletín del Instituto Ravignani*), its main scientific publication, is a relevant editorial reference in the historiographical field.

The Institute's Journal, third series.

In 1922, the Institute's academic journal was published for the first time, going through different stages reflected in the three editorial series. The first series of the Journal, which goes from volume 1 to 29, including numbers 1 to 104, was published up until 1945. The second series was published between 1956 and 1982, and it contains 13 volumes and 23 issues. From its beginnings, the *Boletín* was the most important means of connection and exchange for the Institute within and beyond national borders, thus being one of the leading publications on the continent in its field at the time. This made it possible to strengthen ties with people and institutions linked to historiographical work, to stress the presence of research conducted by Argentine historians, to disseminate the documents found, copied



and preserved by the Institute's agents, as well as to ensure its collection grew through exchanges and donations.

The third series of the journal began in 1989 and is still active to this day, with 54 issues published by June 2021.

Nowadays, the *Boletín* is a renowned journal in the Argentine and Latin American historiographical field. Its Editorial Committee and Advisory Committee are outstanding. In each issue, the journal strives to showcase the best research outcomes in Argentina and Latin America, as well as research by Latin Americanists from other world regions. It also aspires to reach a wider audience, in the hope of enriching the contributions and debates of historiography.

The *Boletín* publishes new and original scientific works in Spanish, including articles, notes and historiographical debates, as well as book reviews– all focused on various topics of Argentine history and history of the Americas, with a broad criterion in terms of the types of approach or specialty, and with an emphasis on including authors from different disciplines and various academic environments.

The *Boletín* publishes two issues per year (January-June and July-December). The works fit for publication are in their entirety submitted to peer review by at least two experts specialized in the topic, external

Sample of colonial fabrics found in the General Archive of the Nation (Buenos Aires), reproduced in the Institute's *Boletín*, volume 20, year 14, numbers 67-68 (1936).



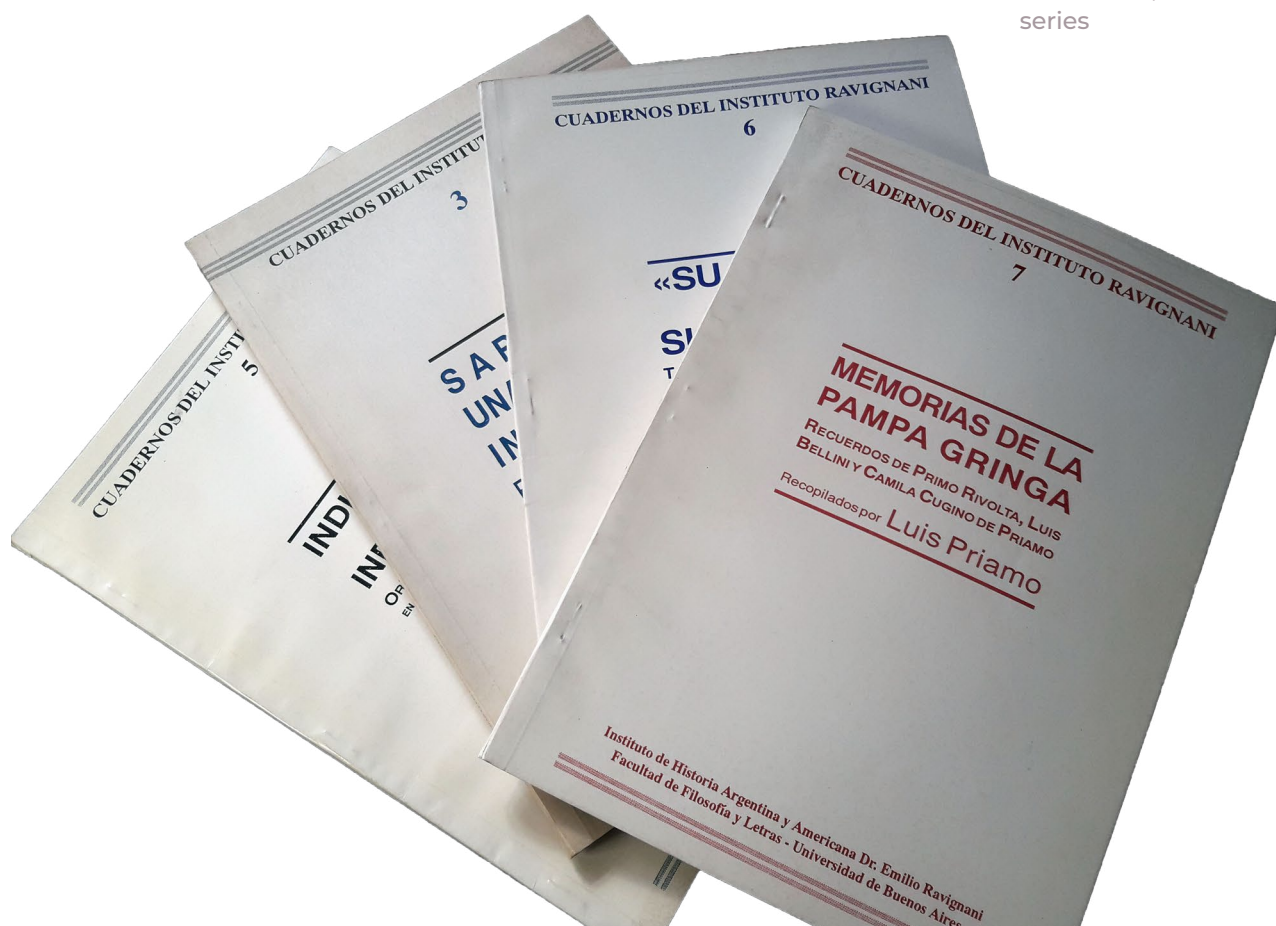
to the publishing institution, under a double anonymity system. The Journal follows international ethical principles throughout its editorial process and adheres to the Open Access model. In addition to the paper format, the Journal is published digitally online.

Instituto Ravignani Notebooks

The purpose of the series *Cuadernos del Ravignani* was to publish, initially on paper, research advances by both established and new historians in a format that did not fit that of a journal article nor did it reach the length of a book. In the beginning, there were eleven editions originally published between 1995 and 1998, which are now available for open consultation in digital format.

On the occasion of the Centenary of the Institute we have decided to relaunch the series of the *Instituto Ravignani Notebooks*. The work that is currently in preparation for online publication, on the Publications Portal of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters (UBA) and on the Institute's website, is titled *Research, Transfer and Management in Historical Museums*, which brings together a series of

Ravignani's
Notebooks, first
series



works that reflect on the encounter between historiography and museography and its contemporary challenges.

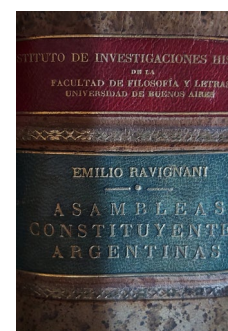
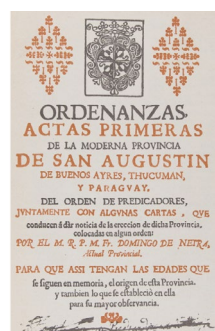
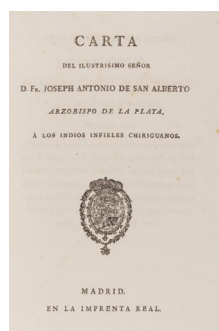
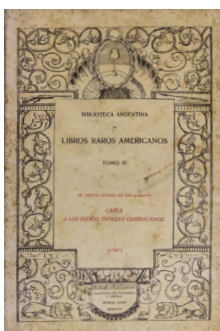
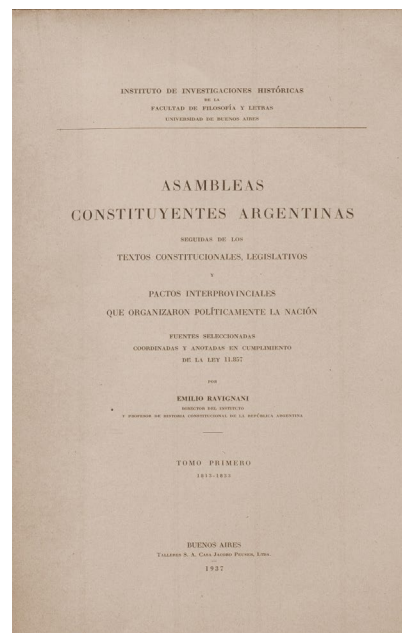
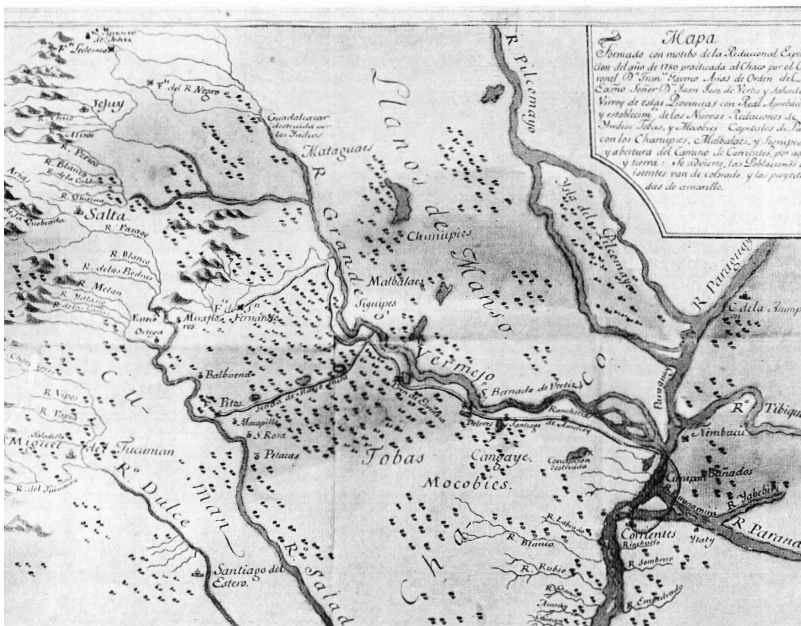
Ravignani's Doctoral Theses

The series "Ravignani's Theses" disseminates the doctoral theses produced by the members of the Institute in their original format and in digital version, easily accessible and completely free on the Institute's website to facilitate consultation by the national and international community.

Publications of Historical Documents and Works

The Institute, since it first started, has stood out for the publication of various historical documentation, as well as valuable research works. From 1908 onwards, numerous series were published that include documents and texts on significant topics for historical studies of Argentina and the Americas. Undoubtedly, among the many volumes published by the Instituto, two fundamental collections stand out:

Covers and details of the publications from the Instituto de Historia Argentina y Americana de Ravignani.



Argentine Constituent Assemblies. This is a monumental compilation of sources on legislative, constitutional, legal and political records of the 19th century history of the Río de la Plata. Published between 1937-1939, in six books in seven volumes. The full version is digitally available.

May, Documented. This is a collection prepared for the 150th anniversary of the May Revolution and published between 1962 and 1965, in twelve books, with various documents about the process initiated in 1810, whose purpose according to its editors was to “be able to place the May Revolution of 1810 within universal history”.

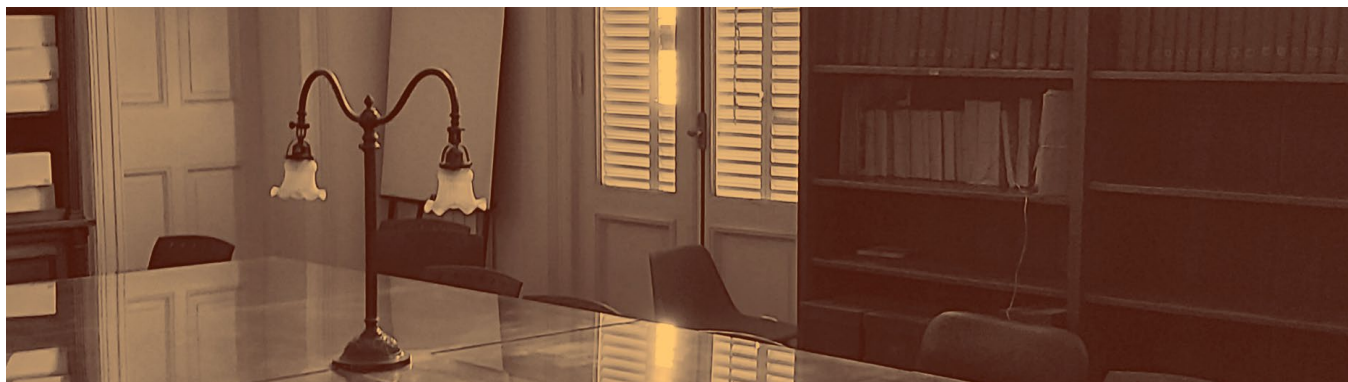
Other series of publications include:

- Publications of the History Section (1908-1921)
- Documents for Argentine History (1921-1988)
- Publications of the Historical Research Institute (1922-1955)
- Publications of the Instituto de Historia Argentina Dr. Emilio Ravignani (1958-1965)
- Rare Book Library of the Americas (1922-1927)
- Collection of Travelers and Geographical Memoirs (1923)
- Art Studies and Colonial Documents (1934)

A significant part of these publications has been digitized and posted online, and efforts are still being made to complete all of them.



Research



In the last thirty years, the Institute has actively and substantially participated in the review of Argentine and Latin American history in several thematic lines and through the activities of its Research Programs, Projects, Working Groups, Networks and Seminars. In addition, several projects that promoted mobility and the increasing exchange of professors and researchers between the Institute and research centers abroad to give lectures and doctoral seminars were incorporated into international networks.

The Institute currently has five Programs, eight Working Groups, two Networks and one permanent Seminar.

Academic meetings in the Institute's Researchers' Room.



Research Programs

- Program in Economic and Social History of the Americas (PEHESA)
- Latin American History Program (PROHAL)
- Research Program in Argentine Historiography (PIHA)
- Nineteenth-century Argentine History Program
- Rural Studies Program (PROER)

Working Groups

- Afro-Latin American Studies Group (GEALA)
- Church History Study Group (RELIGIO)
- Group for Studies and Research on Political Processes (GEIPP)
- War Historical Studies Group (GEHiGue)
- Economic History Group (GHE)
- Popular History Group (GRUHP)
- Group on the Cultural History of Argentine Politics of the 20th and 21st Centuries (GHCP)
- Study Group on Argentine Social and Political History of the 20th Century (GEHSPA)

Networks

- Rural Studies Network (RER)
- Latin American Biographical Studies Network (REBAL)

Permanent seminar

- Seminar on the History of Ideas, Intellectuals and Culture "Oscar Terán"

The last item offers a synthesis of the collective research projects based in the Institute.

Transfer and Dissemination Activities



One of the main activities carried out by the Instituto Dr. Emilio Ravignani is academic exchange and transfer of research in the field of history.

With this goal in mind, the Institute has been a regular venue for numerous Congresses, Conferences, Colloquiums, Workshops and Conferences organized each year by its Programs and Groups. Likewise, the Institute's Programs, Groups, Seminars and Research Projects develop a wide set of networks of formal academic links with researchers-teachers from other universities and institutions from which activities are carried out both nationally and internationally.

Some noteworthy activities organized by the institution include special events such as the *"Bicentennial Conferences of the May Revolution,"* held in 2010; the Conference to Honor José Carlos Chiaramonte, *"Thinking the History of the Río de la Plata and Ibero-America between the end of the Empire and the nation-building process,"* in 2015; the Conference *"Tulio Halperin Donghi and Argentine and Latin American History. An open agenda,"* in 2016; and the tribute to Jorge Gelman at the Conference *"A long path through history,"* in 2019.

The Institute is the headquarters of numerous activities developed by the Asociación Civil Argentina de Historia Económica (Argentine Civil Association of Economic History) and the Asociación Argentina de Investigadores en Historia (Argentine Association of Researchers in History), which bring together many renowned national historians.

The *"Ravignani Seminar"* emerged in 2014 as a new extension program for the Faculty and the academic community in general, to

present, reflect and discuss the Institute's research findings from different problematic angles of Argentine and Latin American history. These meetings brought about renewed and motivating discussions on different aspects of historical knowledge and historiographical work.

Since 2009, the Institute's fellows and researchers in training have been organizing the "*Research Kitchen*" Conferences, a field where the diversity of research of the new generations trained at the Institute is put under scrutiny and where problems related to research initiation, sources and methodologies, as well as the teaching and dissemination of history are discussed.

Digital History Department

Digital technologies are changing the ways of making history in the 21st century, from access to documentary sources, information management, analysis methodologies, the presentation of results, or didactics. Within these frameworks, the Digital History Department emerges with the aim of promoting a community of practices in the intersection between historical research and digital tools.

Conference to honor José Carlos Chiaramonte, 2015.



The Department is designed from a perspective of collaborative, transversal work, within the members of the Institute, to draw attention to existing activities and generate new ones. It also functions as a space to invite other researchers and external groups, and to cooperate with other institutions. One of its purposes is the creation of a training and learning space in digital history tools, and a forum for critical reflection on the application of these tools.

Historical Museums Department

As part of our transfer activities, we have organized a Series of Conferences on Research, Transfer, Management and Education in Historical Museums. The purpose of these conferences is to reflect and show the results of the renewed rapprochement between historiography and museology, laying out the enormous challenges and problems that might unfold in the future.

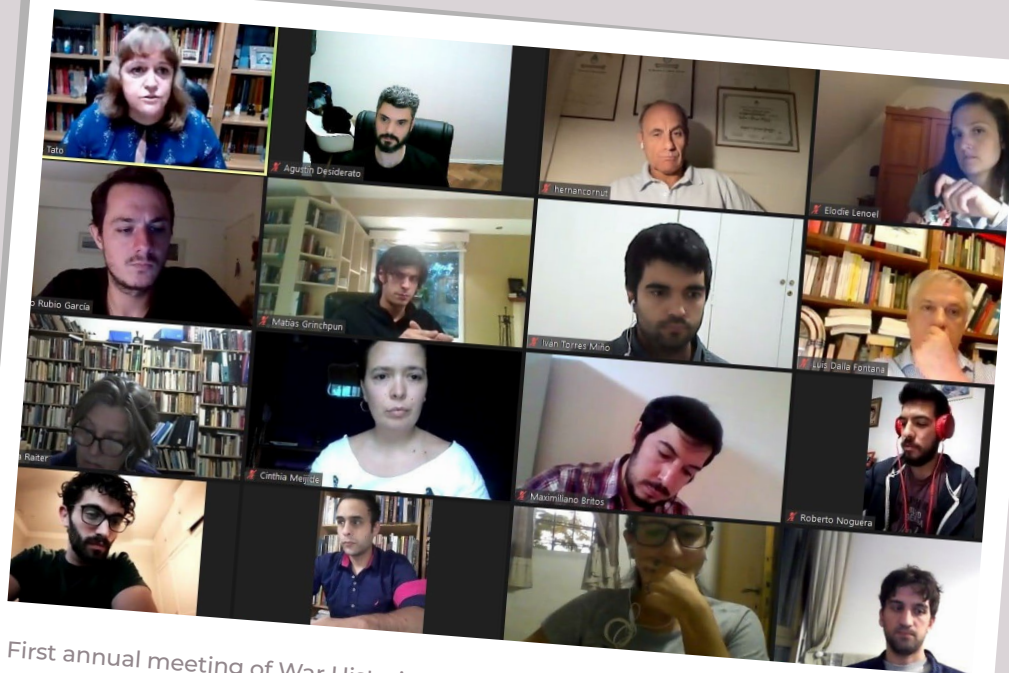
Communication

The Institute's activities have a wide dissemination network. The Instituto Ravignani has its own website to communicate all its activities and provide direct access to its services. It also has active accounts on different social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, to keep the academic community and the general public constantly informed about the different initiatives of its members. The YouTube channel disseminates the audiovisual records of many academic events held at the Institute in recent years. In addition, an internal information newsletter is regularly distributed to keep members up to date with news and novelties.

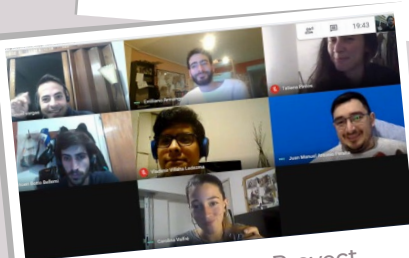
In 2001, the Institute created the CLIO mailing list, which today constitutes the most important means of disseminating information on historical activities in the country. All the Institute's news, as well as the news related to both national and international publications, meetings and seminars relevant within the historiographical field, is communicated through this email list. Currently, the mailing network has more than two thousand members, ranging from researchers, teachers and students to the general public.



Meeting of Church History Study Group (RELIGIO).
April, 2021.

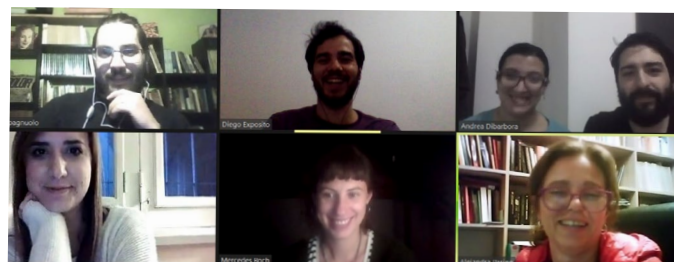


First annual meeting of War Historical Studies Group (GEHiGue). April, 2021.



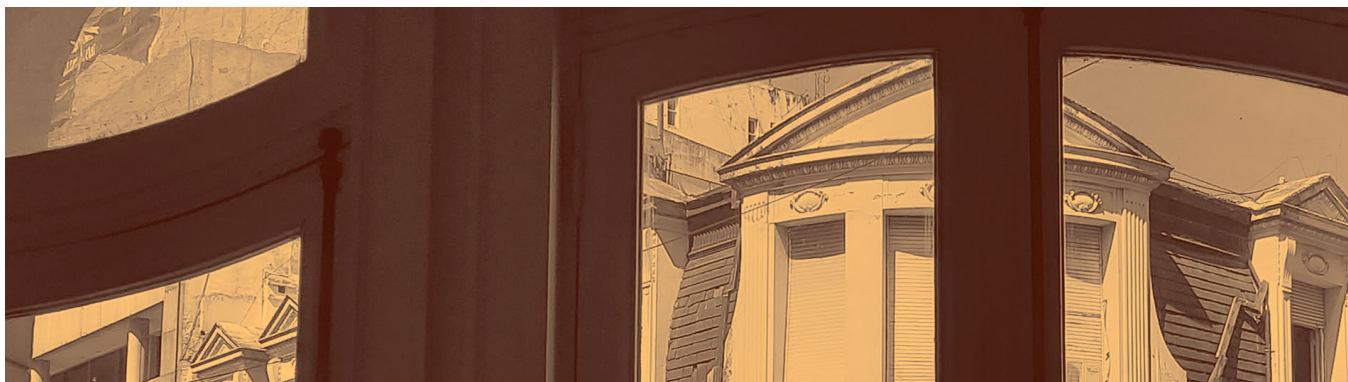
Team meeting of the Project
"Local Plots of Colonial Power.
Networks, Actors and Socio-
Political Mediations in the
Southern Andes (16th to 17th
Centuries)". June, 2020.

During the years 2020 and 2021,
the Institute and its members have
continued with their activities and
meetings remotely, using digitized
bibliographic and archival resources.



Team meeting of the Project "Press and Politics.
Production, Circulation and Reception of Political Writings
in the Atlantic Area during the Revolutionary Decades
(1808-1824)".

Research Projects



The Institute hosts several individual and collective research projects on different fields of Argentine and Latin American history funded by the University of Buenos Aires, CONICET, Agencia I+D+i, and other institutions.

Below is a summary of the collective projects, mostly part of the Institute's programs and working groups, following a chronological and thematic order.

The Dimensions of Inequality in the Long Term



This project (PIU-CONICET) brings together 69 researchers from the Institute and investigates how inequality is manifested in the territories of present-day Argentina and the former Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata, from colonial times to the present day. It traces all the way to the root cause behind these inequalities, and how they have evolved over time. This transversal

project articulates research from the entire Institute around a problem of historiographical and social relevance—one of the great topics of intellectual debate for centuries. When society was organized into orders, estates, and castes, the inequality of people and things was analyzed, documented, and emphasized under the guidelines of omnipresent hierarchies that defined what was considered of noblest or highest value. Therefore, individuals were classified according to their distance from those categories. Based on revolutionary changes in society, thought and politics, the social, economic and political ruptures that occurred two centuries ago challenged these hierarchies in the Western world. By considering all human beings equal, the old distinctions of birth, gender, ethnicity or wealth often became obsolete before the law, but, in any case, they continued to endure under forms of segregation that were not necessarily explicit, reinstating the reflection on inequality, looking for ways to make it possible to reverse or, at least, mitigate it.

Director: Noemí Goldman

Principal Investigator: Julio Djenderedjian



Excavating the Structural Bases of Colonial Domination: Charcas, 16th to the 17th Centuries

These projects study the colonial domination imposed by the Spanish conquest in the Andes during the 16th and 17th centuries. To this end, they go over four spheres of analysis: economy, authority, gender and sexuality, and knowledge and subjectivity, which, far from existing in isolation, were interrelated, and presented multiple and heterogeneous characteristics. In order to provide a comprehensive study of this domination, these projects analyze its political and economic mechanisms, ethnic leaderships, the exploitation of indigenous labor force and the alienation of natural resources, all framed within the context of royal inspections (*visitas*) and the composition, purchase, sale and titling of lands, which deepened indigenous inequalities in the colonial context. In the framework of the political sphere, these projects delve into the performance, roles and social networks of magistrates, officers, capitulars and ecclesiastics, who exercised justice and office through the implementation of jurisdictions which were mobile and of different scopes (local and regional). In addition, within this same framework, they also study the social and political strategies of the Spanish and Creole elites, their influences on government institutions and the formation of well-thought-out family alliances of proven economic and political impact. Finally, taking into account the control over gender and sexuality, these works study the social and cultural significance of a series of sexual practices and transgressions—essential for social and ideological discipline and control—that developed outside of the institution of marriage, including that of neophytes and Christians, both old and new.



Director: Ana María Presta



Local Plots of Colonial Power. Networks, Actors and Socio-Political Mediations in the Southern Andes (16th to 17th Centuries)



Three key figures in the construction of the local networks of colonial power—the main caciques, the doctrinaire priests and the *corregidores de indios*—make up the object of study of this project, which aims to understand how Hispanic domination over the indigenous societies of the Andean world was maintained between the 16th and 17th centuries. Alternating between coordinated

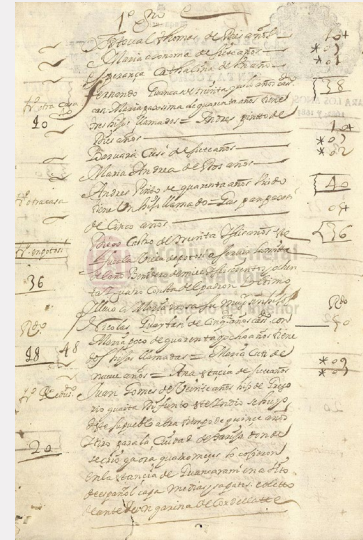
action and open antagonism, the trajectories (parallel, convergent or divergent) of these “middle-tier government agents” can be thought of as paths that laid the foundation for a political space on a regional scale, that is, around the mining town of Potosí, the urban centers of La Plata and La Paz, and their respective rural environments. This approach to the study of colonialism encourages reflection regarding the survival of certain components of this cultural matrix in contemporary society and in our daily lives, which is evident in discriminatory practices and attitudes such as xenophobia, aporophobia and racism. The persistence of some of these colonial configurations is also present in the conditions of poverty that indigenous and peasant populations experience today, among other practices rooted in Argentina’s common perception of having a supposedly white and European “national identity”.

Director: Ariel Morrone



A Discussion on Colonial *Visitas*: The World and Demography of Indigenous Labor in the 17th Century. Charcas, Río de la Plata and Paraguay

Societies in the Andean and Río de la Plata regions experienced intense changes during the 17th century. This project studies these processes through the analysis of territorial mobility, miscegenation, urbanization and the change in fiscal categorizations of indigenous men and women. These changes took place in a context of a hardening in labor relations and an increase in mobility and forced labor, concepts studied in this proposal through a large, but, at the same time, detailed source of data: the original registers of the “*Numeración General*” (general census) ordered by Viceroy La Palata between 1683 and 1685. This document provides an



enormous corpus of information on the *mita* (forced labor draft), the tribute or the migrations, in order to reconstruct the conditions of the world of work. Through this contribution, this project seeks to take part in some current debates on the reconceptualization of wage labor and labor coercion.

Director: Raquel Gil Montero



Markings on the High Andean Landscape of Tucumán (14th to the 18th Centuries): Texts, Cartographies, Visual Representations and Archaeological Contexts



Through a multidisciplinary approach, this project studies what has changed and what has remained the same along the mountain range area of the former Gobernación del Tucumán throughout the late pre-Hispanic period, the Inca domination and the Spanish conquest (14th to 17th centuries). The combination of historical documentation, colonial hand-written cartographies, cave art and archaeological excavations al-

lows us to understand the history of the Puna region as a social space during this transitional period.

The Puna environment has a long history of human occupations that goes back ten thousand years. Historical cartography, toponymic analysis and document descriptions have made it possible to recover the collective names of the native Puna (Andiafacos and Antofagastas) who, in alliance with the Diaguitas and Calchaquíes, led the great rebellions of the 17th century. These findings also paved the way to analyze the repression of the resistance movements that led to the forced displacement of the rebels —called *desnaturalizaciones*— from the Puna and valleys to colonial production lands such as *chacras* (farms) and *estancias* (ranches), located in La Rioja, Córdoba and Catamarca, away from their villages nestled in the hills. Thus, the project contributes to the production of long-term historical and archaeological studies which are necessary to answer claims raised by indigenous peoples regarding territorial rights and memory.

Director: Laura Quiroga



Justice in Everyday Life. Genders, Sexualities, Race and Honor Through the Study of the Administration of Justice in Spanish-American Colonial Societies (Viceroyalties of Peru and Río de Plata, 16th to the 18th Centuries)

Colonial societies of the Americas lived through the reproduction of notions of femininity and masculinity, the criminalization of sexual and gender practices, the elaboration of racial labels and classifications, and the establishment of ideas about honor. But there were also negotiations, transgressions and challenges. Therefore, this project



analyzes these experiences, using the administration of justice in the Viceroyalties of Peru and Río de la Plata as a means of seeing different perspectives. In these instances, the litigants deployed a variety of judicial (and extrajudicial) strategies to negotiate, reconfigure, challenge or destabilize the identities, statuses and assigned “qualities” through an intricate network that articulated the variables of gender, sexuality, race and honor. Based on these findings, this project aims to contribute to the current debates related to the expansion of women’s rights, sexual dissidents and other subordinate groups, as well as to offer clues that allow reflection—from a historical and comparative perspective—on the practices, strategies and ideas of these groups within the framework of contemporary judicial systems.

Director: Fernanda Molina



Slavery, Emancipation and Citizenship in the Río de la Plata Region. Africans and Afro-descendants in Buenos Aires, the Litoral, Cuyo and Córdoba (1776–1860)



This project aims to bring together and coordinate a group of researchers and researchers in training who study various provinces and regions of Argentina, to provide a comparative overview of the Afro- descendants' experience of othering, slavery and its abolition in the Río de la Plata region. We seek to

quantify the African and Afro-descendant presence, survey the methods of classification and othering practices (comparing the classification categories used in parish and census records), to account for the strategies of emancipation, demarcation, integration and social mobility, and to understand the regional paths and experiences of those enslaved and emancipated, revealing singularities, common logics and interdependencies. This qualitative and quantitative research attempts to integrate and systematize information and interpretations. Sources include parish records, notarial records, judicial and police files, meeting minutes, government documents, military muster rolls, provincial and national laws and decrees, and the press. The studied cases are Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, Mendoza, San Juan and Santa Fe. We expect to help raise public awareness of the relevance of the African diaspora in our history and how it gradually turned invisible.

Director: Magdalena Candiotti



From the Colony to the Republic: A New Economic Order in the Río de la Plata Region, 1760–1840

This project studies the transformations in the economic dynamics between late 18th and mid-19th centuries in the territory of Argentina as it is currently defined. The political collapse of the Spanish empire paved the way to multiple phenomena, such as free international trade, fiat money, inflation, direct taxes, and provincial tax structures. The population acquired different consumption habits, imported products and professions linked to new activities. However, a great part of the country remained linked to the old Upper Peruvian mining center, both for selling surplus and for getting circulating currency. This brought about growing inequalities and demanded renewed political responses.

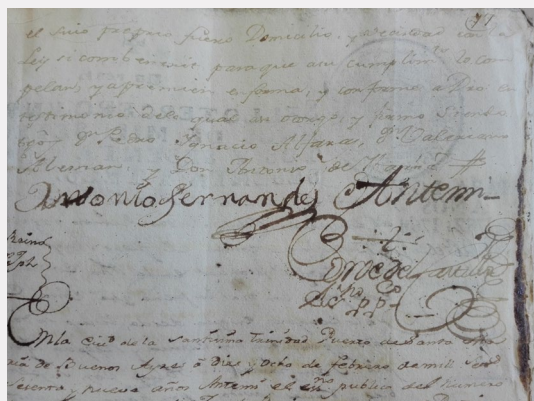


This study encompasses combined and comprehensive research on those economic and financial changes in Río de la Plata, which took place around 1760 and 1840 and gave rise to a problematic relationship between trading and taxation throughout the period. On the one hand, the aim is to understand the incidence of these aspects in the economic structuring in the late Bourbon period, and their burden during the crisis of the colonial order and the transition to a republican regime. On the other hand, it seeks to assess the general impact on regional economic performance, by creating a series of prices and wages, which are useful to measure the fluctuations of the economy, the actual experience of the population, and the profile of the newly emerging country.

Directors: Julio Djenderedjian and Roberto Schmit



Institutional Context and Economic Performance. The Role of Credit in the Early Economic Structuring of the Río de la Plata Region (Buenos Aires, 1760–1780)



This research project focuses on the use of credit in Buenos Aires' economy during the 18th century. Debt is one of the main economic mechanisms in society, for various reasons, such as not having enough money to immediately pay off an obligation, or the need to postpone a payment. Both factors existed in Buenos Aires' trading transactions during the second half of the 18th

century. This study focuses on notaries, who acted as financial intermediaries. In some cases, they enabled access to credit without the need for an interpersonal lender-borrower relationship. Although this greater accessibility to credit by colonial society did not remove inequality in the distribution of resources, it broadened the amount of actors involved in trade (and became one of the drivers for growth).

Thus, the project sheds light on some practices, mechanisms and devices for credit access in a society of *the ancient regime* without banks, and whose economy grew under inequality conditions. Historical research on credit and debt processes is crucial, as they help explain structural aspects of the economy, such as activity concentration, inequality in the redistribution of resources and the origins of a crisis or a growth cycle.

Director: Martín Wasserman



The Transformations of the Rural Pampas Region in the 18th and 19th Centuries

In contrast to a traditional historiographical view where the rural world is reduced to wandering *gauchos* and large landowners, this project explores its social complexity, diversified agricultural activities, and the relevance of cereals and domestic markets. Specifically, it encompasses various issues, such as the evolution of conceptions and changes around property rights; the public policies—even in proto-formative times of the national state—; and the conditions of inequality, prices and living standards, which provide a better framing of the income and accumulated wealth context, given the presence of actors with a clearer profile than in past contexts.

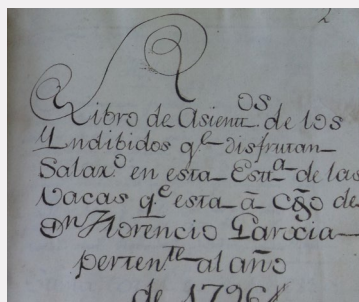


Additionally, it builds on topics from its old traditional vision's *leitmotif*, through a new lens, such as the issue of contracts and the various means to land accessibility. With a vast and sophisticated background of information and theoretical analysis, what comes to light is a much more complex, dynamic and changing world, enriched by the dialogue between colleagues who deal with different regions of Argentina and neighboring countries.

Directors: Julio Djenderedjian and Daniel Santilli



Prices, Wages, Living Standards and Economic Inequality



This research aims to study economic inequality among the inhabitants of nascent Argentina and to reconstruct living standards during the long period spanning from the 18th to early 20th centuries. The purpose is to identify elements to explain the paths that led to economic development and growth. In addition, this research seeks to explain why, nowadays, some nations enjoy higher living standards than others, and how some of them have been able to grow rapidly, stagnate, or even fall from previous high levels. Specifically, the study aims to systematize and expand research on prices and wages, as well as to incorporate data from the provinces. These elements are expected to advance the data analysis on inequality observed among people, and to contribute to the study of regional inequality, so marked in the space of the future Argentina.

The sources available for this purpose are limited. However, various ad hoc methodologies developed in recent decades have made it possible to take advantage of scarce data and produce measurements which, even if less detailed than those available today, are nonetheless useful for understanding differences in inequality and living standards between different regions and societies, as well as for studying prices and wages.

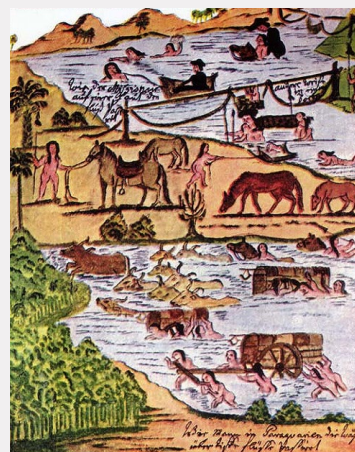
Directors: Julio Djenderedjian and Daniel Santilli



Articulations between Dioceses and Missionary Spaces. Towards a Comparative Historiography of Three Diocesan Jurisdictions: Buenos Aires, Asunción and Córdoba (1767–1820)

This project reconstructs the historicity of religious agents, institutions and practices from the late 18th to the early 19th century, focusing on how the dioceses in Asunción, Buenos Aires and Córdoba operated between 1767 and 1820. Its purpose is to identify how bishops intervened in missionary spaces and trace the forms and intensities of regular and secular clergy, both in parishes and missions. This research seeks to recover the connections between dioceses and missionary spaces under the hypothesis that there existed an effective integration, invisibilized by contemporary historiography due to ideological reasons (related to the national or provincial perspective that Church histories adopted), but above all due to methodological, disciplinary and conceptual reasons—that is, to the lack of integrative notions that would make it possible to overcome analytical separations.

Based on the discussion of the concept of “ecclesiastical region,” the project aims to achieve a historiographical reinterpretation that integrates the diocesan and missionary structures as part of their respective ecclesiastical spaces. This approach considers two key aspects: on the one hand, an inclusive and integrative understanding of the territory, according to the jurisdictions in force during each period; and, on the other, a periodization that addresses the degrees and forms of autonomy, dependence and conflict within the missions with respect to the secular diocesan authorities and other judicial and military authorities.



Director: María Elena Barral



Resistances, Political Mobilization of the Working Class and Collective Identities in the Río de la Plata Region (1767–1875)



This project focuses on the history of the working classes in the Río de la Plata region during the 18th and 19th centuries and examines the long period from the expulsion of the Jesuits to the years following the War of the Triple Alliance. The research primarily analyzes how the mobilizations of these social classes influenced the establishment of new forms of local authority

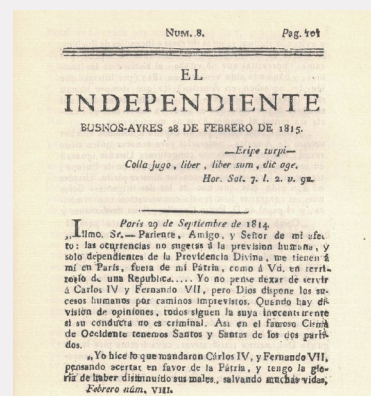
and leadership during the successive Río de la Plata wars. At the same time, it monographically reconstructs the diverse historical experiences of the various subaltern Río de la Plata social groups —peasants, indigenous peoples, slaves, the poor, prisoners, artisans, militiamen, soldiers, *peons* (laborers), *jornaleros* (day laborers), plebeian women— considering their resistance and adaptation strategies, the ways in which they mobilized politically and the formation of different collective identities. The objective is not to develop a simple interpretative model of subaltern resistance, but to trace different historical experiences through detailed, geographically and temporally circumscribed studies with a monographic approach.

Directors: Gabriel Di Meglio and Raúl O. Fradkin



From the Viceroyalty to the Republic: Representations, Discourses and Political Concepts in the Río de la Plata Region (1780–1880)

Words, metaphors and concepts—like any social creation—have a history during which their uses and meanings have evolved. For this reason, it is necessary to carry out precise studies that examine them in the contexts in which they were used, considering both their linguistic and historical dimensions. This approach avoids falling into an anachronism by projecting the meaning they have today and helps to understand, instead, how these words, metaphors and concepts were interpreted by those who uttered them and those who read or listened to them. In this spirit, this research team seeks to reconstruct and analyze the transformations that took place in the political and intellectual life of the Río de la Plata region between 1780 and 1880. To this end, the team analyzes the conceptual production of that period amidst the crisis of the Spanish monarchy, the contentious question of sovereignty after 1810 and the conflicts that marked much of post-revolutionary public life. In these scenarios, very diverse terms came to coexist, while a new liberal and republican political language began to take shape in the mid-19th century.



Directors: Noemí Goldman and Fabio Wasserman



Press and Politics. Production, Circulation and Reception of Political Writings in the Atlantic Area during the Revolutionary Decades (1808–1824)



During the era of revolutions in the early decades of the 19th century, the press became a political actor in the Atlantic area. This project studies some dimensions of this process, analyzing the channels of circulation and forms of reception and appropriation of political writings at the beginning of the 19th century between Cádiz, London and Latin America. The research focuses on the communication networks that involved newspapers and political printed materials, as well as

their editors, writers and circulation spaces, the different models of public opinion and the various legislations on freedom of expression. The purpose is to revisit the traditional view of political influences and to analyze the diverse uses given to the texts and reading practices proposed by the editors and writers of publications. In a more general sense, this research contributes to the problematization of the press as a “political actor” whose arguments constitute “actions” and interventions in the public debate.

Director: Alejandra Pasino



Variations of the Republic. Politics in 19th-Century Argentina

The establishment of a community founded on republican forms of government and on the principle of popular sovereignty was not an easy process in 19th-century Argentina. This project analyzes the different variants of the republic that emerged in this context and gave rise to political consensus and conflicts. For decades, in the political sphere, ideas and projects for the future of the emerging nation were contrasted, values and principles were confronted, norms and regulations were debated, institutions were forged and dismantled, and mobilizations and actions —aimed at intervening in the arena of disputes among the competing variants— were organized and deployed. Within this shifting landscape, agreement on certain principles and models among all the actors in this history provided a common ground that mutated over time, while the very experience in the exercise of self-government introduced new challenges. On this relatively stable yet changing foundation, the controversial and dynamic political life of the 19th century unfolded, serving both as an antecedent and a point of contrast for everything that followed.



Director: Hilda Sabato



State, Regime and Political Life in the Dawn of “Modern” Argentina: From the Beginnings of the National Autonomist Party to its Crisis (1870–1904)



This project studies the process of consolidation of a relatively strong and centralist state model that emerged around 1880 alongside the coming to power of the National Autonomist Party led by Julio A. Roca. It examines the characteristics of this state, the scope and limitations of this centralization, and to what extent its imposition transformed political life. The project combines two scales of analysis, the

national and the provincial, and examines the political and institutional conflicts that developed in those years in both spheres in order to note the continuities and changes that marked the different stages. It questions that in 1880 a political regime was consolidated with a distinctive «formula» for handling power that, within the framework of the gaps opened by the revolutionary contestation of the 1890s, changed over time to finally be reformed in 1912 with the Sáenz Peña Law of compulsory voting. On the contrary, it examines the different strategies used by the ruling party throughout those decades to stay in government, and the ways in which these changes affected the ebbs and flows in political mobilization that can hardly be seen as a tendency to the gradual erosion of the legitimacy of the regime.

Director: Laura Cucchi



Research to Dismantle the Idea of “Disappearance” of Afro-Argentines and Destabilize the Notion of National Whiteness

The research projects of the Afro-Latin American Studies Group study the intersectionality of socioeconomic, cultural, racial and gender inequality of the Afro-descendant, African and popular sectors in Buenos Aires (from the 19th century to the present). They analyze how social groups were recognized and self-recognized over time and in different spaces, and the complex overlapping of race with class and gender in our country. The goal is to learn how the process of becoming a citizen—established at the beginning of the 19th century in the new republic—took place, as well as the process of the construction of the nation, that started in the second half of the 19th century, and the reorganization of social diversity at the end of that century and the beginning of the 20th century.



Moreover, the research focuses on the long history of activism of the Afro-descendant population and the process of bringing the Afro-Argentine community to the forefront initiated in the 1990s, which allowed for new possibilities of “Argentineness”. In alignment with the digital humanities and the use of computer tools, such as the Geographic Information System (GIS), the plan is to collect georeferenced information on inequality and race, and build databases from historical and current sources, in order to visualize and rethink the various forms of racism and xenophobia.

Directors: Florencia Guzmán and Lea Geler



Argentina and the Armed Conflicts of the 20th Century: An Approach from the Social and Cultural History of War



Wars are social phenomena that go far beyond the battlefield and affect multiple dimensions of social and individual life. The project focuses on the varied experiences and socially constructed representations in Argentina around the main wars that happened in the 20th century: both the only armed conflict that had Argentina as belligerent (the Malvinas War) and some of global scope (such as the World Wars) in which Argentina was not militarily involved, but which had profound social and cultural repercussions.

The project shows that the wars of the 20th century were interpreted and represented in accordance with the problems and concerns of the Argentine reality and of specific circumstances. When it came to appropriating and resignifying these conflicts, cultural mediators (press, propaganda, correspondents, diplomats, travelers) played a crucial role in bringing local public opinion closer to wars waged thousands of kilometers away and offering interpretations of their significance in the light of Argentine cultural codes. Thus, wars provided various social actors with a language and a set of arguments that were applied to domestic political and ideological debates. The political and cultural repercussions of the wars translated in practice into various forms of social activism, which in many cases were linked to the definition of national identity in dialogue with transnational configurations (Hispanism, Pan-Latinism, Pan-Americanism, Latin Americanism, anti-imperialism, etc.).

Director: María Inés Tato



History of the Working Class and the Left in Argentina

The labor movement occupies a central place in contemporary Argentine history. The experiences of struggle and organization of the working class, as well as its link with the State and with different political and social actors, are key to understanding Argentine society. This project studies how this social and political history intersected with the trajectory of the left. What was the



link between the left and the workers' world? What are the reasons for the rise and fall of the labor movement? What were the subjective dispositions, militant practices and organizational repertoires put into operation by each faction? How did the tendencies affect the conflict and passivity of the working class, in the definition of the characterizations, strategies, tactics and agendas of the left?

The hypothesis behind this research is that the left was a key actor in the consolidation of the Argentine labor movement as a social and political subject until 1945, so it is only a relational study between these two aspects that allows us to understand the characteristics and historical dynamics of each of them. On that account, not only did the role of political militants contribute to the formation of the working class and the development of its consciousness, but, at the same time, the dynamics of the workers' struggles had an impact on the organizational process—and on the political and strategic perspectives—of the political factions involved in the movement.

Directors: Hernán Camarero and Lucas Poy



The Peronists at Ground Level. Situated Action and Identities Put to the Test During the First Peronism



This project seeks to put together a record of how lower-ranking Peronists commonly carried out Peronist politics and how they came up with practical ways of inhabiting them. A good example of these practices is the almost folkloric way in which, from the beginning, Peronists disputed their so-called “Peronicity”, that is, their legitimacy to claim to be more Peronist than other Peronists. This habit originated in the early years and, if it was kept alive, it was not because of the transmission of curious political customs, but because it turned out to be of great use in concrete situations. The research focuses on what Nicolás Quiroga called the “*vida partidaria*” of Peronism, that is, the activities that the “party life” entails. This is a domain in which politics transcends formal organizational structures and becomes intertwined with situated associative networks, where action is based on and results in cultural cleavages within a community. In this sense, we seek to reconstruct ordinary moments which showcase the common forms of “party life” during that period. Some examples of this are the ways of promoting candidacies, expressing dissidence, protesting to the higher authorities against the party’s adversaries, pushing workers’ demands forward, claiming improved working conditions, intervening in a commune, displacing a government official and creating conflict with the opposition. Through the examination of these dynamics, we describe how Peronists creatively exercised the condition of being Peronists in a way that affected the transformation of the movement. The establishment of a power hierarchy and the growing imposition of discipline, in this sense, emerged as the result not only of a zenithal desire to domesticate militancy, but also of the effective way the activists themselves found of working around them, wandering through authority-free zones.

Director: Mariana Garzón Rogé



Classification and Legitimation Practices within the Shaping of Peronist Identities, 1945–1976

The project aims to address the problem surrounding the identifying factors in Peronism during “Peronist Argentina” (Halperín Donghi), from the point of view of the classification and legitimation practices implemented by its various actors between 1945 and 1976. Peronist identity has been seen, in general, as prior and external to what the Peronists did with it. It is a view that led to the creation of academic classifications of “types of Peronists” (democratic, charismatic, left-wing, right-wing, radical, Labor Party members, hardliners or traitors, etc.) to account for the ideological, political and social heterogeneity of its actors. However, this classification did not question how these labels were forged, nor were the actors asked about their track records before being assigned a label. Thus, this project looks into the ways in which these classifications and those complex practices deployed in public were implemented to shape the acceptable identifications with Peronism in its various stages and, at the same time, sought to organize the internal classifications of the ideological space in that political movement. The aim is to understand how such a heterogeneous political force managed to persist over time by identifying itself as part of something universal; and also, how it was possible that what was considered universal by Peronists of very diverse social, political and ideological characteristics remained unwavering. Historicizing identity serves as a possible contribution to the public understanding of collective life.



Director: Omar Acha



Unstable Democracies in Recent Latin American History (1954–2016)



This project looks into and provides an interpretation of the recent history of Latin America (1954–2016) through a comparative analysis—on a political and social level—of historical processes along countries, taking into account the relationships between State and civil society. Firstly, it analyzes the tensions and socio-political instability in the continent during the years of the Cold War.

Although the region, during the first years of this confrontation, did not play a prominent role, it was a specific area of conflict, starting with the 1954 coup d'état in Guatemala and the Cuban Revolution in 1959. Therefore, we seek to understand the Cold War, highlighting the historiographical contributions provided by global history. It is our aim to answer the following question: how have the different actors, classes and social groups behaved, both among themselves and in relation to the State, in a period characterized by all kinds of social conflicts, revolutionary projects, coups d'état and unstable democracies? In order to do that, we look for answers in economic, productive and technological changes, in the formation of political forces and state projects, in social mobilizations and in collective actions. Through a multidisciplinary and multi-causal approach, we intend to merge the study of economic, political and social aspects from a historical perspective. Likewise, through an arrangement of survey techniques that combines primary and secondary sources, we have access to a comprehensive bibliography and to primary sources in the country and abroad, particularly in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Uruguay.

Director: Alejandro Schneider



A Comparative Perspective of the History of Marian Devotion: Images, Ex-votos and the Relationship with What Is Sacred in the Catholic Imagination of Argentina and Brazil

From a historical, interdisciplinary and comparative perspective, the project is concerned with analyzing the images used in the veneration of the Virgin Mary, particularly the images of the ex-votos, their uses and the social practices around them. An ex-voto is an offering of gratitude with a religious meaning, given by a believer to a personality of the Catholic imagination (Jesus, the Virgin or the saints) after requesting and seeing that a special help or a miraculous intervention has been fulfilled. The votive offerings (paintings, drawings, photographs, metal or plaster figurines, etc.) that the project examines are those dedicated to the Virgin Mary, in her various titles (representations) at two large national sanctuaries —Luján (Province of Buenos Aires) and Aparecida (São Paulo, Brazil)— and, for regional cases, on the one hand, Zárate and Campana (Province of Buenos Aires) and, on the other, San Carlos de Bariloche (Province of Río Negro).



This way, we analyze Catholic religious practices, mixed with other religions. We also observe the use and exhibition of cultural objects, the territorialization of ritual practices of migrants devoted to the Virgin, the establishment of brotherhoods or confraternities, the construction of ethno-religious identities, the role of the expansion of certain Marian devotions in support of territorial conquests, the consolidation of cities and their centers of power, and the construction of individual and group legitimacies. Marian shrines function as religious centers in socio-political contexts, but also as a stage for certain ways of condensing the ideas of the ecclesial hierarchy with the ideas of the popular sectors into very special arrangements. All these acts take place due to pilgrimages to the Virgin, ritual gestures, buying and selling of objects, requests and offerings, etc.

Director: Patricia Fogelman



Literature and Press in Argentine Culture



Our research projects study periodical literature and the written press as essential primary sources for the historical, literary and cultural knowledge of 20th-century Argentina. They analyze the relationships between journalists, narrative forms and the emergence of new audiences. These projects also delve into different historical contexts and their productive connections with magazines, literary texts, cultural journalism, literary criticism, and the mass media. Another interest has to

do with the different ways in which writers build their public images in newspapers and magazines, promote their works and participate in public debate. In addition, they look into the expressions of aesthetic and ideological programs as they interact with cultural endeavors, the publishing market and university spaces. Moreover, the research analyzes collective projects that require a set of aesthetic agreements and minimum operating guidelines to be defined, and the circulation of Argentine literature in newspapers and magazines according to their different frames of enunciation. Finally, these projects examine the intellectual networks of different historical periods, which account for different dimensions of the cultural field. Our projects are part of the “material twist” of cultural history, which paves the way for a renewed analysis of the different cultural media, both the book and the history of publishing, as well as newspapers and periodical literature. We also consider magazines as areas of belonging and sociability, and we study cultural publications from front to back: the behind-the-scenes of what makes a publication possible and, in turn, the strategies of intervention in the public space.

You can visit the website *Ahira. Historical Archive of Argentine Magazines*, a free and open access platform, which seeks to contribute to the construction of an archive of Argentine cultural magazines and periodicals through the digitization of their complete collections, the organization of their indexes, and their preliminary studies.

Directors: Sylvia Saítta and Soledad Quereilhac



Representations of the Past in Argentina –Between Historiographical Disputes and Political Battles (ca. 1930–1976)

The problems addressed in this project take place where the worlds of culture and politics in 20th- century Argentina meet, and focus especially on the relationship between the construction of representations of the past and the disputes waged in the political arena.

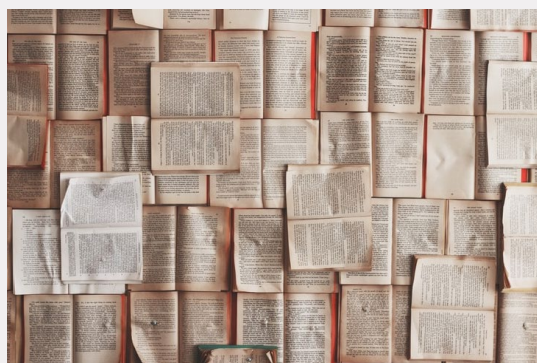
This research emphasizes that the organization of these images of the past represents a social and inevitably political dimension, since it is linked to power struggles. The interpretations of professional historians —university-based or in the research system— are usually taken up and discussed by people and institutions beyond specialized fields, often reaching wider audiences than those produced by scholars. Therefore, our sources consist of not only books and articles by historians, but also commemorations, tributes, monuments, patriotic school rituals, school programs and judicial decisions that pertain to the past. The object of study of the project consists of those Argentine intellectual traditions and political cultures which understood that imperialism was behind the most relevant features of the present situation and that it could be traced back to the nation's past: revisionism of leftist groups, Radicalism and Peronism. This discussion was not limited to the political and cultural arena, but also took root in the world of university-based historiography.



Director: Alejandro Cattaruzza



Historiographical Activity in the Second Half of the 20th Century in Argentina: Institutions, Casts, Networks, Publications, Perspectives



Within the framework of the Research Program in Argentine Historiography (PIHA), the research projects “Two decades of graphic historical activity at the Instituto de Historia Argentina y Americana ‘Dr. E. Ravignani’. The management of Ricardo Caillet Bois” (1956–1973/1976–1977) and “Academic activity in the area of social sciences in

Argentina between the ‘60s and ‘80s: casts, production, institutions, networks, publications” address the dynamics of the complex and heterogeneous Argentine historiographical field in the second half of the 20th century. They analyze different ways of historicizing, individual and collective actors, institutions, and the coexistence between the traditional and the modern in historiographical trajectories.

The first project studies the period of Ricardo Caillet Bois as director of the Instituto de Historia Argentina y Americana “Dr. E. Ravignani”. Its aim is to restore institutional memory and, in turn, reconstruct some aspects of the Argentine historiographical field of that time. The second project studies the dynamics of historiographical activity in Argentina throughout the 1960s–1980s and its connections with social, cultural, political and intellectual processes that, shaped in the 1960s and accentuated during the following decade, and especially during the last dictatorship, restructured the entire university system, as well as the institutions and research bodies.

Director: Nora Pagano

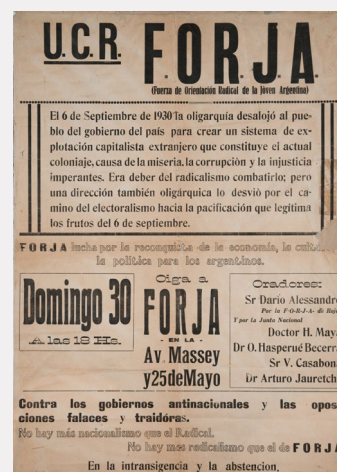


Liberalism, Nationalism, and Populism in Argentina: Political Traditions in Discussion (1880–1976)

The purpose of this project is to analyze the role that Argentine historiography has assigned to its political traditions of liberalism, nationalism and populism. Nowadays, these categories are widely used in the sphere of public opinion as an explanatory or problematic key in the analysis of the past. However, the way in which these concepts—which are controversial in themselves—are used sustains a certain level of complexity. In this regard, this project seeks to reconstruct, from a historical perspective, the place that the ideas, practices and institutions linked to these local political traditions occupy.

Although the interpretative schemes employed during research refer to different contexts and transnational settings, Argentine history is at the core of the problems that were analyzed. On the one hand, aspects of 19th-century Argentine political culture are addressed. These allude to the characteristics of the liberal-republican tradition and the emergence of a nationalist current with complex insertions in different political spaces. On the other hand, and from multiple perspectives, the links between the liberal and the nationalist traditions are investigated as well as those between nationalism and populism, both in public cultural institutions and in 20th-century Argentine “printed culture”.

Ultimately, the research of individual members, in accordance with the project’s stipulated activities, converges on a systematic and general approach to political traditions and cultures. The purpose of this approach is to highlight the relevance of historiography in enhancing a bigger debate of public nature.



Director: Juan Manuel Romero



History of Argentine Education (1984–2018). Studying Regulatory Reforms and Policies in the Context of Our Recent History



This research team is made up of university and secondary school teachers concerned with the evolution of policy guidance in national education. The project studies the different educational reforms promoted in Argentina since the return of democracy, focusing on three key moments: the Second

National Pedagogical Congress held during the government of Raúl Alfonsín; the Federal Education Act passed during the government of Carlos Menem; and the National Education Act voted during Néstor Kirchner's presidency. We seek to trace a "history of education" that links this issue to different dimensions (economic, social, political) giving greater breadth to the framework of understanding. The analysis of official sources is combined with union, business and NGO sources with which education officials often have close ties and try to influence education policy. With the investigation of these types of documents, we trace the path of some officials, their public statements and their contribution to the trajectory of state policies. Therefore, we investigate, for example, the shift from educational "competencies" to educational "skills" and the growing corporate "intervention" in the reform policies promoted in recent years.

Director: Daniel Duarte



Methodological Paradigms in the History of Political Thought

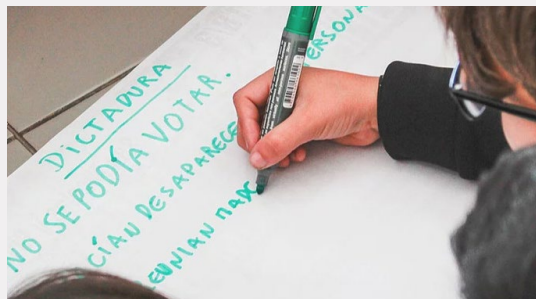
Recently, the methodology of the History of Political Thought has given way to intense debates that converge in problematizing language and conceptual change. As a result, earlier studies on political thought take into account the importance of understanding when and where they were produced and which linguistic frameworks they followed. Our research focuses on two of the most important methodological paradigms: that of the priority of vocabularies and intentions proposed by the Cambridge School, initiated by J.G.A. Pocock and Q. Skinner; and that of the project of a Conceptual History as a method of analysis with a theory of modernity, guided by R. Koselleck. The first paradigm insists on reconstructing the linguistic context in which the author intends to intervene, which in turn accounts for the intervention itself. The second one, the *Begriffsgeschichte*, aims to find in the sources the linguistic articulation of the basic elements of experience, highlighting the idea that the meanings of different terms designating the same reality come together for a reason beyond that of naming a reality. We intend to capitalize on the hermeneutical and critical potential of these theories. On the one hand, through the *History of Political and Social Concepts Group*, created in 1998, in London. On the other hand, through the project dedicated to a semantic history of Ibero-American politics between 1750 and 1850 (Fernández Sebastián, 2009), that, together with a tradition of Studies in Intellectual History, encouraged by the specialized journal *Prismas*, has enabled major productions and controversies.



Director: Claudia Lavié



Pedagogical Proposals in Virtual Museums and Archives for Teaching History



How does history educate people about being part of the world and its culture? How does it educate children, adolescents and young people about the importance of thinking and choosing which words, objects, knowledge, emotions, people and environments to surround themselves with? These questions are

explored in this project through the analysis of the pedagogical proposals of virtual museums and archives for teaching history in Latin America. These institutions present new challenges for the social sciences, museology, and archiving, but at the same time offer an opportunity to establish new ties with education.

The project examines various museums and virtual archives in Argentina and Latin America in order to observe the presence of pedagogical proposals (or the lack thereof) that take into account or encourage the dialogue of these institutions with schools. Both the museums and the archives are involved in tensions and debates related to historiography, as well as archiving and museology. The last two are ultimately responsible for setting the organizational and access conditions of their heritage and documentary collection. To address these problems, four different dimensions were investigated across 20 cases: historiographic knowledge, pedagogical definitions, the technological component, and the format of digital materials as an expression of historiographic and pedagogical meanings. As a result of this work, a classification was determined for both museums and archives that took into account their institutional and pedagogical characteristics. In the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project is focused on studying the inevitable technological acceleration that the development of pedagogical proposals for virtual museums and historical archives entailed.

Director: Silvia Finocchio



Public Policies, University and Student Movement: The Case of UBA between 1974 and 1984

University students played a key role in Argentine public life during the 20th century. This project analyzes the relationship between university and public policies between 1974 and 1983, focusing on the university student movement, and its strategies and organization, in connection with the different variables that helped shape Argentina's sociopolitical history.

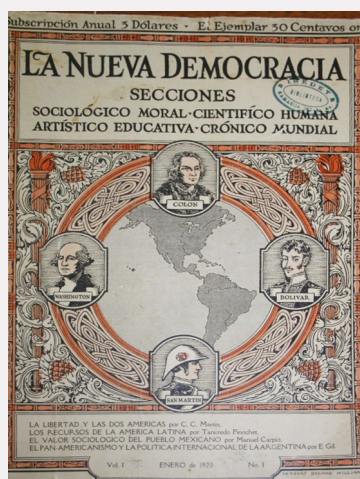


In 1974, Alberto Ottalagano established a policy of repression in the university environment of Buenos Aires. At the same time, there was an attempt to reduce the overall number of university students through the implementation of a selective admittance policy. The military coup of March 1976 marked the beginning of a new repressive era in the university system, of which the UBA community became a special target. The project dives into the evolution of the student movement in the first half of the 1970s, paying special attention to the so-called processes of “radicalization” and “peronization”, as well as the structure and organization of student activism during the dictatorship and its reorganization during the early stages of the democratic transition. It also examines the political profiles, trajectories and ideologies of those leading the UBA management —particularly its rectors— as well as the main changes within the university system from 1983 onwards.

Director: Pablo Buchbinder



The Historical Construction of Latin America and its Relationship with the United States: “The New Democracy” (1920-1963)



The historical construction of Latin America and its political and cultural relationship with the United States has gone through different stages. This project delves into the relationship that the hegemonic projects of the United States established with the construction of an idea of Latin American unity in the mid-20th century. To this end, it analyzes the participation of anti-imperialist Latin American politicians and intellectuals in the U.S. magazine “La Nueva Democracia” published in New York between 1920 and 1963 by the *Committee on Cooperation in Latin America* (CCLA), an American Protestant institution,

between 1920 and 1963. From this perspective, it reviews the concept of Latin America within a broader repertoire (Ibero-America, Latin America, Indo-America, South/Central America, Mesoamerica, Europe, the United States, etc.) Some of these options are alternatives, others are complementary, and others even are necessary opposites to fulfill the identification scheme. It also reviews the way in which the asymmetrical opposition between Latin America and the United States was built upon a network of exchanges of continental scope. In this framework, adopting categories such as “cultural imperialism” or “anti-imperialism” proves to be problematic, as they obscure the different intellectual currents, the turning points, the internal divisions, and the vital paths that ultimately led to experiences such as this magazine. Based on these lines of inquiry, the project aims to shed light on how the idea of an asymmetrical opposition between Latin America and the United States was shaped—an idea that plays an important role in how the past, present and future of the continent are understood and debated today.

Directors: Paula Seiguer and Germán Friedmann





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