Portraying the Tragic Past of Latin America: From Judgment to Understanding

A lecture by Sebastián Carassai

Associate Professor, University of Buenos Aires
Associate Researcher, National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET)
Visiting Scholar, Duke University

The political violence and state repression that rocked Latin America during the Cold War have been written about widely. Essays, historical monographs, memoirs, biographies, novels, and artistic productions have dealt with a past that has left a significant mark on the subcontinent. That production and the writing of that history has exacerbated the tension between what Carlo Ginzburg called the judge and the historian, a tension that is always present in historiographical work. Author of The Argentine Silent Majority: Middle Classes, Politics, Violence, and Memory in the Seventies (Duke University Press, 2014), Sebastián Carassai addresses this tension in writing the history of twentieth-century Latin America.

Wednesday, March 11th
IMU - Sassafrass Room
12 - 1 pm