Dr. Carlos Pabón
University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

Can the Story Be Told? History, Memory, and Fiction in the Representation of Extreme Violence

Wednesday February 22 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Location: 3202 Knight Hall

The challenges posed by the relationship between history, memory and fiction in the representation of the Holocaust, the Spanish Civil War, the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile, and the military dictatorship in Argentina.

History and Memory of Recent Traumatic Pasts (Chile, Argentina, and Spain)

Friday February 24 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Saturday February 25 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM with working lunch
Location: Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center, Alumni Association-International Conference Room

The problem of the “subjective turn” in historiography, particularly in the field of the “recent history” of traumatic pasts, focusing on the cases of Chile, Argentina, and Spain. This turn has been expressed in the centrality of the witness or the victim figure, even if their testimony and memory have experienced decades of invisibility or marginalization on the part of historical discourse.

Carlos Pabón is the author of Nación Postmortem. Ensayos sobre los tiempos de insoportable Ambigüedad (San Juan, Ediciones Callejón, 2002), and editor of El pasado ya no es lo que era: la historia en tiempos de incertidumbre (San Juan, Ediciones Vértigo, 2005). His current work addresses the representation of extreme violence and its ethical and political significance.