

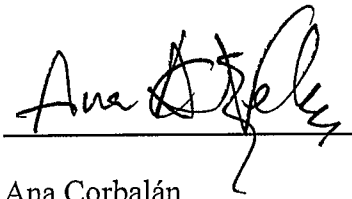
**I. TITLE: The Role of Women's Exile in the Resistance against Dictatorships**

**By: Ana M. Corbalán,**

**Associate Professor of Spanish**

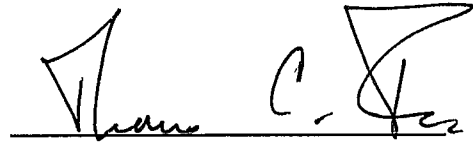
**Department of Modern Languages and Classics**

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**II. ABSTRACT:**

It is estimated that almost a million people died in the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). Almost 500,000 people fled into exile in order to escape the war-torn country; of those political exiles, 200,000 never came back to Spain. After the war, Spain then suffered 36 years under the harsh dictatorship of General Franco until his death in 1975. Despite considerable scholarship focusing on those who opposed this fascist regime, scant attention has been given to the presence of female activists who fought against Franco. Consequently, this project aims to recuperate the memory of women's resistance against Franco's dictatorship in Spain by seeking writings, documentaries, radio recordings and manifestos produced by Spanish women in exile. Recovering their silenced voices is the first step in the rewriting of history. By hearing the voices of exiled women—from their memoirs, oral testimonies, and other representative documents—we can understand their crucial role in the resistance against this totalitarian regime and how they denounced the systematic violation of their human rights during this dictatorship. Their voices share the common purpose of recuperating the historical memory of present-day Spain by remembering the people who were oppressed or died as a consequence of their opposition to the dictatorship. My study will analyze how women told their stories of war and repression, prison and exile, exactly what they told, and how they were depicted in memory, texts, and historical documents. Their memories and texts are treated here as oral history, and my project attempts to piece together a portrait of women's roles and perceptions during the greatest political upheaval in Spanish history.

### III. PROPOSAL

**a. Aim of the proposed work and why it is important:** In the wake of Spain's ratification of the Law of Historical Memory in 2007, which recognizes the rights of the victims of violence and persecution during the Civil War and Francoist dictatorship, there is a renewed focus on the poignant question of how to remember this troubled national past. The last survivors of the Spanish civil war are in their 90's, which means that little time remains to address, through rediscovering their counter-narratives to the official history of Francoism, the damage they suffered during the dictatorship. Among the latest attempts to revisit and rewrite the historical memory of Spain, there are many testimonies, books, documentaries and films that directly explore the repression exerted by the Franco regime. Some of these cultural productions share the common purpose of recuperating the historical and collective memory through remembering the people who were imprisoned, exiled or died as a consequence of their opposition to the dictatorship. My study will analyze writings, documentaries and media reports made by Spanish women who spent years in exile and who aimed to recuperate their forgotten memory in the annals of history. Mostly, I am interested in researching the destabilizing power of feminine exile in contemporary Hispanic society. It is imperative that we recover the missing information about women's role in clandestine activities of resistance to Franco's totalitarian regime. Currently, there exists very little work that examines women's role in exile. As outcasts and survivors, these feminine subjects consistently met challenges with courage and were not diminished by defeat. In exile, just as they had done during the Civil War, their speeches and broadcasts helped to keep alive the spirit of resistance to the dictatorship and of the struggle for democracy in Spain. This research project will explore a new perspective in the images of a traumatic moment through memory representations. My work will focus on the findings from a corpus of historical documents located in the Archives of the Spanish Civil War, in Salamanca, as well as those from

the Historical Archives of the Communist Party in Madrid, where copies of broadcasts made by Dolores Ibárruri –a mythical figure of exile--, letters, newspapers and documents from her and other exiles who fled after the Civil War can be located. A project of this scope will dramatically contribute to the current discussions and debates that are taking place regarding historical memory in Spain. Recovering these silenced voices is the first step in the rewriting of history. These archives of the Spanish Civil War will facilitate our ability to access women's unspoken and unwritten history of the twentieth century in Spain. Finally, the silenced voices of those women who were not able to tell their stories and those who suffered oppression under the dictatorial regime of Spain will be brought to light and remembered, so that, in spite of being left out of the official history, they don't become ghosts of the past.

**b. On what will the funds be expended?** I am planning to locate testimonies from exiled women during the Franco dictatorship, as depicted in letters, radio-recordings, newspapers, manifestos and other documents that can be found in the Civil War archives and the Historical Archives of the Spanish Communist Party in Madrid. Both of these archives hold invaluable documents of women who were imprisoned or in exile during Franco's totalitarian regime. In order to pursue this research, it is necessary for me to obtain funding to allow me to visit these historical collections, because the documents that are located there cannot be found anywhere else in the world. I will need four weeks to research the materials found at these historical archives. I will be listening to radio-recordings and looking at old documents, manifestos, and newspapers that made their way to Spain during the dictatorship in order to find relevant information about the female activists who had to live in exile, but did not stop fighting for democracy in their country.

**c. Existing and /or future funding for the work:** I have obtained external funding from The Program for Cultural Cooperation between Spain's Ministry of Culture and United States Universities to finish another chapter of my book that focuses on prison testimonies. The research I am planning to do in Madrid and Salamanca this summer will serve as preliminary data for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

**d. Enhancement of research:** The subsidy awarded by the CARSCA grant would definitely enhance my research. It would make it possible for me to focus all of my time on the completion of this chapter of my book. Currently, there exists very little work that compares women's subversive behavior in different Hispanic countries. The research done this summer in the archives of the Civil War will be an integral part of a book on narratives of feminine resistance to dictatorships from a transatlantic perspective that I will finalize by the end of 2013, and that has already drawn the attention of a University Press. The manuscript concentrates on the cultural readings of texts that rebel in some way against the entrenched legacy of the dictatorships in Spain and Latin America. By crossing geographical borders, my book will appeal to a larger audience in the fields not only of Hispanic literature and culture, but also to those working in women's studies, history, and social studies, and will be of interest to scholars in Spain, Latin America and the US. This grant would increase my productivity by facilitating the means through which I will be able to do my archival research, which will constitute a significant contribution to my field —20<sup>th</sup> /21<sup>st</sup> century Spanish literary and cultural studies.

**e. Criteria for success:** The success of the work will be measured in the following ways: data collection by the end of July 2013, completion of my book by December 2013, and submission to Purdue University Press by the beginning of 2014.

**IV. BUDGET:**

Airfare to the National Archives of the Civil War:	\$1,200
Accommodation for 4 weeks	\$1,000
Total:	\$2,200

**Budget justification:**

There are two main historical archives where the data will be collected:

1. The archives of the Spanish Civil War, located in Salamanca, Spain. These archives have all the documents remaining from the war and postwar, and must be consulted on site. The museum does not allow materials to be taken out of the building.
2. The historical archives of the Communist Party of Spain, where copies of radio-documentaries, letters, newspapers and documents from some exiles that fled after the civil war can be located.

It would be impossible to conclude this book without visiting those historical archives.

**Timeline for the project:**

Summer 2013: Find documents related to the role of exiled women in the fight against totalitarian regimes. This data is needed for elaborating the last chapter of my book.

Fall 2013: Work on my book titled "Fragmented Memories: A Transatlantic Approach to Feminine Resistance Against Dictatorships".

Fall 2013: Submit a proposal for a NEH grant.

January 2014: Submit finished manuscript to Purdue University Press.

## V. References:

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**PUBLICATIONS:**

**Book:**

*El cuerpo transgresor en la narrativa española contemporánea.* Madrid: Ediciones Libertarias, 2009.

**Book Chapters:**

“Cartografías de la otredad: Nuevo racismo en el cine español.” *Nuevas aproximaciones al cine hispánico: Migraciones temporales, textuales y étnicas en el bicentenario de las independencias iberoamericanas (1810-2010)*. Ed. Santiago Juan-Navarro and Joan Torres-Pou. Barcelona: Promociones y Publicaciones Universitarias, 2011.195-211.

“Feminine Voices of Resistance against Dictatorships: Prison Memories from Spain and Argentina.” *Dictatorships in the Hispanic World: A Transatlantic Perspective*. Fairleigh Dickinson UP.

“Searching for Justice in *Return to Hansala*, by Chus Gutiérrez: Cultural Encounters between Africa and Europe.” *Across the Straits: New Visions of Africa in Contemporary Spain*. Eds. Debra Faszter-McMahon and Victoria Ketz. Ashgate Press.

**Articles:**

“Cine de denuncia contra las redes globales de prostitución: Paralelismo entre Barcelona y Buenos Aires.” *Letras Femeninas*. Forthcoming Summer 2013.

“Encuentros transnacionales en el cine español: Perpetuación del sujeto femenino silenciado.” *Romance Notes*.

“Metaficción historiográfica en la novela española del siglo XXI: Hacia una reconstrucción del pasado nacional” *International Journal of Humanistic Studies and Literature* 16 (2011): 22-34.

“Reescritura del pasado en *El abrecartas* de Vicente Molina Foix: Una reconstrucción personalizada de la historia española.” *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* 88.1 (2011): 67-82.

“Homenaje a la mujer republicana: Reescritura de la Guerra Civil en *La voz dormida*, de Dulce Chacón y *Libertarias*, de Vicente Aranda.” *Crítica Hispánica* 32.1 (2010): 41-64.

“Reconstrucción del pasado histórico: Nostalgia reflexiva en *Cuéntame cómo pasó*.” *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies* 10.3 (2009): 341-357.

#### **RELEVANT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Violations of Human Rights: Cinematic Representations of Women’s Resistance to Dictatorships.” V Foreign Language Film Conference. UAB, November 1-4, 2012.

“Manifiestos femeninos desde el exilio: Ética y estética de la resistencia a las dictaduras” 21st Annual Conference, Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica. University of Barcelona, October 19-21, 2011.

“La guerra civil española desde el siglo XXI: Almudena Grandes y su reconstrucción ficticia de la historia.” 61th Annual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference. September 29-Oct. 1, 2011.

“Contra los fantasmas del olvido: Iconos femeninos en las dictaduras de Franco y Trujillo.” Cine-Lit VII Conference. Portland, February 24-26, 2011.

“Voces femeninas desde la cárcel: Ruptura del silencio dictatorial en España y Argentina.” XX Conference, Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica. Austin, TX, October 13-16, 2011.