

Exhuming Bodies Producing Knowledge

Collective Memory, Justice and
Restitution in Contemporary Spain



April 23-24

University of Minnesota
International Center, Room 100
(331 17th Avenue SE)

For more information, contact the co-organizers of the Conference: Professors Ofelia Ferrán (ferra007@umn.edu), Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, and Lisa Hilbink (hilbink@umn.edu), Department of Political Science.

Sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Study, the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, the Department of Political Science and the European Studies Consortium at the University of Minnesota, as well as the Program for Cultural Cooperation between Spain's Ministry of Culture and US Universities.

At the beginning of the 21st century, there were more than 30,000 bodies still interred in mass graves throughout Spain – victims of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) and subsequent dictatorship (1939-1975). This conference will explore the role that recent exhumations have had in the emergence of the movement for the “recovery of historical memory” in Spain.

We will analyze the multiple and complex relations between bodies and knowledge that arise in such exhumations, discussing their political, social, cultural and legal significance in Spain as well as in other post-authoritarian or post-conflict settings.