

Axis 2. Transnational Networks

PhD 2. *La red transnacional de la escritora exiliada Rosa Chacel (1898-1994) a través de sus cartas.*



This part of the project focuses on Rosa Chacel's transnational social network which the Spanish author constructed during her long Latin American exile via letters. Her ample correspondence offers a rich testimony of the construction and development of a complex and varied cross-border network. The corpus is made up of about 1250 letters sent to Rosa Chacel by correspondents who are based either in Spain or in a wide range of American and European countries.

This case study provides insight in two dynamizing factors of transnational social networks. First, Chacel's network is constructed in both the private/personal sphere (for example, personal friendships, intimate correspondence) and in the public/professional sphere (for example contacts with colleagues, correspondences with editorials, journals, institutes). The project examines how both spheres interact in the correspondence and how the tension between both spheres brings dynamics in Chacel's social network. Second, the project zooms in on the relation between this constantly evolving network and the changing character of Chacel's self-construal. In the understanding that networks are constantly "re-established, negotiated, ended, and reformed" (Besserer 1999: 220), the identity of the exile is characterized by a similar process of constant transformation and development.

Through this case study, we propose to understand not only the network's meaning on an individual level and during the exile but also to give insight into the network's meaning at a macro level and in the post-exile period. The transnational network established by Rosa Chacel is a representative example of similar transnational social networks constructed by many other Spanish exiled authors. From this broader point of view, this project foregrounds the broader impact that transnationalism had, after the exiled authors' return to the country of origin, in the debate and in the public sphere.

Works cited:

Besserer, Federico (1999) "Estudios transnacionales y ciudadanía transnacional", in Gail Mummert (ed.) *Fronteras Fragmentadas*. Zamora, Colegio de Michoacán and CIDEM, 215-238.