

Oral History in Argentina: An Interview With Pablo Pozzi

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“Oral history returns a social function to the historian,” says Pablo Pozzi, a senior historian from Argentina, who has been working with oral sources since the 1980s. “Oral History changes the way we think about history and the way we do history.” In this fascinating interview, Pozzi describes his own development as a historian using oral history and the development of oral history in Argentina and throughout Latin America. Next to describing his own research projects, he uses examples from his own interviewing practice to explain the conditions of interviewing in Argentina. Pozzi also describes the problematic relationships between Latin American and European/North American oral historians.



Pablo Pozzi at the Fifth Regional Oral History Conference of the South Brazilian Section of the Brazilian Oral History Association at UNIOESTE - Campus de Marechal Candido Rondon, Brasil, 25-28 May 2009.

Pablo Pozzi received his PhD in History from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1989. He is a Plenary Full Professor in the History Department of the University of Buenos Aires, where he holds the Chair in United States History and teaches the dissertation seminar on Argentine Labor. He specializes in contemporary social history, specifically post-1945 labour, both in Argentina and in the United States. He is a class I (one) national researcher, and has published numerous articles and books on Argentina and on the United States. Some of his works are *La oposición obrera a la dictadura (1976-1982)* (Editorial Contrapunto 1988) [Labour Opposition to the Dictatorship, 1976-1982], *Los setentistas. Izquierda y clase obrera, 1969-1976* (Eudeba, 2000) [People of the '70s. Culture and Life Histories of the Argentine Left from 1965 to 1975], *Por la sendas argentinas. El PRT-ERP, la guerrilla marxista* (Eudeba 2001) [The Marxist Guerrillas of the PRT-ERP], *Luchas sociales y crisis en Estados Unidos, 1945-1993* (El Bloque Editorial 1993) [Social Conflict and Crisis in the United States (1945-1993)], *Huellas Imperiales. Estados Unidos de la crisis de acumulación a la globalización capitalista* (Editorial Imago Mundi 2003) [The United States between crisis and globalization] y *Trabajadores y conciencia de clase en Estados Unidos* (Editorial Cántaro 1990) [From Washington to Reagan: Workers and Class Conscience in the United States]. His most recent book is *Historia oral e historia política: Izquierda y lucha armada en América Latina 1960-1990*. Santiago de Chile: LOM Ediciones, 2012 [Oral History and Political History: The Left and Armed Struggle in Latin America, 1960-1990].

In addition, he is on the Advisory Board to the National Memory Archive (Argentina), was a member of the *International Committee* of the *Organization of American Historians*, a former *Contributing Editor* to the *Journal of American History*, and a current editor of *Latin American Perspectives*. He heads the Oral History Program at the University of Buenos Aires. He was also the elected representative for South America to the International Oral History Association (IOHA) Board (2008-2010), is on the Scientific Board of the Brazilian Oral History Association, and is the current President of the Argentine Oral History Association (AHORA), as well as one of the administrators of the Latin America Oral History Network (www.relaho.org).

The Oral History Program is the foremost research institution on memory and oral sources in Argentina. It joins together thirty seven researchers from several disciplines (History, Anthropology, Sociology, Literary Criticism, and Political Science) in interdisciplinary research teams. The Program is formally housed within the Institute for Library Research, and contains an Oral History Archive as well as extensive documentation, films, audio interviews. In addition, the Program has different collaborative research projects with colleagues throughout Latin America, Spain, Italy, and France.

This interview with Pablo Pozzi is part of an ongoing series of interviews with oral historians from around the world. Previous interviews were conducted with Alexander von Plato (Germany), Alistair Thomson (Australia), Miroslav Vaněk (Czech Republic), Tomoyo Nakao (Japan), Karen Jungblut (USA), Antonio Montenegro (Brazil), and other.

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