



Surviving Forced Disappearance in Argentina and Uruguay Identity and Meaning

Gabriel Gatti

Gabriel Gatti is Professor of Sociology at the University of the Basque Country, Spain. His research and teaching focus on contemporary forms of identity, in particular those constituted in situations of social catastrophe, rupture, and fracture. He is the author of *Identidades débiles*, *Identidades desaparecidas*, *Les nouveaux repères de l'identité collective en Europe*, and *Basque society*.

'Through solid sociological and historical research, Gabriel Gatti has made a major contribution to the study of the detained-disappeared in Latin America.' - Danilo Martuccelli, Professor of Sociology, Université Paris 5-Sorbonne, France

'Gatti provocatively explores the figure of the disappeared in Latin America, seeking to shatter commonplaces and empty discourses, while at the same time looking critically at the strategy of disappearance and many of the attempts to exorcise it. A necessary, at times discomforting book that questions and disassembles rigid truths that have become useless over time, this is essential reading for understanding both forms of resistance and the specificity of disappearance as a strategy for spreading terror.' - Daniel Feierstein, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Genocide Studies Center, Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and President of the IAGS (International Association of Genocide Scholars, 2012-2014)

'One of the greatest achievements of *Surviving Forced Disappearance* is that it recognizes different places of enunciation without becoming permanently fixed in any one place. The son, brother, and brother-in-law of disappeared persons, Gatti removes himself from his position as relative, which strips him of the possibility of being a protagonist. He is a son who refuses to be 'the son of,' a brother who is but is not a 'relative,' and an academic who points out the limitations of meaning while still deploying a full academic arsenal with all its 'nods.' Gatti gradually constructs that 'out of place' that is, above all, a moving out of the place socially and politically assigned. Especially welcome is his determination to avoid any place in the 'hierarchy of hardship' - in particular, the condition of damaged, assisted, passive, apolitical 'victim' from which Gatti insistently distances himself.' - Pilar Calveiro, Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Mexico, author of *Poder y desaparición. Los campos de concentración en Argentina*

About the book

Due in large part to humanitarian law and transitional justice, the categories of detained-disappeared and forced disappearance are today well established - so much so that in some places like Argentina and Uruguay an intense social life has taken shape and become crystallized around them and in their wake. In the complex and dense social worlds that result, victims mix with institutions, laws, and professionals (forensic anthropologists, social scientists, jurists, psychologists, artists, archivists, writers, and so on), occupying intersecting positions and doing so with varied narratives, from the heroic to the tragic, the epic to the paradoxical. Based on extensive fieldwork in Argentina and Uruguay, this book examines and analyzes these worlds. It is aimed at those who are interested in understanding how one *inhabits* the categories that international law has constructed to mark, judge, think about, and repair horror.

Memory Politics and Transitional Justice

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