

## **Musealisierungsprozesse als erinnerungspolitisches Medium in Südamerika: “Museos de la Memoria” in Chile und Peru**

During the second half of the twentieth century Latin America lived in the shadow of political violence. Today it seems to be time to come to terms with the past. In order to construct a national memory, discourse states select chapters of history that should be commemorated, and for that purpose need vehicles for narration, exhibition, and education. The so-called **“Museos de la Memoria”** constitute one of the more outstanding official projects for aesthetic (re-)presentation and staging of history. They also could be considered as a form of symbolic reparation for the victims. The actual establishment of such museums is the result of complex negotiations between different political actors with diverging demands and is therefore controversial.

My dissertation project looks at two of these museums: “Museo de la Memoria” in Santiago and “Lugar de la Memoria” in Lima. Since financial support for these two cultural institutions is provided by government funds, one can go beyond the fact that these facilities are going to have repercussions for the narration and presentation of history. However, not only at the political level, but also in museography itself, one can identify difficulties, particularly in regard to questions such as: What is the actual motivation for the creation of a museum? How is this medium used in memory political discourses? How is history staged in these museums? And finally: Which chapters of history are going to be told to future generations? The political and the museological dimensions are therefore difficult to analyze separately, because these levels overlap to some extent, supplement each other, or merge together seamlessly.

The goal of this project is to reexamine the constituting processes and controversies surrounding the institutions as well as to analyze the permanent exhibitions in the museums, and in that way shed light on their specific narration, aesthetic language, and discourses. A comparative analysis can give an approach of the politics of memory in each country and the states’ real political will.

**Keywords:** Memorial Museums, politics of memory, culture of remembrance, Peru, Chile