

CHORAL
RESEARCH PROJECT (max. 5 pages)
APPLICATION FORM TO REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR JOINTLY
SUPERVISED DOCTORAL THESIS

TITLE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Restoring the memory of the Spanish Civil War: towards a common
 transPyrenean heritage?

SUPERVISORS

From recruiting University	First name	LAST NAME	University	Department
Supervisor	Laurent	Dornel	Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour (UPPA)	Histoire (Collège SSH)
HDR or equiv.				
<input type="checkbox"/> X Full Professor				
	First name	LAST NAME	University	Department
Co-Supervisor	Gemma	Piérola Narvarte	Universidad Publica de Navarra	Ciencias Humanas y de la Educacion

5 main KEYWORDS

Spanish Civil War, exile, history, remembrance, cross-border links

ABSTRACT (250 words max.)

While history is the scientific study of past events, memory is the subjective transmission of memories between individuals. Memory work is therefore a process of construction and sharing, in which memories, necessarily plural, are heard and included in the elaboration of historical discourse. It is both a key to rebuilding and understanding communities, and a tool for democratic defense. Memory work combines scientific research (data compilation, geographical organization, archaeological digs, DNA identification, testimonies), education (transmission of narratives to various audiences, publications) and heritage (transmission and concretization: war memorials, commemorative itineraries).

In recent years, the French presidential election and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, as well as in many other countries, have shown that the desire to transform the present is based on an alarming rewriting of the past. Consequently, the work of memory remains fundamental, in order to guarantee the plurality of testimonies and historical discourse, and to counter the manipulation of facts deceptively presented as “alternative”.

The project aims to explain Pyrenean memory practices in the light of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) and the years of repression that followed. Focusing in particular on the analysis of memorial institutions such as the Navarrese Institute of Memory in Pamplona, the study will compare the mechanisms for restoring the

memory of this conflict in a trans-Pyrenean dynamic. Based on the Spanish case, the aim is to gain a better understanding of the re-articulation of epistemological and political issues in historical work in contemporary societies.

Research aims and methodology

It is a traumatic memory, distorted, biased by fear, silence, and forgetfulness, and differentiated in its content among men and women and even among the protagonists of this history in different spaces on either side of the Pyrenees. Recovering its legacy, its voice, ultimately its intangible heritage, is necessary to understand and acknowledge the historical past of this period and how the population movements it generated led to a common and shared history that deserves to be studied and valued. Recovering the historical memory of the Spanish Civil War is a challenging task, but, as Francisco Espinosa asserts, it is fundamental for coexisting in truth rather than in silence or forgetfulness.

This doctoral project could be based on sources that have already been partially identified on both sides of the Pyrenees. On the one hand, its sources located in Navarre: judicial sources from the Archivo Histórico de Navarra, various documents and archives collected by the Instituto Navarro de la Memoria, the documentary collection of the Memoria Histórica en Navarra, archives of memorial associations, private archives of victims. The press and oral sources (available, for example, from the Archives of the Intangible Heritage of Navarre) will also be used. On the French side, the public collections of the Archives départementales des

PyrénéesAtlantiques, des Landes, des Hautes-Pyrénées and possibly Haute-Garonne will be exploited, as will the abundant documentation (testimonies, photographs, etc.) accumulated by associations working to collect and preserve the memory of the exiles. All this, as part not only of History but also of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The project has various objectives:

- to recover, give voice to, analyse and contextualise the historical memory, also known as “democratic memory”, of the Spanish Civil War on both sides of the Pyrenean border.
- to understand and explain how population movements gave rise to a common, shared history.
- to identify and analyse the mechanisms of construction and development in the process of recovering memory, which can serve as a guide to other conflicts.
- to compile a work based on original sources, not only for the general public but also for the scientific community

Relevance and added-value of the proposed research in relation to the current state of knowledge.

The armed conflicts that generate different forms of violence, absences, precariousness, fear, or silence are unforgettable events due to their traumatic nature for those who suffered and experienced them firsthand. However, they are not so for a significant part of today's society, for whom these past events and similar ones in our present are often unknown and distant. These events may have been experienced by our relatives or neighbors, and they can no longer be remembered or told by the individuals themselves.

Research into the historical memory of the Spanish Civil War and the Franco regime already has a history linked to the need, in recent decades, to integrate into historical discourse the memory of the victims of traumatic pasts and of those who had been left on the sidelines, in the subalternity of traditional history.

In the case of Spain, as indicated in the presentation of the First International Congress on History and Memory in Education (2023), “a broad consensus has emerged on the right to the truth of the victims of the various political acts of violence and also, with greater difficulty, on the social duty to maintain their memory” in order to generate historical empathy not only with the past, but also with the present. An empathy that, in this case, aims, on the one hand, to know and recognise the memory of the Spanish Civil War in order to understand its real significance and, on the other, to show the importance of respecting human rights, promoting the democratic values of peace, respect, coexistence, justice and reparation, and learning about the human consequences of totalitarian regimes. This intangible heritage must be collected not only to raise awareness of these traumatic pasts, but also to bring the past into dialogue with the present and, why not, with the future.

Since the turn of the century and the political interest shown by institutions in recovering the historical memory of the Civil War and the Franco regime, research on this subject, both in the academic field and in associations, has increased exponentially. In the spirit of works such as that of François Gaudicheau and Julio Arostegui (*Guerra civil. Mito y memoria*, 2006), this Spanish scientific production will be cross-referenced with the works published for a long time in France on the relationship between history and memory, in the philosophical field (cf. Paul Ricoeur, *La mémoire, l'histoire, l'oubli*, 2000) as in that of historical studies with the vast undertaking

directed by Pierre Nora (*Les lieux de mémoire*, 1984-1992) but also on the Second World War (Henry Rousso & Eric Conan, *Vichy. Un passé qui ne passe pas*, 1994; H. Rousso, *Face au passé. Essai sur la mémoire contemporaine*, 2016) and the Algerian War (B. Stora, *La Gangrène et l'Oubli: la mémoire de la guerre d'Algérie*, 1991).

Interdisciplinary nature of the research together with the alignment with the CHORAL programme and complementarity expertise of the teams

The research project will resolutely adopt an interdisciplinary approach, focusing particularly on history and sociology. It specifically aligns with the second axis of the Choral program related to intangible heritage and identity narratives (oral traditions, cultural identity, religion, collective and individual memory, migrations vulnerable communities, gender studies, transnational history, values, human rights).

The Navarrese team, led by Professor Gemma Piérola Navarte, has recognized expertise in the history of the civil war, Francoism, and women; with a sensitivity to gender studies, they have long-established connections with Navarrese memorial institutions, especially the Navarre Institute of Memory. The French team, led by Laurent Dornel, is affiliated with a laboratory (ITEM) specializing in the study of intangible heritage. It also has a strong track record in transborder scientific cooperation.

Output plan including publication and dissemination activities

The doctoral research project will include the drafting of three progress reports which will review the state of progress of the archival research, present an updated bibliography and highlight the general progress of the research. Depending on the conferences and calls for papers published, the researcher will endeavour to present the results of his or her research, which will also be the subject of the publication of at least two articles. By way of example, submissions to the IIInd Congreso Internacional Historia con Memoria en la Educación (Pamplona, 14-16 November 2024) could be considered. On the French side, journals interested in the links between wars and memorial issues such as *Guerres mondiales et conflits contemporains*, *Bulletin hispanique*, *Exils et migrations ibériques aux XX^e et XXI^e siècles*, etc. will be solicited.

The main aim of the research, however, is to produce a doctoral thesis for publication.

Estimated schedule

Output	Target value	Due date
Scientific report 1	1	May 2025
Scientific report 2	1	January 2026

Scientific report 3	1	December 2026
PhD thesis	1	December 2027
Articles published in data base indexed journal	2	2026 / 2027
Participation to international conferences		Depending on the scientific schedule