

Captives on the Frontier: An Exploration of National Identity in Argentine Literature and Art

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Abstract : This paper analyzes literature and art in Argentina from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries as these media used the figure of the white female captive to define a developing national identity. This identity excluded the Indians whose lands the whites were taking and who appeared as the aggressors and captors in writing and paintings. The paper identifies the complicit relationship between art and history in crafting national memory. It also identifies a movement toward purity (as defined by separation of entities) and away from mestizaje (racial and cultural mixtures).

Keywords : Argentina, borders, captives, literature, painting

Conference Title : ICSH 2019 : International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities

Conference Location : Paris, France

Conference Dates : May 16-17, 2019