

Modes of production, circulation, and academic recognition of an ‘archive of repression’: the case of the DIPPBA archive in Argentina

punctum.gr

BY: Alex Colman

ABSTRACT

The article compares the modes of production and primary circulation of materials of the DIPPBA archive – an Argentine ‘archive of repression’ – before and after its public opening in 2003, specifically in academic research on Recent History. The DIPPBA was an intelligence service that operated between 1956 and 1998. Through a multidisciplinary approach that integrates semiotics, discourse analysis, and anthropology, the paper studies the transition of the DIPPBA archive from its origins as an intelligence service repository to its current status as a publicly accessible archive managed by the Provincial Commission for Memory. This transition prompted significant political, legal, functional, spatial, and symbolic transformations involving various management practices. The article examines the interaction between archival circulation and academic recognition by delineating these transformations and identifying regularities in academic historical discourse. Specifically, it investigates how alterations in circulation mechanisms shape the academic recognition of archival materials, influencing researchers’ access and utilization. Additionally, it explores how academic recognition reciprocally informs and influences archival circulation, providing historical, political, and legal intelligibility to the process of archival opening. The findings shed light on the dynamic relationship between archival circulation and discursive recognition within the historiographical field.

ARTICLE INFO:

Volume: 09

Issue: 02

Winter 2023

ISSN: 2459-2943

DOI: 10.18680hss.2023.0019

Pages: 55-81

Lic.: CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

KEYWORDS:

Archives of repression

Intelligence agencies

Recent History

Discourse circulation

Discourse recognition

1. Introduction

The Intelligence Directorate of the Buenos Aires Provincial Police, Argentina, was an intelligence agency that operated between 1956 and 1998. Its archive, ceded to the Provincial Commission for Memory (CPM)¹ in 2000, was opened to the public in 2003. Since then, different agents have used it for judicial, compensatory, personal, academic, journalistic, educational, and cultural purposes. Because it is the first intelligence archive open to the public in Argentina, and due to its mediatic, political, judicial, and academic impact, it is considered one of the most important ‘archives of repression’² in the country and Latin America (Flier 2015).

The transfer of the archive to the CPM initiated a process involving political, legal, spatial, functional, and symbolic changes. These included preservation practices, management, discussion, description, architectural transformation, digitization, preparation, and dissemination of academic and outreach articles. This process established policies for access to archival materials, defined criteria to deal with the public, private, or sensitive nature of its content, made available tools for consultation, and enabled specific modalities of documentary circulation. Furthermore, it included a first cycle of recognition and elaboration on the archive, which shaped new meanings and appropriations of its materials.

This article compares the modes of production and primary circulation of archival materials with their contemporary (post-2003) modes of circulation and recognition, specifically in Recent History³ research articles. The multidisciplinary approach combines contributions from semiotics, discourse analysis, and anthropology. Through the description of the transformations involved in the opening of the archive and the tracking of regularities in academic historical discourse (one of its main areas of appropriation),⁴ I will explore the relationship between circulation and discursive recognition (Verón 2004) from two angles: first, addressing how changes in the circulation of documents are constitutive of their academic effects of recognition since they define how researchers can consult and use them; second, analyzing how this academic recognition also becomes constitutive of these changes in circulation, as it provides historical, political, and legal intelligibility to the process of opening the archive.

¹ Entity that gathers referents of human rights organizations, intellectuals, professionals, civil servants, artists, religious and trade unionists.

² This term refers to a set of documentary collections of legal and illegal repressive institutions that became spaces for disputes between memories about the recent past. Some of them have been used as evidence in legal cases against those who committed crimes against humanity and in compensation policies for those affected by state terrorism.

³ Study area consolidated in the 2000s in Argentina.

⁴ The choice of the academic field – and Recent History, specifically – is not capricious: its relevance as an area of appropriation of the DIPPBA archive is registered both in a quantitative (Colman 2020) and qualitative (Colman 2023) meaning.

2. Theoretical framework

The theoretical proposal combines three central notions: a) discursive production, circulation, and recognition, b) archive, and c) discourse community.

2.1. Production, circulation, recognition

Production, circulation, and recognition are concepts linked to Eliseo Verón's proposal regarding the social production of meaning. He considers discourses as products located in the context of a productive system. According to Verón, meaning always appears for observation as conglomerates of signifying matter and is referable, on the other hand, to the functioning of the semiotic network considered a "productive system" (1996). Then, the possibility of any analysis of meaning would rest on the hypothesis that "the productive system leaves traces in the products [discourses] and that the former can be (fragmentarily) reconstructed from a manipulation of the latter" (Verón 1996: 124).

In this approach, analyzing social discourses involves examining them in relation to the two poles of the productive system of meaning, i.e., production and recognition. Its production conditions comprise the determinations concerning the restrictions of its generation (circumstances of production) and those relative to the restrictions of its reception (circumstances of recognition). These conditions put into play, in turn, specific "rules of generation" (its "grammar of production") and "rules of reading" (its "grammars of recognition"), which describe meaning-assignment operations in signifying matters (Verón 1996).

In this context, the notion of "circulation" is defined as the "gap process" between production and recognition or "the intermediary fabric of that system" (Verón 2004: 41-42). Now, if the "production" and "recognition" aspects of discourse "suppose readings of a discourse or a set of discourses," the same would not happen with circulation: it would not imply a type of reading. "Because circulation, as regards the analysis of discourses, can only materialize, precisely, in the form of a *difference* between the production and the effects of discourses" (Verón 2004: 42; italics in the original). So, if the discursive surfaces are composed of 'marks' that can be interpreted as traces of the production or recognition operations, they would not have "traces of circulation" (Verón 2004: 42).

2.2. Archive

To conceptualize the notion of ‘archive,’ I will combine specific definitions of philosophy and anthropology that would allow us to address its technical, artifactual, spatial, and symbolic dimensions. I define the archive as a zone of problems entwined between its consideration as an “extended space for the organization and distribution of inscriptions [...] and its form of registration” (Tello 2016: 44)⁵ and its restricted specification as a corpus of material inscriptions appropriated, regulated, and “domiciled” by a “power of consignation” (Derrida 1997). This specification could be considered the result of an individuation process (Simondon 2017) that involves operations of invention and technical transformation (material and spatial reconversion, design of architectures and classification systems) and the conformation of a certain objectuality produced in the uses, representations, and values with which they are invested. The specification of the archive defines its acquisition of a concrete (locative, objectual, notional, symbolic) historical form and enables specific relationships with archival materialities.

These relationships with archives, which characterize their objectuality, define their nature as cultural artifacts for producing facts, knowledge, and taxonomies (Stoler 2010). By this last view, some researchers have analyzed the effects and affects generated by the production-circulation of its documentary materiality (Aretxaga 2000, Hull 2012, Navaro-Yashin 2007, Nugent 2010) – particularly concerning documents produced by ‘state’ institutions, such as the DIPPBA (Colman 2018) – and their participation in the production of historical accounts. Specifically, Michel-Rolph Trouillot argues that “archives assemble,” configure the substantive and formal elements of historical narratives, condition the possibilities of the existence of historical statements, and possess a power whose distribution “determines the difference between a historian, amateur or professional, and a charlatan” (2015: 52).

Finally, the specification of the archive also involves a dimension linked to its physical, topographical, and political spatialization. To think about it (especially in the case of intelligence archives ‘recovered’ in democracies), we can use the notion of “territories of memory” (Da Silva Catela 2002), which refers to the triple relationship between documentary heritage, physical space, and agents, linking “not only the marks of memory to each other but also the social practices that produce and reproduce them” (Messina 2011: 22). This approach allows us to consider them as places constituted through modalities of appropriation that involve various forms of generation of meaning.

⁵ This definition is indebted to the notion of the archive as a “system that governs the appearance of statements as singular events” (Foucault 2007: 170).

2.3. Discursive community

As with “culture” in anthropology (Rockwell 1980), the notion of community has been criticized as an epistemological obstacle for its tendency to promote essentialist representations of social groups and, above all, for the political processes in which many of those conceptions have influenced. However, the problematization of the notion in academia, first in philosophy and then in social sciences, develops in parallel to the proliferation of the term in contemporary political discourse. Thus, due to the relevance of the issue and contrasting the normative conceptions of the political community, some authors found the (im)political community in the impossibility of a unitary identification and the denial of any closure of groups, founded on the purpose of coexistence with otherness and difference (Bessone 2011).

To conceptualize ‘community,’ I follow Gilbert Simondon (2015). According to him, the psychic and the collective have the same genesis: they are two correlative individuations. Simondon states that “the two individuations [...] are reciprocal with each other; they allow us to define a category of the transindividual that tends to account for the systematic unity between inner (psychic) individuation and outer (collective) individuation” (Simondon 2015: 16), which can be called psychic-collective individuation.⁶ Furthermore, I adopt Andrea Bardin’s (2018) reading on the use of the concepts “community” and “society” in Simondonian work. In already structured psychosocial systems, the collective formation processes (that continue to occur) threaten the homeostatic mechanisms of these systems. In this context, the concepts of ‘community’ and ‘society’ refer not to defined collective entities but to processes of closure and opening that coexist in the same system:

The term ‘community’ refers to a social system “that is closing” [...], that produces a collective identity through in-group processes that establish shared meanings; while the term “society” refers to a social system “that opens” [...], which is involved in multiple in-group processes producing new meanings. (Bardin 2018: 373-374)

Thus, “community” – the system's closure on itself – represents a systemic-immunological mechanism – so to speak – that resides in establishing a zone of collective meanings that enable communicability and that tends to strengthen the illusion of community.

⁶ It should be noted that this idea is theoretically heterogeneous with respect to Verón's appropriation of Niklas Luhmann's systemic theory (Verón 2013), in particular, on the differentiation and interpenetration between ‘social’ and ‘socio-individual’ systems.

On the other hand, 'society' refers to the openness to innovation – production of new meanings – in the collective, linked to new processes of collective individuation. Both operations – community and society – must be understood in their coexistence: they respond to the metastability that characterizes every psychosocial system and involve a regulation dynamic defined by the existence of values and norms that control and organize the relationship between individuals and their affectivity.

In this framework, I will use the concept of 'discourse community.'⁷ Not in a substantialist sense, but as a category that translates a collective assemblage of enunciation (Deleuze and Guattari 2004, *cf.* Fabbri 2019) that, in a space-time, stabilizes the reference to a psychosocial convergence and participates in its normativization – definition of borders, of 'political' relationships with other groups, of 'common' values, norms, opinions, and affect-emotivities. In French discourse analysis, 'discursive community' refers to a discourse-producing group whose practices and social organization are inseparable from their discursive production (Maingueneau 1987). Its members share values, opinions, and a common positioning. The notion has also been used to analyze the configuration dynamics of socio-discursive collectives by describing their textual fluxes and structuring differentiated discursive spaces with varying degrees of stability (Beacco 1995). Thus, the coherence of a discursive community is forged through the discourses they produce, especially the genres they use. Beacco proposes to explore its socio-discursive functioning through an opposition between 'internal' and 'external' textual fluxes that would reveal heterogeneities in discursive production based on its 'production' and 'consumption' conditions.

This concept has been helpful to address, among others, the socio-discursive functioning of scientific-academic groups, conceptualized as communities "with scientific and technical dominance," which produce "knowledge" (Beacco 1999), and – recently – that of intelligence services. Regarding these, María Alejandra Vitale coined the term "intelligence community" to refer to those that share traits both of "ideological communities" – production of values, opinions, and beliefs – and communities with scientific and technical dominance – notably, by "possessing certain expertise and producing accessible closed texts, especially for its members" (2016: 19).

2.4. Conceptual articulation

I believe that the concepts reviewed can be linked as components of what Verón calls the "mediatization process," which refers to "the long historical sequence of institutionalized media phenomena in human societies and its multiple consequences" (2015:

⁷ *Cf.* also Alejandra Vitale (2022), who links the notion with the postulates of postfoundationalism.

174-175). As explained by Verón, the central point in the history of mediatization lies in the emergence of non-vanishing technical supports for messages, whose crucial aspects involve their “autonomy of both the source and the destination” and “persistence in time,” and which allows different ways of the temporal and spatial organization of signifying matter.⁸ The invention of technological communication devices, the crystallization of their uses, and the radial effects that these suppose in human history would define the process of mediatization. The initial moment of each critical stage of the process is linked to “a technological communication device that has appeared and stabilized in identifiable human communities” (Verón 2015: 175).

The history of mediatization would make it possible to understand the relationships between the historical development of artifacts and technical frameworks – written texts, archives, printing press, etc. – the configuration of collectives and spatialities of textual production, and the processes of psychosocial individualization that organize the generation of meaning in human groups. In particular, the invention of the archive, its transformation, and the institutionalization of its management, access, and consultation conditions can be considered defining moments of the mediatization process:

When textuality acquires a dense, materially identifiable, and localizable body, the question of its control arises: where is it, who has access, who can negotiate with its contents, and how? Thus, the third fundamental aspect of the mediatization process appears: the conditions of access, that is, the dimension of circulation. (Verón 2013: 200)

The formation of discursive communities “with scientific and technical dominance” (Beacco 1999) – or “specialized virtual collectives” (Verón 2013) – and the institutionalization of the “public space of scientific discourse” since the 17th century would pose another specificity: “*having progressively made explicit the production/recognition articulation as a structuring dimension of their own practices, that is, having institutionalized the conditions of circulation*” (Verón 2013: 417, italics in the original). Thus, both the materialization and mutation of archival phenomena and the development of science and scientific collectives could be considered relevant moments in the process of mediatization, with important corollaries in the transformations in the functioning of discursive circulation.

Articulating the above notions, one might think that these phenomena would involve radical transformations in the dynamics of production, circulation, and appropriation of inscriptions in the social space (‘archive’ in the broad sense). These changes would affect the productive system of meaning. I conjecture that the processes

⁸ Cf. likewise the proposal to incorporate the “intercorporeal” scale – in addition to the spatial and temporal scales – in Cingolani (2018).

of domiciliation, appropriation, and protection of inscriptions – which originate the formation of ‘domiciled’ archives – contribute to defining a historical topography that stratifies and divides social discourse in various ways, for example, through labeling practices that allow the distribution of discourses – and regulation of their passage – in domains delimited by productions of meaning about the physical and social space; by establishing border phenomena – between or within specific groups (for example, the ‘public’ and the ‘intimate’) – and spaces for re-articulation and co-presence, such as that of “publicity” (Habermas 1981).⁹ Within this framework, one could understand the opening of a ‘secret’ archive to the public, such as the DIPPBA, and the conformation of scientific-academic publications as ‘public’ texts and their paths.

3. Methodological framework

The article studies the changes in the circulation of the materials of the DIPPBA archive after its opening and how these impact its academic recognition. I will characterize this circulation in contrast to the conditions of primary circulation of materials during the DIPPBA’s existence (1956-1998). Subsequently, I will comment on how the academic recognition of the archive provides intelligibility to the opening process and – in that framework – to the contemporary circulation conditions of its materials.

The research and analysis methodology combined qualitative and quantitative methods. The description of the socio-discursive functioning of the DIPPBA and the transformations of its archive after its opening was supported by the analysis of documents from the archive and of different publications that thematize this opening. To analyze the academic circulation dynamics of archival materials, I surveyed, classified, and analyzed – statistically and topographically – a corpus of publications. Said corpus includes 614 scientific-academic productions that I surveyed through searches in *Google Scholar*, which is considered one of the most valuable databases for measuring the impact of scientific publications (Dávalos-Sotelo 2015). From this general corpus – which includes scientific and outreach articles, books, chapters, theses, reviews, programs, interviews, and reports – I examined only scientific research articles – approximately 48% of the total (Figure 1).

⁹ The historical evolution of the mediatization process would also cause destabilizing effects of those topographic borders. For example, the emergence and stabilization of the global computer network would have caused individuals to mediate “increasingly their discourse on the networks, making public their feelings and impressions, stories, ethical and political positions, issues that before the Internet were typical of everyday and intimate universes, and that now circulate without a universal rule of definition of the public/private borders, nor regulatory agendas of the issues” (Cingolani 2019: 57).

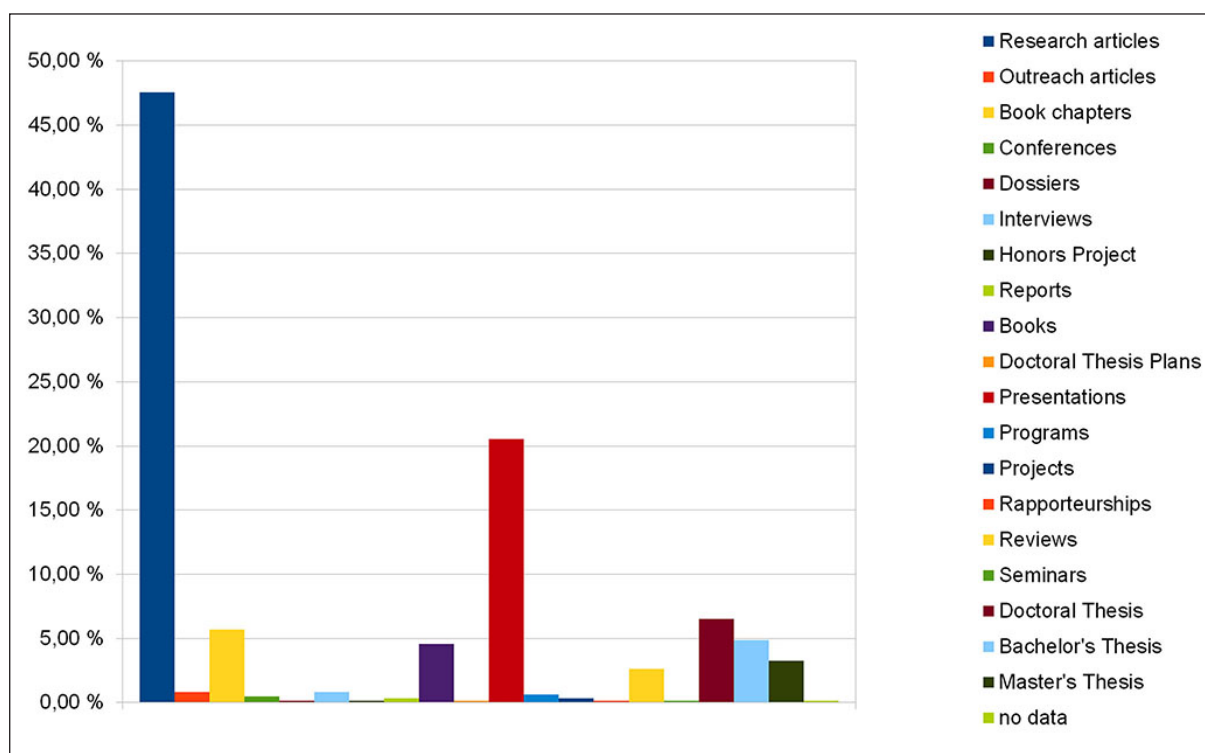


Figure 1. Percentage of publications by type. Source: self-made.

I also describe these methods of documentary circulation according to the technical, spatial, and architectural components involved and their potential effects on recognition. To this effect, I considered my research group's access and consultation experiences¹⁰ from an autoethnographic perspective (Ellis, Adams, and Bochner 2015), complemented by other researchers' reports in the analyzed publications. Finally, in a subcorpus of Recent History articles, I searched some stories and transtextual affiliations¹¹ that I consider relevant in providing intelligibility about opening the archive. This subcorpus consists of 89 history research articles that mention the archive, appearing in academic journals indexed in *Latindex*. Their selection is based on feasibility criteria and on the fact that they have been put through a review process ("peer review") that regulates what should or can be said about the DIPPBA archive (among other issues). Although it is only a partial guarantee, this restriction would involve the archive's functioning as a "fact assembly" (Trouillot 2015) in producing edited public historical accounts.

¹⁰ Research Group on Archives of Repression (GIAR). Website: <https://grupoinvestigacionarchivosdelarepresion.wordpress.com/>

¹¹ 'Transtextuality' refers to the textual transcendence of the text: "everything that puts the text in an explicit or secret relationship with other texts" (Genette 1989: 9-10).

4. Analysis

4.1. The DIPPBA, the intelligence cycle, and the organization of the archive

The creation of the DIPPBA is understood in the national context of the “Revolución Libertadora” (Liberating Revolution)¹² and the international context of the Cold War and the Cuban Revolution’s turn to socialism (Funes 2007). Between 1958 and 1998, it underwent several transformations, including changes in rank and denomination according to the political projects of each government. Its representations and ways of classifying tasks and ‘surveillance objects’ also changed. During its existence, the DIPPBA produced much information on individuals and groups under surveillance. There has been evidence of a high degree of penetration into the social and intimate life of the people, but there are also those who relativize the scope, breadth, and depth of this infiltration (Ghigliani 2012).

Geographically, the DIPPBA had a central headquarters in the city of La Plata, where its archive was located, and a set of delegations distributed throughout the Province of Buenos Aires territory. Organizationally, it was divided into sections or departments. At the head was the General Directorate. The Central Intelligence Department functioned under its dependency and as a distributor, using the information produced at the central headquarters. The Archive and Index Division was also in charge of organizing the archive. Field agents reportedly depended on the Search Division. The Coordination and Liaison Department coordinated with other intelligence agencies. The Counterintelligence Division developed productions to strengthen the security of repressive agencies. In addition, the files were organized into ‘tables’ and ‘factors,’ and departments were dedicated to each table.

According to a document dated 1992,¹³ intelligence was conceived as a cycle structured in four stages. In the first stage, the General Directorate formulated a ‘requirement’ to be distributed to the delegations. Information-gathering agents performed the second stage, which could include ‘fieldwork’ and ‘infiltration.’ Once the material was gathered, ‘intelligence information’ was produced through evaluation, classification, and interpretation. This included various steps: the administrative registry of the provided information, its evaluation through codes that classified its value and degree of accuracy, and, finally, its interpretation, consisting of drawing conclusions and appreciation (Vitale 2016). The last stage consisted of preparing and

¹² Civic-military dictatorship that ruled the Argentine Republic between 1955 and 1958 after overthrowing Juan Domingo Perón through a coup.

¹³ CPM – DIPPBA FUND – Central Division of Documentation, Registry and Archive, Doctrine Table, Dossier No. 280. Subject: “Manual de Inteligencia y contrainteligencia”. Year 1992.

disseminating the intelligence product to management, including the reports and their 'advances' (faxes and telephone communications), 'extensions,' and 'attached material' (photos, press clippings, and collected documents).

Finally, the products were centralized in the archive. According to a 1983 document, the Central Archive and Index Division made the files and structured the archive into tables.¹⁴ This was organized around an index whose cards referred to the files. This division's personnel consigned the information received and entered it into dossiers, classified according to specific criteria. Said classification meant, first, determining a 'factor' (the broadest classification criterion) indicated by the delegations that submitted the information; then, its distribution in 'tables' with alphabetical denominations (divisions of a thematic nature that included, generally, several factors), subdivided in turn into 'folders' where dossiers were located. Thus, the dossier – the documentary unit of the archive – brings together a series of documents of various types and origins on the same matter.

The archive was organized into the following tables:

Table A: community, student, political, and press factors.

Table B: economic, union, and labor factors.

Table C (Communism): includes documentation on activities considered communist.

Table De: religious factor, communal entities.

Table SD (Subversive Delinquent): Records information on what was considered 'sabotage,' 'war material,' 'subversive activity,' or 'pamphleteering.' It also records the names of those classified as 'subversives.'

Reference Table: Recorded and filed 'reference' dossiers. They record information that could not be classified within the abovementioned factors.

Doctrine Table: Consisting of internal operating and study materials.¹⁵

The following graphic (Figure 2) represents the organization of the archive into different 'tables,' 'factors,' 'sections,' and 'subsections.'

¹⁴ CPM – DIPPBA FUND – Central Division of Documentation, Registry and Archive, Doctrine Table, Dossier No. 400. Subject: "División Central documentación-registro y archivo". Year 1983.

¹⁵ CPM – DIPPBA FUND – Central Division of Documentation, Registry and Archive, Archive and Index Secretariat, Decrees, Laws and Provisions Folder, Dossier No. 95. Cited in: Provincial Commission for Memory. "El fondo documental: contenido y estructura." Available at: <https://comisionporlamemoria.org/archivo/fondo-dippba/>. Consulted on April 30, 2021.

fluxes (in/out). Along these chains are introduction, selection, and enrichment processes. The most significant introduction of new “semantic matter” [*matière sémantique*] (Beacco 2004) is done at the ‘information gathering’ stage, which determines the polyphonic configuration of the reports.

Internal cycles could be circular (Central Intelligence Department ↔ delegation ↔ field agent) or linear (for example, police station → delegation → Central Intelligence Department). Its beginnings and endings – external textual fluxes – could vary according to the situation, the administrative procedures of the departments, or the circumstances of the creation of the dossiers. Sometimes, the requests for information responded to applications from auditors, other intelligence agencies, institutions, or companies. Some researchers highlight the existence of ‘camouflage’ and ‘arrangements’ strategies between the ‘watchmen’ and the ‘watched’ that introduced ruptures in the monopoly of information production (Nieto 2011).

Among the most recurring types of documents corresponding to external input fluxes are ‘requests’ that share generic characteristics with police memoranda and requirements. In turn, the external memos could respond to requests from the DIPPBA – possibly telegrams or telephone conversations. Other incoming textual fluxes are the documents that record people’s arrests, produced by police units, and the reports from the police stations that indicate other events of interest.

The internal requirement of the DIPPBA reproduces the structure of hierarchical discursive spaces, with a center (General Directorate) and multiple peripheries (regional delegations). The archive also includes documentation produced during the information-gathering stage. Depending on the obtaining techniques – interrogations, wiretapping, infiltration, document seizure, film, and photographic record – these could consist of notes, radiograms, records of telephone calls, reports, photos, and graphics. There are also manipulations of external texts from this stage, such as seized material and newspaper clippings.

Specialized agents carried out the production of intelligence information. The gathered information underwent multiple intervention operations. First, it was ‘recorded’ administratively through an ‘information journal’ and graphically through a ‘letter’ or ‘situation graph.’ The information was then evaluated for its ‘objectivity,’ ‘accuracy,’ and ‘reliability.’¹⁶ Subsequently, an interpretation was sometimes formulated, which could be registered as an ‘assessment’ (*apreciación*) at the end of the reports. The integration of the information could imply the elaboration of onomastic indexes and organizational charts or graphs of spied organizations.

¹⁶ Different regulations define protocols for assessing the information, which consider, among other things, the ‘reliability of the medium,’ the ‘reliability of the source,’ and its ‘degree of consistency.’

The intelligence reports were produced in the last stage of the cycle. Reports are documents of an administrative-bureaucratic nature with their generic-enunciative device that combines “testimonial notation and scientific writing in an objective ethos” (Dagatti 2018). They were produced by personnel from the head office or the delegations, using information gathered by field agents. From this, we can deduce the polyphony of many reports, the result of successive elaborations that, at times, could rule out information with very evident subjective manifestations (given that they were perceived as a ‘source of inaccuracy’; Vitale 2016: 35), or inadequate according to writing regulations. The final centralization in the archive involved elaborating administrative texts – for instance, cards that ordered the dossiers. In addition, the opening of dossiers was recorded in a ‘record book,’ and their ordering was systematized in indexes.

4.2. Closure, declassification, and public opening of the archive

In 1998, the Ministry of Security and Justice of the Province of Buenos Aires resolved to dissolve the DIPPBA. The La Plata Court of Appeals seized the documentation from its archive in the context of the ‘Juicios por la Verdad’ (Trials for the Truth).¹⁷ In 2000, the Buenos Aires legislature ceded the DIPPBA building and its archive to the CPM. Its members entered the building in 2001 and carried out expert reports on the documentation aimed at its use as evidence in legal cases. Subsequently, they established archival tools (inventories and classification charts) and implemented various dissemination strategies. The commission’s assessment work divides the archive into sections, subsections, series, and subseries corresponding to the procedures historically used by each table to organize the information.

After multiple discussions that led to elaborating specific accessibility criteria, the archive was opened to the public in 2003. In the first years, documentation deliveries were limited to actors affected by the last Argentine dictatorship. Subsequently, the groups and the provision of documentation from other periods were expanded. The commission has prepared documentary selections (dossiers) and has dealt with numerous research repertoires.

¹⁷ Judicial procedure without criminal effects developed due to the impossibility of criminally prosecuting those responsible for the crimes against humanity perpetrated during the last Argentine dictatorship (1976-1983).

Thematic consultations for academic, journalistic, or community research are carried out through two predetermined forms of access, preserving, in both cases, the right to privacy.¹⁸ The first is through 'referrers.' In this case, an application form must be completed to indicate the research topic with keywords and establish geographic and temporal cut-off criteria. Documentation deliveries are in printed or digital format. The second form of consultation is *in situ*, individually through signing a 'confidentiality agreement' or for researchers included in the agreements between the commission and other institutions. This allows access and searches in the archive's databases, although some tables can only be consulted by referrers due to their 'extremely sensitive' nature.

4.3. Academic uses of the archive

Since 2003, numerous researchers have consulted the archive, making it one of the most investigated in Argentina. The statistical analysis of 218 research articles that mention it allowed us to draw, among others, the following conclusions: a) a tendency towards a gradual increase, from the moment of its opening, in the number of articles published per year (particularly those that use it as a source or object of study); b) that its predominant use as a documentary source (60%) corresponds to the majority inscription of the articles in the historical disciplines (64%); c) that the tables most consulted are the DS followed by Table A, Table B and Table Reference; d) the existence of four significant *Pearson*¹⁹ correlation values, which represent the relationships between specific objects of study and the use of documentation from certain tables: Table B - workers, Table Doctrine - archives, Table Doctrine - repressive forces and intelligence services and Table A - youth, students and university (Colman 2020).

To observe the connection between these articles and the provenance of the documentation, I built a topographic representation using Visone 2.17 software (Figure 3). It shows subsets of articles grouped according to the origin of the documentation ("tables"). Three can be delimited and linked respectively to Table A (Political and Student Factors), Table B (Economic, Union and Labor Factors), and Table DS (Subversive Delinquent).

¹⁸ Provincial Commission for Memory. "Protocolo para la consulta y el acceso." Available at: <http://www.comisionporlamemoria.org/archivo/consultas/>. Consulted on April 30, 2021.

¹⁹ Pearson's correlation values (*Pearson's r*) measure the degree of linear relationship between each pair of elements or variables considered.

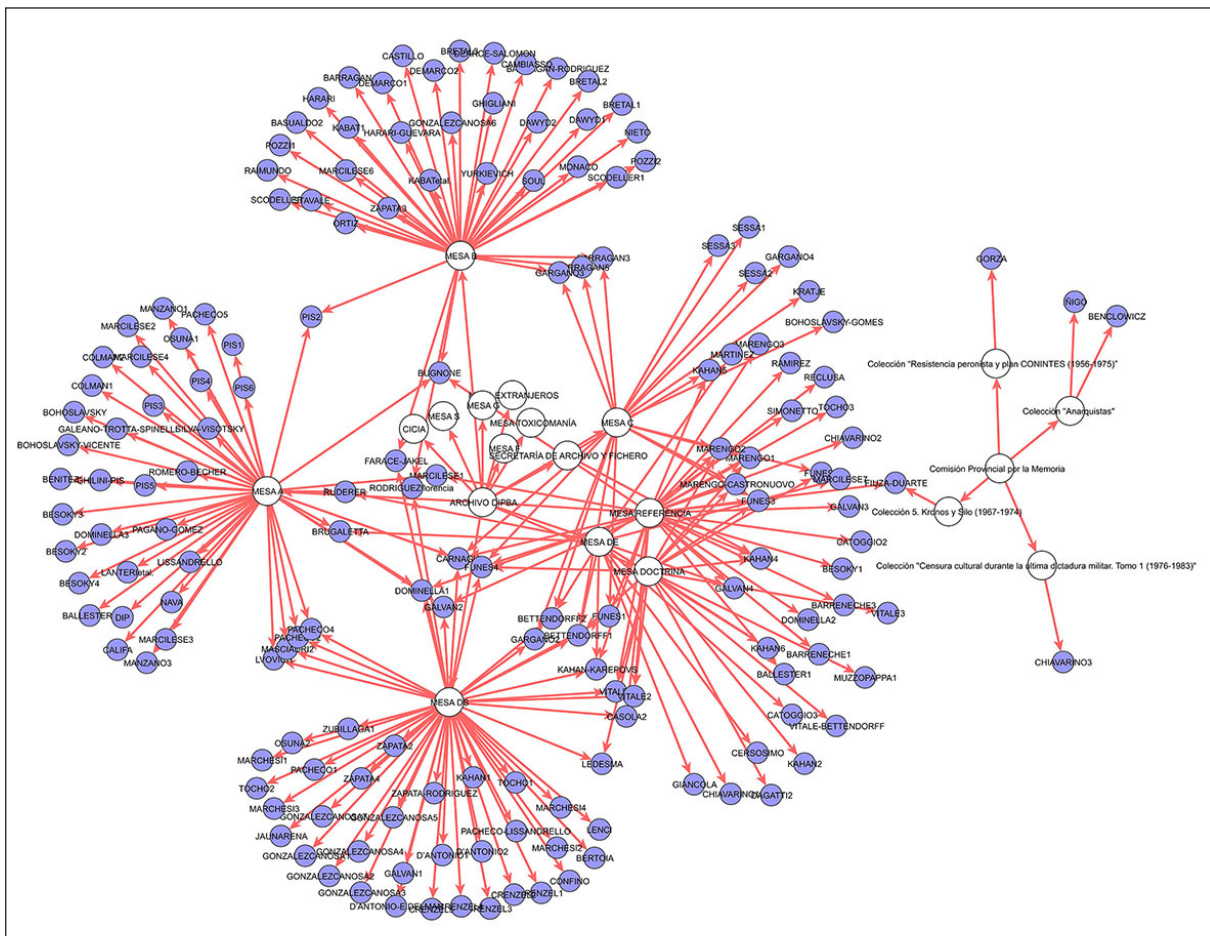


Figure 3. Network of articles according to the origin of the documentation. Source: Own elaboration using Visone 2.17 software.

Tables C (Communism), De (Social and Religious Factors), Doctrine, Reference, and Archive and Index Secretariat have more relative interconnections. Articles that have used documentation from any of these tables appear to have used material from the other tables in this group more than the subsets of articles connected to tables A, B, or DS concerning any other tables.

This approximation allows us to appreciate the circulation topography of the documentation linked to its academic uses. It is a centrifugal modality, inverse to the one that characterized the existence of the DIPPBA; it exhibits the passage from a trend towards centralization in the 'Archive and Index' towards a trend towards decentralization and fragmentation of archival materials in an assortment of uses and appropriations. In the academic field, this new modality of circulation would respond to a hierarchy of thematic interests defined by the conditions of the different areas of study that have used the archive. In this context, historical studies are the ones that would have weighed the most in defining this thematic agenda.

4.4. Circulation, access, and academic effects of recognition

As stated, there are two predetermined ways of accessing archival materials: *in situ* and by commission referrers. Thus, one could distinguish two modalities of association (Latour 2008) between researchers and the archive, which define partially differentiated modes of circulation and recognition effects. The first involves the researcher's presence in its physical space and the relationship defined there with its archival materiality. Direct access to the archive and databases allows us to search for documentation by entering keywords. The researcher can review them and select documents or dossiers forming their work body. The selections are delivered on paper – photostatic copies intervened through testing procedures – or CD-R. So, this process involves two moments: access to the databases and the transfer of reprographics. Among its conditions, various aspects stand out, related to: a) the elaboration of legal and institutional regulations (agreements, access policies that consider legal regulations such as laws on the protection of personal data and access to information); b) practices of intermediation and regulation, which define the contents of the accessible databases (exclusion of material linked to the period 1976-1983, the crossing out of 'sensitive' information during reproduction); c) the construction of instruments, devices and conditions that shape access (computers and databases; containers, shelves; boxes labeled with numbers; climate control devices); d) practices of preservation, management, description, digitization and dissemination that establish the possibilities and methods of access and consultation, and that also condition the means of public knowledge of the archive; e) finally, the inscriptions that the workers of the commission made in the building and the space of the archive as a place that pretends to be, simultaneously, 'of memory' and 'of work' (gigantographies, photographic, videographic and artistic samples, painting, lighting and maintenance, structural modifications), which connect the consultation activity *in situ* with specific narrative, affective and atmospheric experiences (Böhme 1993).

The second modality concerns the relationship with archival materials in other spaces – workspaces, such as research institutes, or hybrids, such as research carried out domestically. This relationship does not occur with the archive as a physical space but with its documentary materiality (photostatic or digital copies). This means of consultation is carried out by writing and sending to the commission a form that can include requests for specific dossiers – for this, the archive's classification chart can be reviewed on the CPM website.²⁰ Finally, this modality provides access to thematic collections (usually introduced by researchers who sometimes participate in the commission's teams) through links on its website. Sometimes, these collections retrieve content from *Puentes*, the CPM's outreach journal.

²⁰ Available at: <https://www.comisionporlamemoria.org/archivos/archivo/cuadro/cuadrodeclasificacion.html>

We can point out differences in circulation circuits from the distinction between these two access modalities. In both, the presence of legal and institutional regulations and confidentiality commitments stands out, as well as practices of intermediation, preservation, management, description, digitization, and dissemination that generate the conditions of access and consultation. On the other hand, the document that circulates and crosses different borders – the declassification, the access, the delivery – is constitutive of a new spatialization of the archive, which supposes an inversion of its original circulation, distribution and appropriation dynamics: as I pointed out, during the period of operation of the DIPPBA (1956-1998), the textual productions of the delegations located in different points of the Province of Buenos Aires were centralized in the archive. Currently, the circulation dynamics would be characterized as centrifugal if one considers its fragmentation into an assortment of appropriations by users who make inquiries and request documentation.

However, both circuits differ in the technical components and the spatial and architectural inscriptions they directly involve. They are different compositions of the ‘intermediary fabric’ of the archival circulation process. And these different compositions would also generate distinctive effects of recognition.

The first modality involves a consultation activity carried out as a spatiotemporal entry of the researchers in the archive and allows direct access to complete dossiers. This presence can be considered an insertion in a space(-time) represented and practiced as ‘public.’ This experience can also generate a narrative entry, informed by the representations of the archive as a formerly ‘secret and hidden’ place. Finding themselves *in situ*, the researcher participates in a situation that enrolls them in a historical journey whose protagonist is the archive and that goes through several eras:

The secret and hidden place was transformed into a public place whose primary intention was to make itself visible for what it was: a large sample about the methods of control, surveillance, and production of reports based on what was considered ‘suspicious’ and ‘dangerous,’ to the Armed Forces and the Police of said province. (Marengo 2012: 143)

This narrative character of the experience in the archive, as a ‘hidden’ place transformed into a public one, is not limited to the internal physical space but is also projected onto the façade and also extends in territorial terms, including the relationship of the building – and the former intelligence center – with the neighborhood and the city of La Plata. The practice of archival space as a public place can inscribe the researcher's experience who visits it in a narrative of ‘recovery’ and ‘conquest,’ condensed in its conceptualization as a “territory of memory” (Da Silva Catela 2002).

The second modality introduces a spatial and physical discontinuity between the researchers and the archive. The technical components of this relationship include the production of forms and the consultation of the classification chart, but there is no direct access to the databases; instead, it is mediated. Furthermore, there is no spatio-temporal inscription in the archive, but rather a more fragmentary relationship with its materials as textual artifacts. However, these activities and circulations would also involve narrative and affective experiences. These include the modes of recognition of documentary materiality and the projection of characteristics linked to the borders between what is 'public,' what is 'secret,' and what is 'private.'²¹ In the context of the new dynamics of circulation of materials, the 'secret document' can generate a constitutive effect of the 'spy community' as an 'interiority of State' and, therefore, of the reification of the state as a reality. Intelligence documents give a 'body' to this interior. The constant intertextual references can lead to thinking of multiple interconnected spaces and offices (Bettendorff 2017): "[a]mplifying and confirming Telephone Broadcasts # 226 of CM 16 and # 230 of current date 17." Document gaps can evoke destroyed or hidden documentation. Representations of these services and their involvement in state terrorism can even produce rejection, fear, or paranoia about the possibility of being monitored today (Colman 2018). Synthesizing: the characteristics of the archive and its materials can generate effects of incorporation,²² which present the DIPPBA as a "secret State domain" (Nugent 2010). The public visibility of the 'State secrecy' would thus function as a mechanism for its reification.

The problem of the 'sensitive' nature of the information in the archive also arises. This refers to tensions concerning the objectives, the possibilities, and the limits of the investigations carried out with the documents, and the responsibilities and commitments "when finding oneself with personal letters, photos, memories that were part of lives watched, persecuted and secretly controlled" (Marengo 2011: 159). This dimension involves representations and affectivities linked to transporting 'sensitive' documentation in the 'public' space and its use, reading, and reproduction in 'public' texts such as research articles. In this context, another narrative inscription of the researcher's experience is presented in a journey whose protagonist is no longer the classified / declassified archive but the material – the speech, the voice, the word – of the 'watched,' seized, categorized, and analyzed by the police. What happens to the 'personal' or the 'intimate,' sequestered in a 'secret' place, when it opens up and becomes

²¹ These labels define modes of architextual classification (establishment of transtextual affiliations between texts labeled in the same class; Genette 1989). This labeling has a performative effect, because it implies norms, regulations and discussions that establish what can or cannot be done with the textual materials, which would affect their conditions of circulation and recognition.

²² "Incorporation" refers to the imaginary endowment of a body and a character – attributable to the enunciator, to the discursive community and to himself – that a discourse potentially generates in a co-enunciator (Maingueneau 2009).

‘public’? The possibilities of linking with that ‘intimate’ and publicly reproducing its discourse would require commitments of a moral and legal nature (regulations such as the Personal Data Protection Act 25.326) and rhetorical strategies. For example, the representation of a ‘triangulation’ of the archival document with the oral testimony of the person under surveillance would open a space for establishing intimacy in the textuality of the academic publication; it would function as a reproduction ‘permit.’

In this context, it is possible to think about the modes of circulation, appropriation, and reproduction of archival materials in academic publications: these cross the domain of the ‘secret’ (political-ideological intelligence) and the ‘reserved public’ (the management of the CPM) to participate in the researcher’s workspace, with which specific associations are formed; as a display of these, materials are reproduced and join in the production of ‘public’ texts (academic publications), which circulate in a delimited socio-discursive field: the public space of scientific discourse.

4.5. The production of a ‘public’ archive: intertextual fabrics and stories

One of the fundamental aspects of the contemporary transformation of the DIPPBA archive concerns the production of its ‘public’ character. This defines the possibilities of access and consultation of the documents, guides their contemporary social uses, and modifies their publicity value. Thus, this production would contribute to defining its circulation and recognition modalities. Academic publications that include stories about its opening also participate in this process: they generate meanings about the archive and its contemporary uses and inscribe these meanings in the space of scientific discourse with a public and revised character (peer review).

These publications (see: subcorpus) stage multiple actors who confront, appropriate, regulate, and invoke labels, rights, and responsibilities during the archive’s opening. The activities and voices of these actors could be considered ‘enunciated statements’ that attribute, to themselves, some ‘statements’ about what the archive is, how it is, and what can and should be done with it.²³ These practices sometimes result in cross-labeling of its space, documents, and artifacts (as ‘public,’ ‘private,’ ‘secret,’ ‘sensitive,’ ‘reserved’), define what can be done with them, and come to promote specific affective experiences and narrative inscriptions around those uses.

Thus, the publications analyzed include narrative operations that give a “flesh” (Latour 2008) to its opening process. These generally convergent stories present multiple actors who seek, confront, protect, and discuss information classification criteria and their potential uses, among other activities. Narratively, the stories are articulated

²³ In semiotics, a distinction has been made between what is enunciated – dimension of the “story” – and what is enunciative – process “by which what is expressed is attributable to an I that appeals to a *you*” (Filinich 1999: 18; italics in the original).

around specific conflicts and resolutions. Six thematic nuclei can be distinguished: a) the first corresponds to the practices of actors confronted around the 'search,' 'location,' 'opening,' and 'dissemination' of archives of institutions linked to the 'violation of human rights' during the period before the closure of the DIPPBA; b) the second, to the process of 'dissolution' of the DIPPBA and 'discovery' of its archive (1998); c) the third, to its 'declassification,' its 'transfer' to the CPM and the 'conversion' of its 'space' into a 'public place' for 'memory and truth'; d) the fourth refers to the debate on its accessibility (2000-2003); e) the fifth, to the 'management' of the archive started in 2000; f) the sixth, finally, concerns its 'opening' in 2003 (Colman 2023). The stories are ordered, thematically and narratively, around specific categories – 'separation,' 'declassification,' 'transfer,' 'conquest,' 'management,' 'consultation,' 'access,' and 'opening' (potential or actual) – which, in addition to referring to the transformations of the archive, condense representations of its changes of public value in three dimensions: accessibility, visibility, and utility (Rabotnikof 2008).

The production of the "public" character of the archive also supposes the construction of a network of consecrated and normative texts that support these stories. Usually, in the historiographical discourse, stories about the past are supported by references to documentary or testimonial sources. This dimension involves the "assembly work" of the archive (Trouillot 2015) as an institutionalized site of mediation that prepares the facts for historical intelligibility.

The opening of the DIPPBA archive can also be considered a socio-historical process. However, if we analyze the distribution of intertextual references in these publications, a discontinuity will be observed, in terms of the use of types of sources, between the narrations about this process and others that are inscribed in the 'recent past' – and that they form the objects for the study of these publications.

Tracing the transtextual affiliations of the subcorpus of Recent History articles (particularly, its bibliographic and source references) shows that the accounts of historical events of the recent past are connected, mainly with documentary and testimonial sources. But the accounts of more contemporary processes – among them, the opening of the archive – involve, almost exclusively, references to research and outreach articles, theses, interviews, laws, journalistic notes, online publications, etc., coming from different contexts and databases (academic repositories, conference proceedings, legislative and journalistic archives, web pages). Most of these inscriptions were produced between 2002 and 2008. They are outreach and research articles, books and chapters, guides, reports, and some papers and theses attributed to authors who generally correspond to members of the CPM or researchers whom they worked closely with (Colman, 2023). This period (2002-2008) could be considered a first cycle of appropriation and recognition – mainly academic – and production of meaning on the DIPPBA archive.

If the accounts of the Recent History publications on the opening process converge to a large extent, this could account for a “fact assembly” (Trouillot 2015) of an archival assemblage work that prepares the facts for the historical intelligibility of the process. Now, what ‘archive’ organizes this fact assembly? This does not correspond to a historical archive, ‘domiciled’ in a defined location; instead, it is a series of inscriptions from different repositories that support the elaboration of stories about the archive's opening as a historical process.

This process's intelligibility is wider than its historical interpretation's possibilities. First, the stories give an account of confrontations and definitions that established both the declassification and the possibilities of accessing and consulting archival materials. The articles also endow the opening process with political intelligibility by narrating and producing meanings about these confrontations, activities, and uses. Second, the stories reference discussions and provisions regulating their declassification, opening, access, and consultation. These include debates between the agents involved during the process, defining criteria for dealing with the ‘public,’ ‘private,’ or ‘sensitive’ nature of the information, and establishing legislation and judicial decisions. These questions describe the legal, moral, and ethical aspects that explain the form that this opening takes. Thus, they also contribute to providing it with legal intelligibility.

This triple aspect of contribution of historical, political, and legal intelligibility could be characterized as a performative effect of academic publications that affect the production of the ‘public’ character of the archive. It would entail a first cycle of recognition (approximately between 2002-2008) that would also consolidate the circulation of archival materials because it works as a social explanation of its dynamics and access and consultation circuits. Furthermore, it would strengthen the framework constituted by the circulation of these materials and their appropriation by users and managers. The contribution of these stories is not limited to giving a narrative “flesh” to the process but also includes constructing an intertextual fabric that rhetorically sustains its intelligibility.

5. Conclusion

The study shows that the changes in circulation conditions of the DIPPBA archive materials are constitutive of their new physical and topographical spatialization and academic recognition effects. This circulation is influenced by the specific weights of the doctrinal agendas (which determine which 'tables,' 'factors' and 'folders' are the most consulted and what types of information are sought) and the processes that establish access policies and circumscribe circuits of documentary circulation with particular effects on consultation activities and its relationship with specific narrative, affective and atmospheric experiences.

The definition of criteria for classifying documents and their information as 'public,' 'private,' 'reserved,' 'sensitive,' or 'secret' also regulates their circulation and modes of recognition and textual reproduction. These classifications could be considered the result of a process that includes a first cycle of academic recognition of the archive, which produces meanings about it and provides political, historical, and legal intelligibility to the new forms of circulation of its materials. One could speak, then, of discursive recognition as simultaneously constituting of, and constituted by, the process of archival circulation.

Likewise, a discussion regarding the concept of circulation can be attempted. Verón (2004) defines circulation negatively as that which is not production and is not recognition. For him, I said, circulation does not imply a specific type of reading, and it would not leave discursive traces. However, by analyzing it and its conditions, we compose metadiscourses that could be considered products of a recognition of circulation. This analysis may not rely – directly – on textual supports: strictly characterized as a 'gap' process, analyzing circulation would imply the contrast between recognition and discursive production; it may also happen that the material supports that enable this analysis are not, *a priori*, textual artifacts, but must be described and reported through a first textualization operation, for example, when it comes to the observation of non-discursive behaviors or the operation of technical devices. But this does not mean that its analysis does not correspond to a position of recognition of circulation based on a certain textuality – existing *a priori* or generated *ad hoc* in a sense like that of the "textual reports"²⁴ of Actor-Network Theory.²⁵

On the other hand, circulation can also condition discursive recognition. By defining the modes of circulation of specific textual materialities, their regulation can be

²⁴ The notion refers to the composition of textualities that relate and describe the associations between actors in a network and give an explanation to the facts and social processes (Latour 2008).

²⁵ Verón's (2013: 200) statement about the existence of 'circulation rules' that define the conditions of access to discourses could correspond to a type of reading and a position of metadiscursive recognition.

part of their recognition and translation conditions in new discursive and non-discursive behaviors. For example, by allowing the circulation of 'restricted' or 'sensitive' material, ethical, moral, or legal obligations arise concerning its uses – for instance, if it can be partially or totally reproduced. Recognition discourses can also include information about circulation, which textualizes aspects of its conditions (for example, mediations and regulations).

For these reasons, I do not agree that circulation does not imply a type of reading and that there are never (discursive) traces of it. Analyzing it would mean a kind of reading that coincides with recognizing discourses, which may include marks that can be interpreted as traces of the process. Likewise, the performative effects of recognition in circulation can also be studied. The existence of textual supports that describe and recount it – historical studies, legal or institutional regulations – generates effects that provide it with historical, legal, and political intelligibility, which could contribute to solidifying its circuits and regulations.²⁶

References

- Águila, Gabriela 2013. Las tramas represivas: continuidades y discontinuidades en un estudio de caso: la Dirección General de Informaciones de la Provincia de Santa Fe, 1966-1991. *Sociohistórica* 31: 1-26.
- Aretxaga, Begoña 2000. Playing terrorist: Ghastly plots and the ghostly state. *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies* 1 (1): 43-58.
- Bardin, Andrea 2018. Génesis y estructura de lo colectivo: creencia, trabajo y lenguaje. Lo transindividual. *Revista De Psicología Universidad De Antioquia* 10 (1): 361-393.
- Beacco, Jean-Claude 1995. À propos de la structuration des communautés discursives: beaux-arts et appréciatif. *Les Carnets du Cediscor* 3: 136-153.
- Beacco, Jean-Claude 1999. L'actualité des sciences astronomiques dans les quotidiens: le gai savoir. In: Jean-Claude Beacco (ed.) *L'astronomie dans les médias. Analyses linguistiques de discours de vulgarisation*. París: Presses de la Sorbonne Nouvelle, 199-226.
- Beacco, Jean-Claude 2004. Trois perspectives linguistiques sur la notion de genre discursif. *Langages* 153: 109-119.
- Bessone, Pablo 2011. Comunidad de lo (im)político: Ser con la otredad. *Andamios* 8(16): 33-48.

²⁶ Defined in a negative way, studying circulation as a mode of reading could imply that both production and recognition dispute that circulation. As one of the evaluators of this article suggests, perhaps because circulation is the privileged ideological space for the naturalization of the effects of meaning produced in production and recognition. I appreciate the suggestion and will address this issue in future publications.

- Bettendorff, Paulina 2017. *El archivo de la Dirección de Inteligencia de la Policía de Buenos Aires (DIPBA) ante los espectáculos "independientes". Una aproximación retórico-discursiva a la vigilancia a grupos de teatro y cineclubes (1958-1981)*. MA thesis, Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, University of Buenos Aires.
- Böhme, Gernot 1993. Atmosphere as the fundamental concept of a new aesthetics. *Thesis eleven* 36 (1): 113-126.
- Cingolani, Gastón 2018. Cuerpos y Redes. Una lectura de las teorías de la discursividad y de la mediatización de E. Verón. *deSignis* 29: 157-166.
- Cingolani, Gastón 2019. La Semiosis Social en reconocimiento. Mediatización e individuos en la última etapa de la obra de Eliseo Verón. *La Trama de la Comunicación* 23 (2): 49-61.
- Colman, Alex 2018. Cuerpo, emociones e interioridad de estado. Efectos del discurso de una comunidad de espías. *Exlibris* 7: 173-190.
- Colman, Alex 2020. Modalidades de lectura y uso de un "archivo de la represión" en el ámbito científico-académico. *Revista de Historia Social y de las Mentalidades* 24 (1): 31-84
- Colman, Alex 2023. Itinerarios públicos de un archivo secreto. Figuraciones, usos y experiencias del archivo de la DIPPBA en historia reciente. *Runa* 44 (2): 191-214.
- Da Silva Catela, Ludmila 2002. Territorios de memoria política. Los archivos de la represión en Brasil. In: Ludmila da Silva Catela and Elizabeth Jelin (eds.) *Los archivos de la represión: documentos, memoria y verdad*. Buenos Aires: Siglo XXI, 15-84.
- Dagatti, Mariano 2018. Escribir la mirada. Inteligencia de la DIPBA y la DGI sobre estudiantes universitarios. *African Yearbook of Rhetoric* 8 (1): 63-71.
- Dávalos-Sotelo, Raymundo 2015. Una forma de evaluar el impacto de la investigación científica. *Madera y bosques* 21 (SPE): 7-16.
- Deleuze, Gilles, and Guattari, Félix 2004[1980]. *Mil mesetas*. Trans. José Vázquez Pérez, Barcelona: Pre-textos.
- Derrida, Jacques 1997[1995]. *Mal de archivo*. Trans. Paco Vidarte, Madrid: Trotta.
- Ellis, Carolyn, Tony E. Adams and Arthur P. Bochner 2015. Autoetnografía: un panorama. *Astrolabio* 14: 249-273.
- Fabbri, Paolo 2019. Identidades colectivas. *DeSignis* 31: 285-289.
- Filinich, María Isabel 1999. *Enunciación*. Buenos Aires: Eudeba.
- Flier, Patricia 2015. Historia Reciente y desafíos de las fuentes: el Archivo de la Dirección de Inteligencia de la Policía de la Provincia de Buenos Aires (DIPBA). *Travesía* 17 (2): 81-88.
- Foucault, Michel 2007[1969]. *La arqueología del saber*. Trans. Aurelio Garzón del Camino, Buenos Aires: Siglo XXI.
- Funes, Patricia 2007. Los libros y la noche. Censura, cultura y represión en Argentina a través de los Servicios de Inteligencia del Estado. *Dimensões* 19: 133-155.

- Genette, Gérard 1989[1982]. *Palimpsestos*. Trans. Celia Fernández Prieto, Madrid: Taurus.
- Ghigliani, Pablo 2012. Archivos policiales e historia social del trabajo (1957-1976). In: *Actas de las VII Jornadas de Sociología de la Universidad Nacional de La Plata 'Argentina en el escenario latinoamericano actual: debates desde las ciencias sociales.'* National University of La Plata.
- Habermas, Jürgen 1981[1962]. *Historia y crítica de la opinión pública: la transformación estructural de la vida pública*. Trans. Antonio Doménech, Barcelona: Gustavo Gili.
- Hull, Matthew S. 2012. Documents and bureaucracy. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 41: 251-267.
- Latour, Bruno 2008[2005]. *Reensamblar lo social. Una introducción a la teoría del actor-red*. Trans. Gabriel Zadunaisky, Buenos Aires: Manantial.
- Maingueneau, Dominique 1987. *Nouvelles tendances en analyse du discours*. París: Hachette.
- Maingueneau, Dominique 2009[2007]. *Análisis de textos de comunicación*. Trans. Víctor Goldstein, Buenos Aires: Nueva Visión.
- Marengo, María Eugenia 2011. Los mecanismos del control social: el caso de la ex DIPBA. *Derecho y Ciencias Sociales* 4: 147-162.
- Marengo, María Eugenia 2012. *Lo aparente como real. Un análisis del sujeto "comunista" en la creación y consolidación del servicio de inteligencia de la policía de la Provincia de Buenos Aires*. MA thesis, Faculty of Humanities and Education Sciences, National University of La Plata.
- Messina, Luciana 2011. El ex centro clandestino de detención 'Olimpo' como dispositivo de memoria: reflexiones sobre las marcas territoriales y sus usos. *Aletheia* 2 (3): 1-25.
- Navaro-Yashin, Yael 2007. Make-believe papers, legal forms, and the counterfeit: affective interactions between documents and people in Britain and Cyprus. *Anthropological Theory* 7 (1): 79-98.
- Nieto, Agustín 2011. Los archivos policiales y la historia de las clases subalternas. El movimiento sindical marplatense a los ojos de la bonaerense. In: *Colección 12: Los trabajadores del mar. Movimiento Obrero en Mar del Plata (1957-1996)*. Buenos Aires: Comisión Provincial por la Memoria. CD-R.
- Nugent, David 2010. States, secrecy, subversives: APRA and political fantasy in mid-20th century Peru. *American Ethnologist* 37 (4): 681-702.
- Rabotnikof, Nora 2008. Lo público hoy: lugares, lógicas y expectativas. *Íconos. Revista de Ciencias Sociales* 32: 37-48.
- Rockwell, Elsie 1980. El concepto de cultura. México: D.I.E., mimeo.
- Simondon, Gilbert 2015[1956]. *La individuación a la luz de las nociones de forma y de información*. Trans. Pablo Ires. Buenos Aires: Cactus.
- Simondon, Gilbert 2017[2014]. *Sobre la técnica*. Trans. Margarita Martínez y Pablo Rodríguez, Buenos Aires: Cactus.

- Stoler, Ann Laura 2010. Archivos coloniales y el arte de gobernar. *Revista Colombiana de Antropología* 46 (2): 465-496.
- Tello, Andrés Maximiliano 2016. Foucault y la escisión del archivo. *Revista de Humanidades* 34: 37-61.
- Trouillot, Michel-Rolph 2015. *Silencing the past: Power and the production of history*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Verón, Eliseo 1996. *La semiosis social: fragmentos de una teoría de la discursividad*. Barcelona: Gedisa.
- Verón, Eliseo 2004. *Fragmentos de un tejido*. Barcelona: Gedisa.
- Verón, Eliseo 2013. *La semiosis social 2*. Barcelona: Paidós.
- Verón, Eliseo 2015. Teoría de la mediatización: una perspectiva semio-antropológica. *CIC. Cuadernos de Información y Comunicación* 20: 173-182.
- Vitale, María Alejandra 2016. Vigiladores y espías. Imagen de sí, memoria y experticia en el Archivo de la DIPBA. In: María Alejandra Vitale (ed.) *Vigilar la sociedad. Estudios discursivos sobre inteligencia policial bonaerense*. Buenos Aires: Biblos, 17-42.
- Vitale, María Alejandra 2022. Comunidad discursiva e ironía en un servicio de inteligencia. In: María Alejandra Vitale (comp.) *Rutinas del mal. Estudios discursivos sobre archivos de la represión*. Buenos Aires: Eudeba, 67-84.

AUTHOR

Alex Colman Member of the Research Group on Archives of Repression (GIAR), Professor of Anthropological Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), a doctoral fellow of the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), and Professor of Semiology in the Common Basic Cycle (CBC, UBA).

