

November 10, 2004

Continuation of discussion of Rita Arditti's *Searching for Life: The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo and the Disappeared Children of Argentina*,

Gender ideology is related to the division between the public and private spheres.

- the Grandmothers capitalized on the existent gender ideology (focusing on their role in the home as mothers and grandmothers and as the preservers of life) to emphasize their femaleness in order to forge a path into the public spheres
- they defined a political niche for themselves
- proved that gender was not fixed in biology and was indeed malleable

Torture was family-focused in Argentina, but why? It was difficult to recover from such trauma, and families would often fall apart afterwards, as evidenced in Haiti as well.

Particular ways in which there is a social manifestation of psychological-social trauma brings up issues of justice and is context dependent.

There is a growing "historical amnesia" such as the vanishing social consciousness that Amery spoke of. The Grandmothers want to fight to make sure that the losses and the atrocities are not forgotten by the Argentine people.

Reparations – how does the state decide to approach and redress these issues?