

# TRANSMEDIA MEMORIES, PARTICIPATORY WITNESSING AND THE SEARCH FOR JUSTICE IN NICARAGUA

## WITH EMILIA YANG

How do activists use media, memory and imagination to grieve, share their stories of pain, but also their hopes for a more just future? What methods can be used to share and collectivize power in a human rights crisis? In this talk, I will speak of the participatory methods and practice used by AMA (Association Mothers of April) an organization of over one hundred families of fatal victims of police and paramilitary violence in Nicaragua, of which I am also a member. In the midst of brutal repression, censorship and grief during what is now known as the 2018 April Uprising, we gathered to create collective transmedia memories through the creation of a participatory museum and archive called AMA y NO Olvida, Memory Museum Against Impunity, the first memory museum in Nicaragua. We engaged in imaginative digital media practices and social practices of collective storytelling as a way of processing shared and personal trauma, and collectivizing our demand for truth, justice and integral reparations. These practices include the use of digital mapping, documentary research, participatory web and exhibition design, and the creation of Augmented and Virtual Reality experiences.



Speaker Emilia Yang is an activist and an artist researcher. Her dissertation “AMA y No Olvida, Memory Museum Against Impunity” involved the creation of the first museum of memory in Nicaragua, explores forms of mediation for remembering victims of state violence and examines the role of memory in the political imagination. She serves as Director of the Museum. Her art practice utilizes digital media, archives, film, games, performance, and urban interventions for the creation of transnational and speculative feminist media and transformative justice projects. Yang is completing her PhD in Media Arts + Practice at the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California. Emilia has delivered talks and workshops at multiple festivals and conferences and her work has been shown at IndieCade Independent Games Festival, Games for Change, the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) and the Games and New Media Summit at Tribeca Film Festival.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

3-4:30 PM VIA ZOOM

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