

## FORGETTING – BRUMARIA WORKS #9

*Already we are the oblivion we will be*  
Jorge Luis Borges

The purpose of *Forgetting – Brumaria Works #9* is:

1. to address the many questions that unfold around the notion, action, effects and affect of *forgetting* in the context we live in.
2. to produce theoretical and practical materials for a *knowledge of forgetting*.

As a means of spurring and strengthening the research, it seemed inevitable to open up the question and turn it public. It is by launching an open call that we are inviting all sorts of contributors to think collectively about forgetting from whichever discursive standpoint—be it philosophical, political, anthropological, artistic, or psychological, to name but a few. Among all contributions received and through a selection made by the editorial and curatorial body behind the project, Brumaria will edit a series of printed publications that will compile those texts that will better serve the purpose of producing a reader on/for a *knowledge of forgetting*.

Participants can contribute, be it in English or in Spanish, with any of the following two written forms:

- an academic paper.
- any form of poetry, prose, or artistic textual expression.

The reason for such abnormal inclusion in the same melting pot of a research is the following: while the former must prove their legitimacy, or outsource truth, by referring to knowledge produced in the past; the latter are exempt from acknowledging the sources that feed them in order to gain status as expressions of their own time.

Forgetting and memory are two fundamental dynamic vehicles in the current historical process. Since the present is situated between them, we are urged to approach it, and its *devenir*, from among the fuss of ever-more polarized discursive biases that support the ideological management of history either by a) selective oblivion or b) the moral imperative of memory, antithetical options which have impacted and still impact all layers of the cultural fabric, from the anthropological to the creative ones.

Many authors have reflected on the presence and coherence of forgetting: from Friedrich Nietzsche to María Zambrano, through Paul Ricoeur, Jonas Mekas, Kazuo Ishiguro, Kasper König, Jorge Luis Borges, Alain Badiou, Primo Levi, or Hannah Arendt. Yet, we believe there still is a vast territory to delve into the matter of such a capable element.

That territory, in our eyes, is all the more vast and fertile inasmuch 'forgetting' is not necessarily approached by merely dialectical terms—as opposed to 'memory'—, but transcended to understand it as a much needed figure to walk the present with relief from the burden and chains of the past, as a powerful exercise to face the now without projecting old familiar historical hindrances toward the future.

Therefore, Brumaria launches this open call:

1. to think what would happen if, just like Nietzsche's *Übermensch*, we deleted all great memories that have determined our situation in the contemporary world;
2. to study the relation between memory and memory management, as exerted by pre-dominant institutions and ideologies;
3. to debate the state of philosophy, art, historiography, anthropology, communication, sociology, etc., in relation with forgetting;
4. to interpret critically the situation of subjective political experiences and their categorization in concepts like mass, multitude, buzz, noise, murmur, populism or spectacle;

so that answers are inspired and sought by the warmth of the questions that unfold here—some of those questions might as well be:

Is forgetting a condition of memory?

Is memory not a distortion of reality in itself? • How to defend oblivion around powerful and traumatic events?

Who to ask to forget and why?

Following Borges, is forgetting both the only revenge and the only forgiveness?

Forgetting as in unlearning, or deleting almost everything?

Is remembering not a form of forgetting? ...as in, narrating a drama is forgetting another...

Which and how is the process of transformation from that which is memorized to that which reaches us?

Who—and with what intentions (political, economic, power, class conflict, cultural, etc.)—generally use and abuse preservation, management and propagation of memory?

Could the case be that the eternal return is a matter derived from memory?

## CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Contributions may be submitted in English or Spanish:

- **Academic papers** must have a maximum extension of **8,000 words**. Each paper must include a section at the end titled BIBLIOGRAPHY, where all sources mentioned or invoked along the text must be referred, the number of words of which does not count for the maximum 8,000 words. Bibliographical system: Chicago.
- **Other texts in the form of poetry, prose, or other artistic textual expressions** must have a maximum extension of **8,000 following words or 20 pages of scattered text**. In case that the nature of a proposal requires that certain parts of the text must show in different sizes or spacing, a section called INSTRUCTIONS will be added at the end of the document with accurate details or images about the desired layout of the proposal.

The deadline for submissions in **English** is **May 31st, 2018** at 23:59 (GMT+1).

The deadline for submissions in **Spanish** is **May 31st, 2018** at 23:59 (GMT+1).

Contributions will be forwarded to [olvidar@brumaria.net](mailto:olvidar@brumaria.net) (it is allowed to send more than one text per contributor, but each of them must reach us in separate emails) based on the following instructions:

Based on the language and the form of the text chosen by the author, the subject of the email will be as follow:

- PAPER ENGLISH for papers written in English.
- OTHER ENGLISH for other texts written in English.
- PAPER SPANISH for papers written in Spanish.
- OTHER SPANISH for other texts written in Spanish.

Each email will have two Word files attached:

- one file containing the contribution. The name of this file will be made of the surname and forename of the author, followed by the title of the text, it will be written in capital letters and without spaces, as in the following example: SURNAME\_FORENAME-TITLE.doc
- one file containing a brief cv of the author in under 200 words. The name of this file will be made of the surname and forename of the author, followed by the word "BIO", it will be written in capital letters and without spaces, as in the following example: SURNAME\_FORENAME-BIO.doc

No contributions will be received after the deadlines mentioned above. On June 15th, 2018 participants whose texts have been selected will be noticed about their inclusion in a provisional list from which the books will be.

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