

# *History*: a family affair

History is a series of *myths* and *narratives* that shift, expand, & transform over time.

*[3 generations]*

*[4 countries]*

# A cross generational and cross contextual analysis of historical teachings in my family

*[specifically focusing on the Holocaust]*



*Grandparents:  
Spain & Morocco*

*Me: Chicago, IL, USA*

*Parents: Caracas,  
Venezuela*

# Secondary research ...

- *Creation & evolution* of historical myths
- History education *across countries*
- The Holocaust as a consequence of *hegemony*

# ... & primary research

- *Interviews* with my parents and grandparents
- *Self-Interview*

“[i]s not history by definition memory,  
since it preserves the past? But *which*  
past remains to be seen”

~Nathan Wachtel, *Between Memory and History*

“The notion of shared ideas, values and interpretations concerning either real events... locates the collectivity inside a shared history, a history constantly reaffirmed and reproduced through resonant rituals and symbols. This memory acts as a powerful cohesive force, binding the disparate members of a nation together: it demarcates the boundary between Them and Us, delineating the national self from the foreign, alien Other.”

~Duncan Bell, “Mythscales: Memory, Mythology, and National Identity.”



*History:*  
A family affair

Andrea Benatar

Dec 2021



# I found that...

*Collective memory* directly impacts our historical understanding.

*Formal* and *informal* education are not isolated entities (and thus, should not be treated as such).

Historical narratives shape *identity*.