

## **From the Mimetic to the Imaginary: the representation of traumatic memories in the work of Mauricio Rosencof**

*Anna Forné*  
*Göteborgs Universitet*

As one of the leaders of the urban guerrilla Tupamaros, the Uruguayan author Mauricio Rosencof was held hostage for over twelve years by the military regime in Uruguay. In a testimony published a few years after his release (*Memorias del calabozo*, 1987) he explains that the only way he survived the isolation and inhuman conditions in the cell was through imagination.

In most of his postdictatorial literary production Mauricio Rosencof returns to his memories of the confinement, however giving expression to his experiences and memories by means of an imaginary literary register, remote from the mimetic tradition of the Latin American testimonial novel.

I would like to approach the narrative reconstruction of the memories of repression from a new perspective by proposing a reading of the postdictatorial work of Rosencof based on the working hypothesis that perhaps the poetic voice and imaginary modes are more appropriate for expressing limit experiences and traumatic memories, beyond the detailed description of exterior conditions and daily routines in prison usually found in the postdictatorial testimonial novel and testimony.