



**“The citational structure of the disappeared detainee in Chile: a genealogy of devices  
(1973-2013)”**

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**ABSTRACT**

The disappeared detainee, the subject of crimes of forced detention, kidnapping and disappearance, has been labeled the total subject of political violence. Rather than discussing the impossibility of representing this horror, our aim is to bring to the forefront the politics of the production of this subject. Drawing on elements of performativity theory (Austin, Derrida, Butler, Taylor), of Foucault’s oeuvre, and of a post-social sociology of the subject (Bernasconi, 2015), we reconstruct the disappeared detainee’s citational structure through a genealogical analysis of the key devices performing this figure in textual, graphic and scenic domains, during the Chilean military dictatorship (1973-1990) and until these days. This approach opens up the analytical space to follow inscriptions that iterate, diverge and irritate each other (Taylor 2003) over time. Through these “differed” citations (Derrida 1971) we rearticulate a “politics of the trace” (Richard 2000) around this subject.

**Keywords:** performativity, iteration, discursive agency, political violence, victim.

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