

SOME NOTES ON A DIALOGUE CIRCLE
WORKSHOP
(IVAC/KREI, UPV/EHU,
DONOSTIA, OCTOBER 24 2017)



WHAT IS RESTORATIVE MEMORY? —

IT IS A MODEST, PROVOCATIVE, OPEN
AND NON-EXCLUSIONARY CONCEPT TO
KEEP US MOVING, TO WORK IN THEORY
AND PRACTICE, IN ORDER TO ENGAGE
DIFFERENT AGENTS, DISCIPLINES AND
GENERATIONS WITH A HUMANIST
DIMENSION

Restorative memory might be defined as diverse practices being creative, reparative, voluntarily, participatory, dialogic, interdisciplinary, complementary (to the criminal system and other forms of memorialization) and dynamic.

Practices can be ephemeral or long-lasting. There are not objects of reparation. Above all we are in front of subjects in different collective contexts. Needs and rights of victims, in their diversity and dynamism, have to be acknowledged, as an ethical duty of society. Restorative memory involves victims, victimisers and communities in a non-essentialist and antagonist definition.

RESTORATIVE MEMORY IS A FORM OF SLOW AND CRAFTED JUSTICE FOR THE IRREPARABLE

Justice understood as real justice, as active listening and acknowledgment: Who are the victims/survivors/harmed persons? What and how could it happened? Who is responsible? How do they/we felt and feel now? What has been done? How do we imagine a better future? What concrete and reparative things can we do to get closer to that horizon without a 'present bias'?

RESTORATIVE MEMORY ENTAILS HIDDEN VICTIMISATION AND MEMORY OF THE INDIFFERENCE AND OBLIVION. IN DOING THIS, ARTISTIC LANGUAGE BRINGS NEW PERSPECTIVES

Perhaps, the fictional privilege, not free of manipulation, can fill gaps, create empathy, liberation and beauty —

GIVING MEANING AND/OR MAKING SENSE BEYOND ENCAPSULATING IDENTITIES. RESTORATIVE MEMORY AS A LIMITED OPPORTUNITY FOR A MORE PEACEFUL COMMON FUTURE

There are forensic/legal, historical, transitional, narrative, dialogic, incomplete truth... Restorative memory might be painful in its beginning (born out of unjust and severe suffering), always complex in its full development -that never ends-, but it aims at healing and social justice as factors that generate conditions for diverse restorative practices.