Oral History in Argentina: An Interview With Pablo Pozzi

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“Oral history returns a social function to the historian,” says Pablo Pozzi, a senior historian from Argentina, who has been working with oral sources since the 1980s. “Oral History changes the way we think about history and the way we do history.” In this fascinating interview, Pozzi describes his own development as a historian using oral history and the development of oral history in Argentina and throughout Latin America. Next to describing his own research projects, he uses examples from his own interviewing practice to explain the conditions of interviewing in Argentina. Pozzi also describes the problematic relationships between Latin American and European/North American oral historians.

In addition, he is on the Advisory Board to the National Memory Archive (Argentina), was a member of the International Committee of the Organization of American Historians, a former Contributing Editor to the Journal of American History, and a current editor of Latin American Perspectives. He heads the Oral History Program at the University of Buenos Aires. He was also the elected representative for South America to the International Oral History Association (IOHA) Board (2008-2010), is on the Scientific Board of the Brazilian Oral History Association, and is the current President of the Argentine Oral History Association (AHORA), as well as one of the administrators of the Latin America Oral History Network (www.relaho.org).

The Oral History Program is the foremost research institution on memory and oral sources in Argentina. It joins together thirty seven researchers from several disciplines (History, Anthropology, Sociology, Literary Criticism, and Political Science) in interdisciplinary research teams. The Program is formally housed within the Institute for Library Research, and contains an Oral History Archive as well as extensive documentation, films, audio interviews. In addition, the Program has different collaborative research projects with colleagues throughout Latin America, Spain, Italy, and France.
This interview with Pablo Pozzi is part of an ongoing series of interviews with oral historians from around the world. Previous interviews were conducted with Alexander von Plato (Germany), Alistair Thomson (Australia), Miroslav Vaněk (Czech Republic), Tomoyo Nakao (Japan), Karen Jungblut (USA), Antonio Montenegro (Brazil), and other.

Cite the interview (Chicago style):