“Victim Discourse, Victim Studies, and the Biopolitics of Counter-Terrorism: The Case of Iñaki de Juana Chaos"

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Maple Room, IMU

In Spain, the idea and image of ETA victims have increasingly shaped not only the tone and strategies of politicians and pundits, but also the larger understanding of "Spanish democracy" itself, driving legal reform and justifying exceptions to constitutional legality. In an attempt to reflect on these more tangible consequences, the talk proceeds to rethink, from the perspective of victim discourse, some recent theorizations of the biopolitical dimensions of the so-called war on terror. Here we look specifically at the media frenzy surrounding the hunger strike and subsequent release from prison of former ETA member Iñaki de Juana Chaos. Overall, the talk will examine how representation--including defense, advocacy, and analysis of victims--produces victimhood as we know it.

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