

## **Methodology**

There are two aspects of the methodology of this dissertation that will be most challenging. One concerns the thorough collection of primary and secondary sources, and two, the collation and evaluation of these sources together with an attempt of finding general trends, without losing the intimacy of the sources themselves.

Concerning the first challenge, Argentine scholars have only now, in the last decade, attempted to collate and categorise much of the primary sources that deal with the seventies dictatorship. The military junta itself organised many book burnings in Buenos Aires, Córdoba, and Santa Fe which left the country bereft of much of its shared knowledge as a nation. In addition, the curriculum of secondary school and tertiary subjects was severely controlled and overseen by those high up in the dictatorship and by those scholars that supported the regime, or were fearful for their academic positions, or their life. It is noted that in some instances, the teaching of new mathematics was banned for fear that it may have inculcated subversive ideas into young minds (Massarino, 2006). This left the scholarly, literary and intellectual sources on empty, to the point where the nation was slow to recuperate after a democracy was returned. Not only this, but many of the country's intellectuals were the first point of contact for the military, where many were taken in and questioned (in the least) for being secondary and tertiary teachers and professors.

This, together with the many economic crisis the nation has faced, namely in the late 1980s and the early 1990s, and in 2003 has had a devastating effect on information and connected resources, where many libraries suffer from empty shelves and the lack of cataloguing to this day. As such, in this light, this dissertation will focus on securing secondary sources first, with a preference for those produced by Argentine scholars and intellectuals. British and American academics have been necessary in filling in the gaps concerning this historical episode, especially when those scholars from Argentina were still recuperating from the devastation of the dictatorship. However, as there is a gap in collating the points of view of Argentine writers and intellectuals, this dissertation will be able to provide something new to this topic in concentrating on local scholars and their works.

Another point that will make things easier is that under the successive governments of Néstor Carlos Kirchner and Cristina Elisabet Fernández de Kirchner, legal authorities have been more open to releasing private and confidential documents of the 1970s and 1980s. As such, in the last five years, there has been a good will in parliamentary and judiciary circles to release documents that have remained under lock due to issues regarding secrets of state and those linked to the court cases against the military personnel involved in the dictatorship.