

Subterranean displays: the underground as a visual device

The underground is a means of communication in the sense of transportation – moving people from one point to another- but also transmiting messages to thousands of passengers every day like mass media.

In the singular design of the underground, glance is caught out by signs of all types.

Passengers become readers, visual consumers.



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My presentation explores Buenos Aires' underground railways (Subte) as a cultural artefact that enables a moment of simultaneity not only in the reading of messages that the underground displays but also in the shared experience whereby a large number of strangers at the same time recognise themselves as a part of a whole. I particularly analyse different interventions on and characteristics of the underground environment and how these visual elements mediate in the relation between memory and history.



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Cultural history of mobilities and urban studies:

Interested in the relation between the material and symbolic forms of urban space and mobilities.

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