

## **Anarquism Is Queer: Two Insights Into Manuel Rivas' *Os libros arden mal*.**

Anarquism formed a major strand of Galician social and political life before the Spanish Civil War (1936). However, after the conflict, anarquism vanished. The movement's figures are now symbolic, devoid of former political or cultural relevance. Memory of the resistance against the Francoist dictatorship was built principally upon Socialism and Communism and, in Galicia, upon Nationalism. These remain powerful movements in the Galician cultural establishment, modelling the past by promoting their own importance at the expense of others. Whilst historical accounts are today more comprehensive, the important role played by anarquists in that memory-building process still lacks visibility. The Galician writer Manuel Rivas has evoked Anarquism several times in his work, with particular consistency in his latest novel, *Os libros arden mal* (2006).

Similarly, homosexuality was restricted by the Franco dictatorship, with homosexuals enduring public harassment and incarceration. Its importance in the 1930s and subsequent repression was also suppressed by the memory-building process until recently. Rivas' work, from a canonical but also heterosexual position, has gone some way to unveiling its hidden history.

In this paper, I argue that Rivas' approaches to Anarquism and homosexuality are intimately connected, and that they belong to a common purpose for re-assessing a marginalised and forgotten reality.

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