

Mourning with Antigone: Civil War and Public Mourning in Patricia Ariza's *Antígona*

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Abstract

Antigone is the oldest (if not the favourite) heroine of political rabble rousing. Part of the enduring legacy of the *Antigone* has been its ability to be reshaped and re-imagined in a variety of contexts. Patricia Ariza's *Antígona* (2006) follows in this tradition and invites anew many of the central questions of the myth. While *Antigone* has traditionally been understood to be primarily concerned with the relationship between the state and the individual, the article proposes that there are other more important 'political' questions at play. Among these are the connection between mourning and the justification of violence. The article examines, first, the issues of public mourning and violence as they are present both in Sophocles' *Antigone* and in Ariza's *Antígona* and, secondly, the connection between violence and mourning and the unique role which they both occupy at the threshold between the public and the private. It suggests that human identity is dependent upon community consensus and that this consensus determines both whether an individual can be mourned and whether an individual can be the target of violence. The article's ultimate goal is to demonstrate the connection between mourning and violence as outward manifestations of the worth bestowed by the community on an individual.

Keywords: violence, mourning, identity, community, humanity.