

Review: University Memories. Images of the past and voices of the present¹

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The contemporary history of the Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas is permeated by different moments and symbolic places that confer, to the space where they took place, the importance of being remembered. Therefore, the book *University Memoirs. Images of the past and voices of the present* (UNACH, 2022) addresses these social spheres to think about the past, as well as the reflection around the foundational moments where the correlation between tradition and future projects are analyzed with a current perspective.

In this sense, the book brings together researchers and actors of university life, who have been part of the beginnings of the institution, and whose main interest is to delve into the role of UNACH in shaping today's Chiapas society. Through photographs, interviews, and anecdotes, these actors narrate their experience of how a rich university history was shaped and managed to convey, with acuity and reflection, an honest and realistic vision of university life and culture. In addition, this work proposes to carry out this retrospective exercise through the recognition of university identity and identification of substantive transformations. From this perspective, as Edensor (1997) pointed out, "memory is shaped through iconic values that originate and create meanings in social terms for collective memory".

The work consists of 24 articles and is divided into three sections: genesis, consolidation, and the future. The first, "Vital integration. The first schools", addresses the origins of UNACH and its development in the first decades of its existence, and corresponds to the main academic structures of the second half of the twentieth century. The second "Paths of recognition. 48 years of history with society", analyzes the growth of the institution in recent decades and its role in Chiapas society, the development and sustained growth of the Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas, and the memorial sites. Finally, the third, "The university and its transformation for the future", reflects prospectively on the challenges and opportunities of higher education that the highest educational institution in the state of Chiapas in the 21st century is facing.

This work, which houses 48 years of institutional life and is approaching its fiftieth anniversary, reflects the evolution of the university in academic, scientific, cultural, and service terms to Chiapas society.

University memories. Images of the past and voices of the present emphasize the imprint of knowing the past and knowing who we are by resignifying the

genesis of our alma mater. The dynamic that permeates the book and governs the work is the strong commitment of young people to materialize the construction of a higher education institution and a message of celebration and commitment from UNACH.

Finally, the reader will find in these pages that university identity springs into the scene as a kind of equation between gratitude and recognition. *University memories. Images of the past and voices of the present* edited by the same house of studies is available in print and digital format as part of the Paperless Letters Collection of the *Scientific Dissemination Journal Espacio I+D: Innovación más desarrollo*, in open access for free consultation and download.

REFERENCES

- Edensor, T.** (1997). National identity and the politics of memory: remembering Bruce and Wallace in symbolic space. *Environment and Planning D: Society and space*, (29), 175-194.