

# FEMINIST KNOWLEDGE AND WRITINGS IN A GENEALOGICAL KEY: APPROACHES TO LA BRECHA BY MERCEDES VALDIVIESO

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## **Abstract**

This article analyzes *La brecha* (1961) by Mercedes Valdivieso, considered the first feminist novel in Chile. From this background, it seeks to problematize the meanings of feminism embodied in the text. To achieve this purpose, first, a genealogical reading of the main events and research on the role of literary practices in the construction of feminist ideas in Chile since the twentieth century is carried out. Subsequently, through the dialogue with *Los vigilantes* (1994) by Diamela Eltit and *Contra los hijos* (2018) by Lina Meruane, the concepts of body and motherhood, pivotal themes of Valdivieso's thought, are analyzed. Finally, some critical approaches are made on the openings and tensions of *La Brecha* in contrast with the emergences of recent feminist politics. © 2021 Universidad de Chile, Facultad de Filosofía y Humanidades, Departamento de Literatura. All rights reserved.

## **Author keywords**

20th century feminisms; Feminist literary criticism; Feminist literary practices; Feminist politics in recent Chile; Genealogies