

The Role of Gender in Commemorating the White Rose

Angilmarie Rivera Sanchez

Angilmarie Rivera Sanchez's research is entitled, "The Role of Gender in Commemorating the White Rose", and examines the influence of politics and gender in the commemoration and characterization of a student-led resistance group that condemned Hitler's Germany.

The White Rose was one of the few resistance groups that focused on influencing popular opinion against Hitler, calling for an end to the war and the government's war crimes by publishing anonymous leaflets. The founder was Hans Scholl, a medical student who saw firsthand the atrocities committed by the Third Reich. He was later joined by other like-minded individuals, including his younger sister Sophie Scholl. The group was ultimately caught and executed for treason. Hans Scholl was generally considered the main focus of White Rose remembrance up until the 1980s. Then, as time progressed, Sophie became the face of the movement. This study's aim was to understand why this occurred, and the impact it has had on the White Rose's message.

Using funds from the Tyler Center for Global Studies, Rivera Sanchez traveled to Germany to collect data for her research. Looking at data through a political lens, Rivera Sanchez identified trends that could explain the change of commemoration through the years and conducting interviews with scholars in the field. Her findings suggest that a shift occurred between the 1980s and the 2000s through a complex play of politics. Though the message was not altered, the portrayal of the group is biased, putting into question whether they should be the representation of German resistance as a whole.

Rivera Sanchez's study emphasizes the importance of commemorating history as accurately as possible. Read the entire study [here](#).