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"Myth, Monster, and Memory -- *Pan's Labyrinth* and the Legacy of the Spanish Civil War"

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Oral Presentation O11.3

**"MYTH, MONSTER, AND MEMORY- *PAN'S LABYRINTH* AND THE LEGACY OF
THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR"**

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Evil stepparents, child-eating monsters, and a magically dangerous maze- all in 1940's fascist Spain? In *Pan's Labyrinth* (*El laberinto del fauno*), the young Ofelia's quest to find her "real" father amidst the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War leads her to cross the lines that separate fantasy and reality. The backdrop of her story - the last stand of defeated republicans against the triumphant fascist forces - is presented as a noble battle of ideology brought to mythic proportions. This presentation will examine how the film asks us to question not only how we remember historical events (as fact, fiction, or myth), but the political and social implications of doing so.