

HOW TO CONDUCT RESEARCH INTO HISTORY BY ASSEMBLING CERTAINTIES: SOME GUIDELINES DRAWING FROM WITTGENSTEIN'S AND ORTEGA Y GASSET'S LATER WORKS

*CÓMO INVESTIGAR EN HISTORIA RECOPILANDO CERTEZAS:
ALGUNAS ORIENTACIONES A PARTIR DE LAS OBRAS TARDÍAS DE
WITTGENSTEIN Y ORTEGA Y GASSET*

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Abstract: José Ortega y Gasset relied on his notion of 'belief' to argue that historical studies should consist, above all, in assembling the distinctive and characteristic beliefs of a historical period: for, in this way, we could know what was regarded as reality within that context, which might allow us to gain a better understanding of the historical events under study. As I will show in this paper, Ludwig Wittgenstein did not evince an interest in historical studies; yet his notion of 'certainty' is very similar to Ortega y Gasset's conception of 'belief', in addition to which certainty in Wittgenstein's sense may be of great help to better understand not only how historical studies can be conducted by following Ortega y Gasset's suggestions, but also which risks are entailed by such studies.

Keywords: History; Certainty; Belief; Wittgenstein; Ortega y Gasset.

Resumen: José Ortega y Gasset se basó en su noción de 'creencia' para argumentar que los estudios históricos deberían consistir sobre todo en compilar las creencias características y distintivas de un período histórico: pues de ese modo sabríamos qué se consideraba como realidad en aquel contexto, lo cual nos permitiría entender mucho mejor los eventos históricos