Abstract
Considering a set of selected papers and texts from the 19th and 20th centuries, the following essay examines the ethnic discourses created around the Chilean genre (zama)cueca and its consequences. From a theoretical framework rooted in the idea of textual canon, the paper analyses the consolidation of the mestizo idea (or mixed race idea) over indigenous and black discourses also describing, on the one hand, how these discourses connect concepts such authenticity and nationality, but on the other hand, how they exclude other narratives, promoting the imaginary of the Chilean culture through essentialist speculations.

Keywords
Text, nation, ethnicity, canon, mestizo.