



**Thursday, December 10th**  
**12:00pm**

**Faustina Salas: *Serial killers: do they really have the power to decide who they are?***

Most people have heard of serial killers in their life. Through movies, news and even a tiny percent by experience; but even if they are aware of some details, most of them do not know the motives, the reason why a person could desire to kill.

The aim of this thesis is to inform about the origins of these individuals' behaviour, why they are how they are, if they have power over their actions or if they are controlled by something much bigger than themselves. Through semiotic and linguistic analysis of two famous serial killers, Edmund Kemper and Ted Bundy, and surveys conducted to find out what people really know about the subject, I gathered enough information to defend my hypothesis, which states that most serial killers are the consequence of a violent childhood and specific contexts.

Along the thesis, I could learn more about how violence of all kinds leaves a mark in people's lives, how mental illnesses are involved in serial killers behavior, how addictive killing can be for these individuals, how fantasies can impulse them to make their deep desires come true, and most importantly of all, how context shapes people. Serial killers are humans after all and every person is the product of experiences, the people they surround themselves with, what they learn from the world they live in.