



Beyond Bolaño: The Global Latin American Novel (Literature Now)

By Héctor Hoyos

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Through a comparative analysis of the novels of Roberto Bolaño and the fictional work of César Aira, Mario Bellatin, Diamela Eltit, Chico Buarque, Alberto Fuguet, and Fernando Vallejo, among other leading authors, Héctor Hoyos defines and explores new trends in how we read and write in a globalized era. Calling attention to fresh innovations in form, voice, perspective, and representation, he also affirms the lead role of Latin American authors in reshaping world literature.

Focusing on post-1989 Latin American novels and their representation of globalization, Hoyos considers the narrative techniques and aesthetic choices Latin American authors make to assimilate the conflicting forces at work in our increasingly interconnected world. Challenging the assumption that globalization leads to cultural homogenization, he identifies the rich textual strategies that estrange and re-mediate power relations both within literary canons and across global cultural hegemonies. Hoyos shines a light on the unique, avant-garde phenomena that animate these works, such as modeling literary circuits after the dynamics of the art world, imagining counterfactual "Nazi" histories, exposing the limits of escapist narratives, and formulating textual forms that resist worldwide literary consumerism. These experiments help reconfigure received ideas about global culture and advance new, creative articulations of world consciousness.

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Editorial Review

Review

An outstanding example of scholarly writing and critical thinking. *Beyond Bolaño* challenges conventional ways of talking about and teaching Latin American literature, while at the same time resisting a facile globalization whereby Latin American literature becomes a companion to the presumed centers of world literature.

(David William Foster, Arizona State University)

A must-read for anyone interested in the ongoing discussion on world literature, this book uses the work of Roberto Bolaño to explore what contemporary Latin American literature can tell us about ideologies of the global.

(Theo D'haen, author of *The Routledge Concise History of World Literature*)

Héctor Hoyos makes a strong argument for reading the novels of the Chilean author as an epochal shift from the national narrative to novels whose characters and events are situated within a global scenario. He argues convincingly that in contemporary fiction, settings such as the supermarket, the art world, and the narco territories constitute such alephs. Focusing on the novels of César Aira, Chico Buarque, Diamela Eltit, Fernando Vallejo, and Mario Bellatin, *Beyond Bolaño* offers a stimulating discussion of this contemporary turn.

(Jean Franco, professor emerita, Columbia University)

Héctor Hoyos offers a fascinating analysis of what "the globe" looks like from Latin America. An ambitious and necessary reframing of the world literature debates, *Beyond Bolaño* is also an exemplary illustration of what textured literary analysis can tell us about the geopolitics of cultural prestige.

(David Kurnick, Rutgers University)

Recommended. Graduate students, researchers, faculty.

(*Choice*)

Hoyos provides fresh insights into the relationship between contemporary Latin American literature and globalization. His study should be of interest to specialists in Latin American fiction, but it also has a broader appeal which is relevant to the disciplines of world literature and American studies.

(Helen Oakley *Journal of American Studies*)

[A]n impressive book. The claim that there cannot be a true consideration of the global novel without including authors of a Latin America that goes beyond Bolaño is most convincing.

(Randolph D. Pope *Recherche Littéraire / Literary Research*)

Hoyos' book is an excellent guide for casual readers of Latin American literature wondering what lies beyond the traditional canon of Borges, García Márquez, Vargas Llosa and even of the more recent Bolaño. By tying the narrative of the continent to its history, it will also interest readers curious about trends in contemporary Latin American culture. Finally, to specialists it will be of special interest as it develops new angles from which to think of the local and the global as it pertains to Latin American literature.

(Manuel Azuaje-Alamo *ReVista*)

An important contribution to both studies of the contemporary (post 1989) Latin American novel and studies of World Literature.

(*A Contra Corriente*)

About the Author

Héctor Hoyos is an associate professor of Latin American literature and culture at Stanford University, where he teaches contemporary fiction and literary theory. He holds a Ph.D. in Romance studies from Cornell University and degrees in philosophy and literature from the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia.

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