

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Spanish America – a Literary Laboratory

Dr Christopher Andrews of the Writing and Society Research Group, School of Humanities and Languages, is studying recent fiction by Spanish American writers and how their compositional procedures are related to their political, ethical and aesthetic values. This project is funded by the Australian Research Council through its Discovery Projects grants scheme.

‘Spanish American fiction was an important source of new ideas and techniques for world literature in the 1960s and 70s, explains Dr Andrews. ‘There are signs that Spanish America has again become a literature leader with international successes such as those of novelist Roberto Bolaño (*The Savage Detectives*, *By Night in Chile*). In the last two decades Bolaño and novelists César Aira and Rodrigo Rey Rosa have developed inventive and original procedures for writing fiction. But what exactly are these procedures? And how have these ways of writing been influenced by these writers’ values? This project examines these questions and also looks at how these experiments in fiction have been significant and influential for literary writing globally.’

Literary criticism and theory will be used to closely analyse the texts of these three Spanish American authors. Some of their work is only available in rare archival collections in Spanish America. The study will also draw on the sociology of literature and continental/Anglo-American philosophy to inform the analysis. Arising from this work a major scholarly book will be produced.



Dr Andrews is a leading translator of the works of Roberto Bolaño and this study will further Australian expertise in the field of literary theory and analysis, particularly on innovative Spanish American writers. More broadly, the study will result in a new understanding of the connections between writing procedures and values in literary texts. And more particularly, the study will foster the development of intercultural links between Spanish American nations and Australia.

Project Title: Spanish America: Literary Laboratory
Funding has been set at: \$95,000
Contact Details: c.andrews@uws.edu.au
http://www.uws.edu.au/writing_society
January 2011