

## Fiction of the Americas

### Memories of the Future: The Latin American Quantum Leap from Premodernity to Postmodernity, and the Texts of the Neoliberal Emergency.

Spring 2005

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Mon/Wed 9:30-10:45, 4pts.

Hugo Pezzini

A persistent common wisdom sustains that Latin American identities were consolidated by the international repercussion of the literary *Boom*. The core of the *Boom's* foundational mythology described animalesque subjectivities, either ruled by passion or impregnated by a dumb indifference. Their magic realm was a collection of countries made of dusty villages scorched by a merciless sun, bucolic cities inhabited by sleepy storekeepers, and countries ruled by picturesque *caudillos* and tyrants. The landscapes were silent deserts, frozen plains swept by *pamperos*, endless seashores lined by deathless palmtrees.

This literature was read while the South American military dictatorships imposed the ephemeral developmentalist economics by means of massive assassinations and disappearances.

The *Boom's* magical realism was followed by the literary expression of a historic-political period known as *la transición*, or the passage from military rule to “low-intensity” democracies. It was the *postboom*, and it presaged the socioeconomic emergency that the neoliberal project of globalization would soon usher. South America melted down during the 90s: its states disintegrated by widespread privatization, explosion of the external debt, the advent of the new poor. The literary language of that postmodern and disenchanting entity—inter, trans, and postnational Latin America—is spoken by the *post-postboom*, i.e., the Latin American Literature of the Neoliberal Crisis.



Antonio Berni



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**Memories of the Future** will work towards an identification and analysis of *post-postboom* narratives. We will read works and see films exemplary of the *post-postboom* singularities. The texts will be approached through questions that interrogate them not only from literary and cultural analysis, but also from ethics and politics. Writers of fiction and theory will include Osvaldo Soriano, Fernando Vallejo, Chico Buarque, Mario Benedetti, Alberto Fuguet, Mary Louise Pratt, Idelber Avelar, Mary Klages, Beatriz Sarlo, Francine Masiello, Madan Sarup, Gareth Williams, and Néstor García Canclini.

**This class will be taught in English.**