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General and Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies

**Imaginations from the Other Side: Literary Representations of Europe in the 20th  
Century Latin American Literature**

**Abstract**

The present work aims to trace a series of similarities and differences presented in the literary work of a selected number of 20th century Latin-American authors, who share the common experience of having to leave their home countries in order to migrate to Europe for different reasons: either fleeing from the dictatorships established in Latin-America in the middle of the last century or, in other cases, as students, journalists, or part of their countries' diplomatic missions.

The specific aspects of these works that I will be focusing, will attempt to prove that there is a shared narrated experience between them; and that this 'story-telling' depict a number of images that will illustrate either experiences in European cities, the migrant condition and the character's efforts to integrate into the new spaces, and, also, the longing for, at first, the exotic adventure that is Europe, and, once there, the longing for the country they left behind to which they dream or not to comeback.

My work will take into consideration analysis methods from the Literary Studies, Imagology and, transversally, Culture Studies. In this way, I am not only looking to the objects from a formal scope, but will also try to understand them as socio-anthropological devices that are related to human experiences that are not only individual readings, but also as part of a collective media that leads to a understanding of the world, the otherness, by the creation of images of some other 'imaginary communities'; and, foremost, also re-reading the objects as testimony, even if imaginary/literary, of the very human experience of migration and discovery of the other.