



# *English Studies in Latin America*

## **Directors' Note**

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## Directors' Note

Allison Ramay and Andrea Casals

Dear Readers,

The cover for this issue is inspired by the critical articles and poems included, which reflect either directly or indirectly the notion that poetry lifts (or has the potential to lift) our spirits. In this issue, three poets weave together, space, time and creatures. In Peggy Aylsworth's collection of poems we find personae who are witty and insightful travelers and observers who reflect on the meeting between nature and urban space in multiple geographic regions. July Westhale publishes two poems with *WR: ESLA*; one that depicts the timelessness of death and another in which the persona reports hearing a man imagine his power over girls who are lost and silent, as if a warning to readers. In Liukura Mariman's poem "Underneath the Canopies", the persona speaks to a colorful and delicate bird that emits song in the form of string ("an echoed strum, your quaking strings"). Carefully-crafted imagery invites us to admire the unnamed, American-originating "wandering bird".

In our Article section, María Elena Villablanca emphasizes, in "Wesageechak and the Weetigo: The Formation and Definition of Dancer Okimasis' Identity in Tomson Highway's *Kiss of the Fur Queen*", the importance of a character who, despite all odds (spending his formative years in a

Catholic school for Cree children, having been abused by a priest and contracting AIDS as an adult), finds his identity in an unexpected way. In Felipe Cussen's article: "Poetry Reading as a Form of Boredom: The Case of Tan Lin", he brings together multiple disciplines, geographies and contexts through his reflections on Tan Lin's work. His argument might take you by surprise as it challenges what we typically read about poetry (for Tan Lin, rather than a genre, poetry is a medium for a playful understanding of boredom).

We would also like to welcome our new illustrator, Catalina Salvatierra, to the *WR: ESLA* team. We are very excited about the cover she has composed and hope you like it as much as we do!

We express our condolences to our Editor, Felipe Acevedo, and our gratitude for the spirit of his mother, which continues to live on through him.

Echoing Felipe Cussen's words, we invite you to lay back or stand up and read the articles and poetry in this issue and be bored, or even super bored, until the words on the screen become part of your "ambient".

Sincerely,

The Directors of *White Rabbit: English Studies in Latin America*