



English Studies in Latin America

Director's Note

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Director's Note

Andrea Casals and Allison Ramay

Dear Readers,

Not too long ago, when my children were small, they had a book about a time when summer lingered into autumn, raising the temperatures, and then winter did not want to be alone so he stayed all through springtime, making it a very cold spring, where flowers couldn't bloom. The book had colorful subtle illustrations, giving the story a fairy tale aura. What seemed a fantasy, appears today as a tragic reality. As we finish editing this ecological issue, summer has just begun here in the southern hemisphere, and we have already had much warmer than average days for this time of the year. Academic discussion of this phenomenon is gradually taking over the Humanities. As Mita Valvassori from Universidad de Los Lagos argues in the column she presents in this issue, little by little ecocriticism has gained momentum among graduate and undergraduate students here; yet, because most green cultural theory is written in English, in this southern land, it is a very challenging task. Nonetheless, we are very proud to introduce this special ecological issue one year after the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In what we will call our "keynote paper", Pippa Marland and John Parham from Worcester University make a thought-provoking analysis of the Chilean documentary *Nostalgia*

de la luz, inviting readers to meditate on timescales beyond measure. Along these lines, two recently graduated students from our English program contribute their revised versions of their final theses: Natalia Bulask offers an ecopedagogical reading of *Alice in Wonderland* while Macarena Vargas argues that Lucy Pevensie (*The Chronicles of Narnia*) may be regarded as an ecofeminist hero. From an apocalyptic perspective, in a brief essay, Betzabé Hernández discusses the animated sitcom *The Simpsons*.

Just as well, this issue is rich in ecopoetry and we are honored to present the works of three North American ecopoets and Spanish professor Jorge Reichmann. Professor, poet and editor Ann Fisher-Wurth offers four poems that ponder our daily relationship to the natural sphere in this globalized world, in spite of the various subjects they focus on (the neighbor's cat, broccoli, silent clouds and a walk in Corsaglia that conceals the global crisis). With a very original poetic voice, professor, poet and editor Laura-Gray Street speaks rather of the technological and constructed environment, questioning timescales, city dwelling or our existence in these times of transition and transformation in a poem headed "DIY Climateric" which accuses what we have done to Earth. Attuned to *White Rabbit's* multicultural concerns, professor and poet Christopher Travis offers a poem that pays homage to Mexican poet José Emilio Pacheco, who practiced detailed observation of nature in his poetry. In this style, in the poem "Crawdads", Travis describes a crawfish, again facing the reader to timelessness in the representation of this prehistoric fresh water lobster that floats and glides "above the day / beyond the week / in drops of life". Finally, poet, ecologist, translator and doctor in political sciences, professor Reichmann contributes a brief metacritical poem that reflects on the contradictions between modernity's wishful thinking and the actual challenges we currently face in the 21st century.

The pieces included in this special issue reflect the present-day urgency for ecologically conscious citizens, a need that has become even more pressing in light of the recent election of Donald Trump. We invite you to read this succulent cluster of ecopoetry and ecocritical essays, and let the words and images inhabit you.

Sincerely,

Andrea Casals and Allison Ramay