Interzone

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Chad Barbour and Bess Fox
Latin America, Globalization, Sexuality, and the City
disClosure interviews Patrick O’Connor
(31 March 2001)

Patrick O’Connor is Assistant Professor of Spanish at the University of Chicago. He has written a number of articles and book chapters on twentieth-century Latin American novels, Latin American film, and U.S. and Latin American popular culture. His current manuscript, provisionally titled Paper Dolls and Spider Women: Latin American Fiction and the Narratives of the Perverse, is a queer theory study of mid-twentieth century Latin American novels. Most of his current research focuses on films about and fiction from Buenos Aires, the metropolitan areas of Mexico City, Havana before the Revolution, and Paris after it. O’Connor has also written on aesthetics and politics in the works of Walter Benjamin and Julio Cortázar.

In Spring 2001, O’Connor was invited to participate in the thirteenth annual Committee on Social Theory Distinguished Speaker Series entitled “Metropolis” at the University of Kentucky. His talk, “The Backstage of Postmodernity,” explored representations of Latin American cities in late twentieth century U.S. and European fiction and film, and drew connections between narratives of heterosexual desire and the stylizing of Latin American history and culture.

Our interview with O’Connor opens with a discussion of the relationships between scholars who study cities and the specific cities that are their objects of interest. From there, our conversation turns to focus on other dynamics that inform theoretical