

McHugh, Michael, “In Search of Postmodernism in the New Costa Rican Novel: A Literary Analysis of Eduardo Estevanovich’s *El águila no caza moscas*, Jessica Clark’s *Diagonal*, and José Ricardo Chavéz’s *Faustófeles*.” Advisor: Mario Morera. Grinnell College. 2010. 37pp.

Costa Rican literature has moved through numerous stylistic periods since its inception in the mid-19th century. From Eurocentric texts of the early 20th century to novels documenting the social revolution of 1948, each literary current has shadowed the history of the country and its rich cultural evolution. Identifying Costa Rica’s current writing period then, may not only shed light on new styles and techniques but also identify the country’s current moment in history. And with the rise of postmodernism and its near ubiquitous disciplinary influence, this moment may very well be the end of modernism and the start of the postmodern condition. In reflecting this school’s thinking, postmodern novels challenge universal truths and question the existence of objective knowledge writ large – this while also resurrecting formerly marginalized voices in addition to documenting the dramatic influence of globalization on formerly independent cultures. This paper sets out to find these characteristics and others reflected in the new Costa Rican novels of authors Eduardo Estevanovich, Jessica Clark, and José Ricardo Chavéz. Each of their works, written within the last five years, represents a small but diverse sample of the literature coming out of the country today. In turn, a literary analysis of their work, one in search of the postmodern as reflected in their writing style, narrative, or even choice of genre, reflects on the larger literary movement of Costa Rica in the present moment and helps explain the ongoing evolution of the country’s unique writers and writing. Moreover, it helps explain the country’s current historical moment and the cultural and political challenges it faces in the future, if not at this very moment.