

Literary Responses to Economic Crisis: the Case of Argentina

(A Talk by Washington Cucurto)

Washington Cucurto (pseudonym for Santiago Vega) is an Argentinean writer of fiction, prose and poetry, and the founder of “Eloísa Cartonera.” He is the self-proclaimed creator of *realismo atolondrado* ('harebrained realism') whose writing shares tendencies of American authors such as Charles Bukowski, William Burroughs, and Henry Miller. His work deals with negritude,

poverty,
homosexuality,
and other forms
of social
marginalization.
Because of his
subject matter
and style, he is a
cult author,
especially among
young readers.



He will be speaking, among other things, on what he calls “trash literature”: forms of literary production that come from the margins and are disseminated outside the circuitry of traditional culture (ranging from internet venues to “underground” pamphlets and fanzines). **Commentary by Professor Alicia Borinsky, Department of Romance Studies, Boston University.**

Presentation in Spanish

Monday Nov 4th 5:00 pm

College of Arts and Sciences, Room 200
725 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

 **Santander**
UNIVERSITIES

Sponsored by Voces Hispánicas/Hispanic Voices (an initiative of the Department of Romance Studies at Boston University, underwritten by Santander Universities Global Division). Santander Universities Global Division, whose activities form the keystone of the bank's social action, maintains a stable alliance with more than 970 universities in the Americas, Asia, and Europe. For more information please visit www.santander.com/universities.

The Birth of “Eloísa Cartonera”

(A Talk and Presentation by María Gómez)

It all began with the crisis of 2001. Like many participants in the movements and collectives born from these chaotic times, Washington Cucurto, María Gómez, and others organized into a “cooperativa de trabajo” (“work cooperative”) named “Eloísa Cartonera” and started producing and selling books—colorful handmade books of Latin American literature with cardboard bought from the *cartoneros* (urban used cardboard gatherers) at five times the usual market price. *Cartoneros* themselves also participated in the book-making process, becoming artisan workers who painted and assembled the book covers. The prices of the books are very low (no more than \$3 dollars) and the money collected is evenly distributed among all the members.



“Eloísa Cartonera” has changed the logic of publishing, as authors donate their works expecting no remuneration. The project is widely supported mostly because of its orientation toward social justice, and a decade after its creation “Eloísa Cartonera” has grown into a famous publishing house. Fifty other *cartoneras* have arisen in countries such as Uruguay, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Mexico, Spain, Portugal, and Mozambique.

Presentation in Spanish

Tuesday Nov. 5th, 5:00 pm

College of Arts and Sciences, Room 200

725 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston



Sponsored by Voces Hispánicas/Hispanic Voices (an initiative of the Department of Romance Studies at Boston University, underwritten by Santander Universities Global Division). Santander Universities Global Division, whose activities form the keystone of the bank’s social action, maintains a stable alliance with more than 970 universities in the Americas, Asia, and Europe. For more information please visit www.santander.com/universities.