

DOSSIER

Islands: Insular Literature

Hernán Díaz, editor

Islands can be considered as the confluence of the literal and rhetoric dimension of isolation. It is thanks to insular narratives (from Homer to Reinaldo Arenas, through Christopher Columbus, Daniel Defoe or Jules Verne) that they cease being mere geographic accidents and become spaces containing an extensive series of figures. Thus, islands are literal metaphors of seclusion and retraction, but also of forms of hyperconnectivity and lines of flight. They can be continental synecdoches or myths of an untranslatable origin. In some cases, they appear as penal spaces, in others, as utopian redemptions. Some islands have a nostalgic relationship with the past (isolated not only in space, but also in time), while others offer a view of the future (as when, for instance, their isolation turns them into testing sites). But beyond these tensions, the island is always a figure of resistance: its shore fights both the sameness of the surrounding elements and the constant threat of continental appropriation. In a strict sense (or, yet again, literally), islands are insubordinate and insurgent. These are just a few initial points to start considering islands as a literary space.

For its dossier on islands, *La Habana Elegante* is accepting submissions (both in English and in Spanish) that expand on these issues or present other problems specific to insular literature. There is no historic, geographic or linguistic restriction regarding the corpus.

La Habana Elegante is registered with the MLA as a peer-reviewed journal, and all essays will be evaluated by at least two external readers. Papers should not exceed 12,000 words (including notes) and have to follow the MLA format. In [Guidelines for Submission of Articles and Dossiers](#) you will find the necessary information about style requirements, length, etc.. Submissions may be emailed (as attachments in word documents) to

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The deadline for submissions is December 10, 2009.

