

**The Jamie Bishop Memorial Award 2011** for an essay on the fantastic written in a language other than English.

Alejo Steimberg

“The Future Sealed Off: The Chronotope of Isolation in Argentine Science Fiction After 2001” [El futuro obturado: el cronotopo aislado en la ciencia ficción argentina pos-2001]

The essay examines post-apocalyptic literature written after Argentina’s financial crisis of 2001, contrasting these works to those written in pre-crisis Argentina. In the latter, written during the period of neoliberalism that led to the crash, representations of post-apocalyptic Argentina were predominantly dystopic and focused on the socioeconomic causes of whatever disaster was being portrayed. The former, however, display a post-apocalyptic future cut off from the past and the world as we know it, yet scattered with remains that identify the place as Argentina. Steimberg examines the novels *Plop* (2004) by Rafael Pinedo and *Donde yo no estaba* (2006) by Marcelo Cohen, and the graphic novel *El cuervo que sabía* (2008-2009). He posits that it is as if the fall of the neo-liberal model of society blocked any possibility of speculation about the future, as if the future could only be imagined by cutting it off (at least in the chronological dimension) from the context of production, thus creating a symbolic « eternal present ».

This award-winning essay will appear soon in a special issue of *Revista Iberoamericana* dedicated to Latin American Science Fiction.