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## Front matter, vol. 14, issue 1

### Abstract

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**Special Issue on  
Fin de Siècle in Latin America**

**Guest Editor  
Jean Franco**

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**César Vallejo and the Stones of Darwinian Risk**  
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*Abstract.* César Vallejo's short story, "Los caynas" (1923), relates a tale of species mutation, of men who become apes. The story, however, is something more than the reflection of the positivist interpretation of Darwinian theory. It can be read as a critique of Positivism's pseudo-scientific ideals or as a version of the Oedipal drama in which the son encounters and rejects his ape father. The ambivalence raises the question of whether Vallejo's Darwinism is to be read literally or ironically as well, as marking an antinomy present throughout his writing between the human subject's immersion in the species and the possibility of a collective human-transformation. (CvB)

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*Abstract.* Pastiche, defined as non-satiric imitation, is a characteristic feature of contemporary Latin American narrative. Although unlike parody it does not stand in antagonist relationship with a prior text, nevertheless pastiche marks a distance and a displacement of other texts. The article illustrates this with reference to Mario Vargas Llosa's pastiche of Machiguenga indigenous legends in his novel *El hablador* and Silviano Santiago's pastiche of Graciliano Ramos's prison memories in his novel, *Em Liberdade*. (JF)

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