

## Quests for a Change of Territories: Forms of Dystopia and Transfiction in *La autopista: the movie*, by Jorge Enrique Lage<sup>1</sup>

Nanne Timmer<sup>2</sup>

The Cuban literary tradition is closely linked to the idea of a “national literature,” reducing narrative to a specific axis of space and time. The authors of the so-called *Generación Zero* (Generation Zero) experiment with the elements of this “national literature,” or, Literature-Nation (Aguilera 2002), and de-territorialize narrative while working with its tropes. Departing from the idea of ‘transfiction’ (Aguilera 2015) and the idea that utopia is not only referring to a time and space, but also to a genre, I will analyse the novel *La autopista: the movie* (2015), by Jorge Enrique Lage from that perspective. The novel stretches the binary between utopic and dystopic fiction articulating an ambiguous future that the present article explores through the narrative possibilities of the (trans)generic, (trans)spatial, and (trans)temporal. While easy to conceive of this novel as dystopic, futuristic, and apocalyptic text, it rejects the limits of space, time, and the dystopic genre. The article thus invites a re-thinking of the role of literature in the Cuban tradition as merely representative of territory or nation. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: [journal@transformativestudies.org](mailto:journal@transformativestudies.org) Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2023 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

**KEYWORDS:** Dystopia, Generation Zero, Transfiction, Jorge Enrique Lage, Apocalyptic Fiction, Postnational Narrative.

---

<sup>1</sup> This article is an adaptation and translation of a part of an earlier published book chapter in Timmer, Nanne. *El presente incómodo. subjetividad en crisis y novelas cubanas después del muro*. Buenos Aires: Corregidor, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> **Nanne Timmer**, Leiden University, Netherlands. Her most recent publications are the monograph *El presente incómodo. Subjetividades en crisis y novelas cubanas después del muro* (2021), collective essay-books *Cuerpos ilegales: poder y escritura en América Latina* (2018) y *Ciudad y escritura: imaginario de la ciudad latinoamericana a las puertas del siglo XXI* (2013) and numerous articles in prestigious academic journals. She works on fields like contemporary Latin American, Caribbean and Cuban literature, especially on topics like interculturality, arts and (bio)politics and gender. She also authored numerous anthologies and translations, like the poetry of Gerard Fieret: *Los hombrecitos Hasselblad* (2019) and *La Isla de Cuba. Twaalf Verhalen en een Revolutie* (2016). As a poet, she publishes the poetry work *Logopedia* (2012) and *Doble papagayo* (2022). Address correspondence to: Nanne Timmer; e-mail: [N.Timmer@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:N.Timmer@hum.leidenuniv.nl).