

The Cuban self and the Eastern Bloc: Insights to the socialist countries in the Cuban autobiographical narratives [El yo cubano y el bloque del este: Percepciones de los países socialistas europeos en los relatos autobiográficos cubanos]

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Cuban autobiographical literature after 1959 has left personal testimonies of the major milestones in revolutionary cultural politics. Numerous intellectuals joined the process that started in the Island right after Fidel Castro's victory. Cultural travels to the European Eastern countries, and the performing of diplomatic, administrative, journalistic, or cultural duties were a constant in the relationship between government and intelligentsia, particularly in the 1960's decade. The socialist political sphere of Eastern Europe opened a horizon of connection and exploration with a stimulating Cuban utopia that wanted to taste these countries' reality and be made known in them. These experiences have been widely narrated by Cuban autobiographers such as Nicolás Guillén, Heberto Padilla, Lisandro Otero, Manuel Díaz Martínez, and Graziella Pogolotti. From a transnational perspective, this article highlights the similarities between these biographical works and focuses on the memoir approach that offers a portrait of these socialist countries. © 2017 Universidade Estadual Paulista. All rights reserved.

Autobiography

Cuba

Cuban literature

Eastern Europe

Intellectuals

Socialist realism

Transnacionalism