Melodrama, sex, and nation in Latin America's 'Fin de Siglo.' (The Places of History: Regionalism Revisited in Latin America)

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Main content

Abstract:

The yellow press and the common gossip ruled the South American narrative at the end of the 19th century. The desire to publicly expose private lives were actually symptoms of the anxieties and psycho-sexual repressions felt by the society itself. Since gossip thrives on sensationalism, the way it was expressed in the South American narrative was melodramatic. This social malady also found its expression in fiction, the most common subjects of which were sexual depravity, perversion, and crime.

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