

## **Heirs of Atlantic Paths: Afro Dialogues in Spanish and the Building of the Modern World**

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Literature is a means to illustrate the historical destiny of the society it intends to characterize, whether on a more restricted level, like the nation, or on a more global one. On this level we can locate the Spanish speaking Atlantic world built due to the colonization. Certainly, the current world order reflects the heritage of the building of the modern colonial system. The creation of colonial America and Africa is the result of a crossroads of trajectories, histories and narratives that express the explorations of the land and the exploitations of the people. Hierarchies were established on such a system – race, class or gender, among others, were interconnected to build this world and are mirrored on current discursive expressions. The aim of this text is to analyze the means by which the world order is conceived on literary works in Spanish language that reflect the crossroads of such constructions on the American and on the African side of the Atlantic. Combining the literary, the cultural, the social and the symbolic, this proposal will lean on the content analysis of the novels *Los Nietos de Felicidad Dolores*, by the Afro-Panamanian writer Cubena, and *Arde el Monte de Noche*, by the Equatoguinean writer Juan Tomás Ávila Laurel. The significance of the local enunciation of these individual speeches will be highlighted, since they are the expression of the creation of spaces. We will also take on account the analysis of the conceptualization of the several manifestations of imagetical themes of the current world. Among these themes we can find the construction of racial and ethnic relations, the expressions of identity conflicts or the significance of the concept of power in a heterarchical system, linked to contexts of taking off and abandonment of lives that appear on historical (Cubena's novel) and memorial (Ávila Laurel's novel) discourses. Through these discourses we can read the creation of an Afro-hispanic culture accomplished by the rescue of localized patrimonies. So these two novels, in their dialogue, offer us an opportunity to reflect on the building of the modern colonial world and its subjects and on the expression of collected memories, as well as on the means of deconstruction and relativization of the western enunciations of universality and of the maintenance of hierarchical structures.