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**Después de diez años.  
Palabras preliminares sobre el 10<sup>mo</sup> aniversario de la  
revista *A Contracorriente***

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Ten years ago I was on the UNC Chapel Hill campus having a coffee with Billy Acree —then a doctoral student there and now an Assistant Professor at Washington University— and talking about the field and the pressing need to establish strong ties between Latin American literary studies and social history and move away from Poststructuralism’s and Postmodernism’s vexing influence. I mentioned that it would be great to start a journal that would be somewhat in the vein of *Revista de crítica literaria latinoamericana* and *Nuevo texto crítico*, and Billy, who had considerable knowledge about digital media, responded that we could create a referred, on-line journal. Once Billy had designed the logo and set up the technological side of things —once we had a site on the internet— I reached out to several scholars whose work I respected and requested articles from them. They were: Stuart Day, Misha Kokotovic (now Associate

Editor of the journal), Sophia McClennen (also an Associate Editor of the journal), Gastón Lillo, Jaime Concha and, of course, Billy Acree. That first issue was a very short one that my colleague at NC State Héctor Jaimes helped edit and prepare, and that was how *A Contracorriente* was founded in the fall of 2003. By the spring, in 2004, I had decided that we should be a journal dedicated to Latin American studies, which remains our focus today. We still try to foster debate and discussion by publishing articles, debate pieces, notes, interviews and reviews from a left-wing point of view by scholars in history, political science, sociology, anthropology, cultural criticism, and sometimes economics. With over 250,000 hits now, *A Contracorriente* has become an established journal in the field of Latin American studies and it includes contributors from Latin America, Australia, Europe, Canada, and the United States. There are now more than a thousand people associated with the journal. Thanks to Samuel Sotillo, the journal's Production Editor, we now operate with Open Journal Systems.

Thanks also to Samuel, Carlos Aguirre and Ana Peluffo, in 2010, and after a lot of consultation with lawyers and administrators here on the NC State campus, we were able to launch a companion press, *Editorial A Contracorriente*. We publish books on demand with Lulu.com —which is located just down the street from our campus in Raleigh, but has a presence in 80 countries. To date we've published four books and two more will be published this fall (2013). I'd like to highlight those publications. They are: Alejandro Solomianski's *Otras voces. Nuevas identidades en la frontera sur de California (Testimonios)* [*Other Voices. New Identities in Southern California (Testimonies)*], Ana Peluffo's *Pensar el siglo XIX desde el siglo XXI* [Thinking about the 19<sup>th</sup> Century from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century], Andrea Matallana's *El tango entre dos Américas. La representación del tango en Estados Unidos, 1910-1939* [The Tango between the Americas: the Representation of the Tango in the United States, 1910-1939], as well as Carlos Aguirre's forthcoming *Militantes, intelectuales y revolucionarios. Ensayos sobre marxismo e historia en América Latina* [Militants, Intellectuals and Revolutionaries. Essays on Marxism and History in Latin

America] and Brantley Nicholson and Sophia McClennen's forthcoming *The Generation of '72: The Forced Global Citizens of Latin America*.

To commemorate the journal's tenth anniversary as an academic journal dedicated to Latin American studies we are having a virtual symposium in which scholars associated with the journal in the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe, and Latin America will participate. The Symposium will be held from October 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>. The plenary speakers, Carlos Aguirre (University of Oregon) and John Beverley (University of Pittsburgh) as well as faculty members from NCSU and UNC—Chapel Hill will be on the North Carolina State University campus during the event. The rest of the participants will be on seven virtual panels with distinguished and cutting-edge scholars in the field working in Chile, Argentina and the United States. Although the fall issue we are publishing now is technically the tenth anniversary issue, we won't be actually commemorating the event until we publish a selection of the Symposium's papers and keynote addresses in the winter 2014 issue.

Finally, I would like to go over my thank you list. I begin with Ruth Gross, our Department Head in the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures here at North Carolina State University, who has given the journal and the press her unflagging financial and moral support from the very beginning. She allowed us to bring authors Alejandro Solomianski (from California State University in Los Angeles) and Ana Peluffo (from the University of California in Davis) to campus to present and publicize their books last year, and Ruth also provided much of the financial support for this event. I am very grateful for all of this. My thanks also go out to Samuel Sotillo, our Production Editor for the journal and the press, without whom none of this would have been possible. It has been a real joy working side by side with him over the last three years sharing what seemed to be our quixotic dreams but managing somehow to make them real. I would also like to thank a series of colleagues and friends who have been involved in the journal one way or another over the last decade. I'd like to begin with the associate editors, whose company I enjoy so much: Alejandro Solomianski, Misha Kokotovic, Ana Peluffo, Sophia McClennen, Carlos Aguirre and Erin O'Connor. And I would also like to thank Billy Acree,

Héctor Jaimes, Brian Gollnick, Chris Conway, and Tyler Oakley, who were involved at various times working for the journal. Lastly, I am grateful for the support and volunteer work of Héctor Rendón, who helped us with the preparations for the symposium and is a copy editor for the press, colleagues Shelley Garrigan, Diana Arbaiza, Ana Gray, Irwin Stern, Louise Dolan, Jordi Marí, John Mertz, Agustín Pastén and graduate students Sheila Casalett, Vanessa Pietras and Dani Smith.

Thank you very much!