

**LITERATURES OF  
THE WORLD AND  
THE FUTURE OF  
COMPARATIVE  
LITERATURE**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 22ND  
CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE  
ASSOCIATION**

*Edited by*  
**Péter Hajdu and Xiaohong Zhang**

# Literatures of the World and the Future of Comparative Literature

# Textxet

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# Literatures of the World and the Future of Comparative Literature

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Comparative Literature Association*

*Edited by*

Péter Hajdu  
Xiaohong Zhang

*With the help of*

Ning Wang – Lucia Boldrini – Mingying Zhou  
Xueyi Li – Yizhong Ning – Jeroen van de Weijer – Zaixi Tan  
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# *Germinal* and *Minas de San Francisco*: Journey(s) of “Disquiet” to the Mine and the Human in Émile Zola and Fernando Namora

*Odete Jubilado*

## Abstract

This article is a comparative study based on two journeys of disquiet to the depths of the mine and of the human, based on the analysis of *Germinal* (1885) by Émile Zola (1840–1902) and of *The Mines of San Francisco* (1946) by Fernando Namora (1919–1989). These journeys of disquiet manifest themselves through the topography of the mine and through its ideological implications to the human as a member of a community. The two novels thus speak out to the harmful consequences caused by the euphoria of the wolfram mining in the landscape as well as in humans while denouncing the oppression and alienation in society of the most disadvantaged. Zola and Namora thus direct the reader to a reflection on the human condition through a depiction of the landscapes, the human and the society they belong to. Zola and Namora present in their novels a vision of the world based on class struggle. Whereas in Namora this awareness of class struggle is affiliated with the mission and ideology of the Neo-realist group, which pursues a transforming action where Man is the enabler of change by becoming the subject of History, contrary to what has happened in Realism *tout court*, in Naturalism or in Realism-Naturalism Man was merely an object of History. In Zola, *Germinal* refracts the bourgeois ideology of the late 19th century.

## Keywords

Comparative Literature – journey – disquiet – human – mines – ideology

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“I live disquietly, I write of disquiet, I don’t want conformed, passive, resigned readers,” said José Saramago ... “Never before has society needed disquiet human beings so much, capable of showing their