

1968: A Global Perspective

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Andrew Ascherl <aascherl@unm.edu>
SUNY-Buffalo/University of New Mexico

Insurgent Investigations: Paco Ignacio Taibo II and the Events of 1968

The Mexican student popular movement is generally considered to have ended quite decisively with the massacre of hundreds of participants and bystanders at the Plaza de las Tres Culturas in Mexico City on 2 October 1968. However, one can also argue that the emancipatory potential of the *movimiento estudiantil* has been sustained over the past four decades through the various literary and artistic responses to the brutal repression of the students. These interventions demonstrate a subjective fidelity to the movement as a political event that fundamentally ruptured the state of Mexican society — an event that, without such critical reflections, runs the risk of vanishing forever. Several works by Mexican author and *sesentayochero* Paco Ignacio Taibo II are exemplary in this regard. Of particular note are the novel *Heroes convocados* and the Héctor Belascoarán Shayne detective series. Following Alain Badiou's conceptualization of politics as an immanent procedure of subjectivation in which the common activity of thought is politics as such, this paper will discuss the metapolitical fidelity to the event of 1968 these novels exhibit and show that such interventions are absolutely necessary to give form to the subjectivity that emerges from political events and sustain the truths they bear.