

1968: A Global Perspective

<http://www.1968conf.org>

Katerina Seligmann <katerina.seligmann@gmail.com>
The University of Texas at Austin

Singing out of Tune: The Padilla Affair in Cuba, 1968-1971

In 1968, Heberto Padilla was controversially awarded the Cuban National Poetry Prize for his book of poems, *Fuera de juego* (*Out of the Game*), but he was not allowed to keep the award that came with the prize. In 1971, Padilla was arrested and imprisoned as a subversive. Padilla's imprisonment, internationally known as the "Padilla Affair" caused an outcry among European and Latin American writers who had previously wholeheartedly supported the Cuban Revolution. My analysis of the Padilla Affair will include a study of Padilla's *Fuera de juego* as a historical event which collided with the Prague Spring to erupt a dramatic shift in Cuban domestic policy towards cultural production and waning support for the Cuban Revolution among writers internationally.