The Gothic is nowadays considered one of the defining (indeed, dominant) narrative modes of the modern era. Born out of the anxieties and dilemmas of the advent of Western European (more specifically, English) modernity, it has since become a truly global mode, in all genres, in all media permeating (or polluting) political discourse in topics such as immigration, security, racial relations, and the environment. Indeed, we live in Gothic times.

In Dabove’s presentation, he will explore a parcel of that vast territory: postcolonial Argentina. First, he will explore the seemingly baffling fact that, while there has never been, until quite recently, a Gothic literature that identifies itself as such, there has always been a “Gothic Strain” in Argentine culture, from the founding fathers of the Argentine nation (e.g. Domingo Faustino Sarmiento), to the present. Secondly, he will present a case study: that of Fever Dream (Distancia de rescate, 2014), as an example of how and why the Gothic is practiced today in Argentina, and what that means in terms of the definition of contemporary Argentine culture.

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