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## Travelling Through Disenchantment: An Analysis of Journeys in the Southern Seas

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Oral Presentation O1.3

**TRAVELLING THROUGH DISENCHANTMENT: AN ANALYSIS OF  
JOURNEYS IN THE SOUTHERN SEAS**

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Detective fiction, as a form of popular literature, is a particularly insightful genre for examining the changes in society and culture after dictatorship regimes. As popular fiction with fewer canonical guidelines, members of all social classes read it, which suggests that it may reflect the sentiments of a greater population. According to conventions of detective literature, the protagonist detective takes a series of journeys in search of clues. These journeys are literal, but also reflect Spain's metaphorical journey away from the confining dictatorship to new freedoms. However, these journeys, despite the expected optimism, ultimately reflect the disenchantment and struggle of the transition years. In my research, I examine the journeys and alluded attempted escapes taken by the characters in the novel *The Southern Seas* (*Los mares del sur*) by Manuel Vázquez Montalbán. Through my work, I explain the way this novel reflects the historical memory of this era through travel-metaphorical and literal.