The year 2020 marks the one-hundredth anniversary of Alberto Blest Gana’s death. The prolific writer, who lived to the age of ninety, is arguably the most important author of Chile’s nineteenth century, noted especially for his ability to capture the pulse of the emerging Chilean nation. He lived half of his life in Chile and half in France; he is buried at Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. Although he left his native country, Chile and Chileans (and Latin America) were the centerpiece of his work.

This special issue proposes to reacquaint readers with Blest Gana. It intertwines and examines his literary output through the lenses of cultural studies, cultural history, film studies, gender studies, spatial studies, and more. In my particular case, as Guest Editor, I connect his work with the 2019 political protests that engulfed Chile by arguing that the roots of this contemporary upheaval can be traced to seminal events in the nineteenth century which are depicted in Blest Gana’s narrative. One example is the Motín de Urriola (1851), where individuals took to the streets to protest Chile’s status quo.

Essays could address a rich variety of topics found in Blest Gana and his oeuvre, such as:

- Nation building.
- The Space of Santiago, Chile.
- The urban and the rural in Chile.
- The Space of Paris.
- Films / TV Adaptations of the author’s novels.
- Chile, politics in the nineteenth century and today.
- Poverty, Wealth.
- Illness, Suicide, Death.
- Diplomatic life and Writing life.
- (This is not an exhaustive list)

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

- Deadline for extended abstracts: 15 June, 2020
- Notification of acceptance to authors: 1 July 2020
- Deadline for full articles: 1 October 2020

Please send an extended abstract (maximum 1,500 words) by 15 June 2020 to the Guest Editor, Dr. Patricia Vilches (pvilches@harlaxton.ac.uk)

Submitted abstracts should be in English. The guest editor will evaluate abstracts and will inform authors of acceptance or rejection.

Full papers should be submitted by 1st October, 2020.

Authors are kindly invited to register at our paper processing system at: https://www.editorialmanager.com/culture/default.aspx and submit their contribution.

Every manuscript should be clearly marked as intended for this special issue. All papers will go through the Open Cultural Studies’ high standards, quick, fair and comprehensive peer-review procedure. Instructions for authors are available here.

In case of any questions, please contact Guest Editor (pvilches@harlaxton.ac.uk) or Managing Editor (katarzyna.grzegorek@degruyter.com).

As an author of Open Cultural Studies you will benefit from:

- transparent, comprehensive and fast peer review managed by our esteemed Guest Editor;
- efficient route to fast-track publication and full advantage of De Gruyter e-technology;
- free language assistance for authors from non-English speaking regions.