Conference & Event Support Grant
Iona Macintyre, University of Edinburgh

'Conversation with Andrés Neuman'
University of Edinburgh, Friday 23 March 2012

This event followed two talks by Argentine writers at Edinburgh: novelist Guillermo Martínez in 2010 and poet Cristian Aliaga in 2011.

Andrés Neuman was born in 1977 in Buenos Aires. He has a degree in Spanish philology from the University of Granada, where he worked as a teacher of Latin American literature. Neuman received the Hiperión Prize for Poetry in 2002. In 2010 he was selected as one of Granta's Best of Young Spanish-Language Novelists and was included, through a vote called by the Hay Festival, on the Bogota-39 list. He has published novels, short stories, essays, aphorisms, and several books of poems. Translated into ten languages, *Traveller of the Century* was the winner of the Alfaguara Prize and the National Critics Prize, Spain's two most prestigious literary awards.

The format of the event at Edinburgh was a public interview and questions from the audience lasting one hour and a quarter, followed by a short reading by the author. Topics included the attractions of nineteenth-century culture (from *Dracula* to Schubert), historical research for the novel, Latin American literature (Borges and Bolaño in particular), Neuman's creation of a European fictional community a la Comola and Macondo, prose stylistics, the translation process, and men writing women.

The talk was attended by an audience of upwards of twenty five people comprising staff and students from the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, Latin American postgraduates from diverse disciplines at Edinburgh, postgraduates from programmes in Creative Writing and Translation Studies, members of CLARE (Caribbean and Latin American Research at Edinburgh), and members of the general public, including professional translators. We are very grateful to Andrés Neuman for making the event so convivial and to SLAS (the Society for Latin American Studies) for making it possible.