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Farewell to Magna Opera—The Fiction of Academic Fiction

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Abstract

Since the 1950s, that is, the publication of the iconic Lucky Jim, for a few decades a handful of British writers produced similarly acclaimed novels pertaining to the world of academia, to mention, almost obligatory, David Lodge and Malcolm Bradbury. In 1997, in an article titled “The Decline of the Campus Novel,” Adam Begley views the academic novel as having reached an artistic dead-end. This article examines recently published academic novels in the context of Begley’s claim.

Keywords: *novel, campus fiction, Tim Parks, P. J. Vanston*