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***TRAUMA, MADNESS AND COMING OF AGE
IN LINDA HOGAN'S SOLAR STORMS***

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Abstract: *Linda Hogan's poetry, fiction and non-fiction have increasingly been linked to eco-criticism, eco-feminism, and environmental justice especially with the publication of her second and third novels, Solar Storms and Power. Yet, it is in Solar Storms that the author explicitly links the theme of the deracination of a brutally abused mother who in turn abuses and projects her self-hatred on her daughter, with a ruthlessly exploited and depleted landscape that consumes and devours all forms of life which it is supposed to nourish.*

In this paper I will examine the complex narrative structure employed by Linda Hogan in her examination of interior and exterior landscapes as they bear directly upon the discourse of madness, trauma and healing in the female protagonist's physical, spiritual and political journey to selfhood. I will argue that Hogan's narrative strategy subverts western trauma theories which posit a linear construction of trauma where the latter is defined as belated temporality, accessible through evocation of repressed memory. Conversely, Linda Hogan's achronological narrative highlights sensations to which we have no access, because trauma disrupts the "I", and hence chronology. The approach the adolescent character uses to cure herself of self-loathing and self-hatred, passed down by her incurably insane mother, defies the bildungsroman requirement for self-isolation for the creation of an autonomous subject in favor of a self-in-relation model conceived in spatial rather than temporal terms, where Angel, the heroine is "no longer empty space."