Transnational Latina Narratives in the Twenty-first Century: The Politics of Gender, Race and Migrations. Juanita Heredia. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009. h/bk 192 pp. ISBN978-0-230-61737-7. Price £57.00.

In *Transnational Latina Narratives in the Twenty-first Century*, Juanita Heredia, Associate Professor of Spanish at Northern Arizona University, explores the intersection of gender, race and migrations in view of the influence that different contexts might have in shaping the US/ Latina experience. By analyzing the novels and the memoirs of five contemporary Latina women writers of Dominican, Mexican, Peruvian and Porto Rican heritage who live and write in the States, Heredia points out the translocal and connecting character of their stories. She stresses their importance to the making and sharing of diverse Latina narratives in Central and South America as well as in the the US.

Drawing parallelisms and exploring the heterogeneity within what is usually perceived as an homogenous experience, the author stresses the necessity of taking into account the influence that social and historical variables, such as race, class, nationality, gender, age, patterns, and time or place of migration might have in shaping and giving meaning to Latina and Latino identities. Heredia openly advocates a comparative and interdisciplinary approach to the study of post-2000 US/ Latina narratives. The author also states the necessity of re-organizing Latin and Latin American curricula according to thematic rather than area focuses. In this respect her work can be considered to be the outcome of the author's reflections on the need to establish a new way of doing US/ Latino, American and Latin American studies, combining ethnic, cultural, critical and feminist studies, literary criticism and comparative literature.

On the other hand, within this volume the author also participates in a broader dialogue about art and society that should interest scholars engaged in cognitive, literary and cultural studies. How can art create social knowledge? And what is the influence that art — and more specifically literature — might have on the way people give meaning to themselves, to the world and to others? Novels and memoirs, Heredia, explains, are very relevant resources for understanding society. Cultural artifacts shape people's imagination and therefore their understanding of themselves as well as of others. As transnational authors, Marie Arana,

Denise Chavez, Sandra Cisneros, Angie Cruz and Marta Moreno Vega "create bridges" between the US and different Latin American countries, cultures, social groups and histories. Most importantly, these transnational writers through their work also give voice to the voiceless by "presenting] alternative histories [that] contest the hegemonic power of official history" (4) through which it has been constructed and shared only a partial picture of U.S. Latinas.

By putting side by side the narratives of female writers coming from an apparently homogeneous background, the final aim of Heredia is to re-discuss and problematize the whole US/ Latina experience. While it is certainly possible to observe points of convergence, what emerges from this book is that there are multiple stories about US/ Latinas; stories that cross the boundaries of nations as well as those of hegemonic representations. It is only through recognizing and analyzing these stories that it is finally possible to reach a better understanding of today's American society.

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