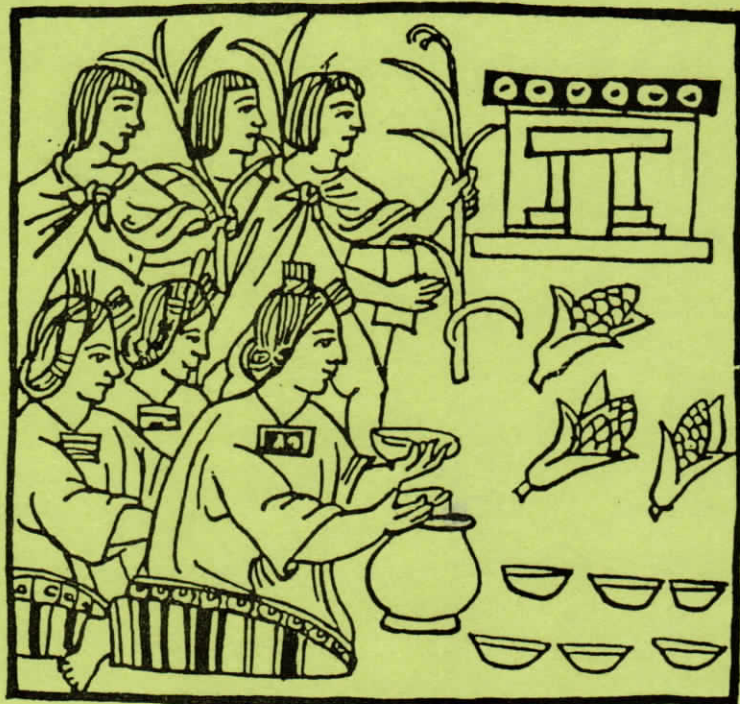


FEMINISTAS UNIDAS

A COALITION OF FEMINIST SCHOLARS IN
SPANISH, SPANISH-AMERICAN, LUSO-BRAZILIAN,
AFRO-LATIN AMERICAN, AND U.S. HISPANIC STUDIES

VOL. 10, NO. 1

APRIL, 1990



FEMINISTAS UNIDAS

VOLUME 10, NO. 1

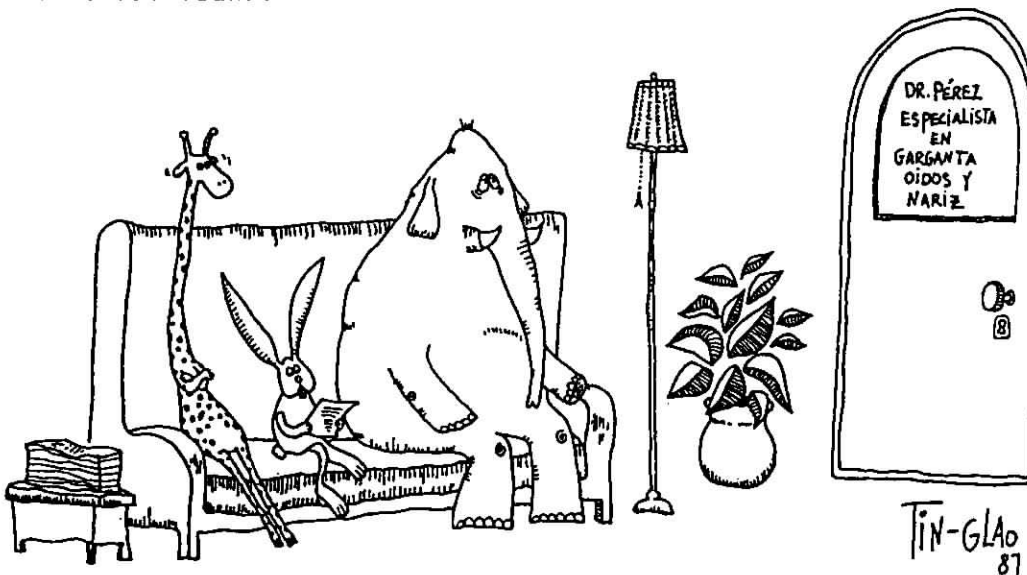
APRIL 1990

Queridas compañeras:

Well, spring did "spring" into the Midwest rather late this year weather-wise, but *that's* not the reason that your newsletter is late as well! Your editor, back at her teaching duties for about a month already (after December's surgery and subsequent recuperation), managed to "spring" her new hip joint right out of its socket; just call me the "acrobatic professor"! The result: an encore hospital appearance, additional imposed rest and restrictions, etc. The irony is that I was in the midst of a Spanish lesson on medicine and medical terms, and the students thought I was about to TPR the verb "desmayarse" (to faint). You should have seen their panicked, paranoid looks when I did make it back to the classroom (just 2 weeks short of finals)-"don't move," they said, "we'll come up and get our papers," etc. Well, never let it be said I don't have a lively classroom!

ANNUAL MEETING MLA '89 (WASHINGTON, D.C.)

The Feministas Unidas-sponsored sessions in Washington went well and were well-attended. Some of the discussions which ensued have filtered back to Indiana, so it is apparent that they were enjoyable and profitable. It is the editor's understanding that the Feministas' reception, held at the Highland Hotel, was an occasion filled with sisterly conversation and merriment, as well as food and drink.



Annual Meeting MLA '90 (continued)

Annual Business Meeting

Minutes of Feministas Unidas Business Meeting, Friday, Dec. 29, 1989 at the MLA in Washington, D.C. Meeting called to order at 5:20 by President, Elizabeth Starcevic

- 1) It was announced that the Newsletter editor-secretary, Linda Fox, was unable to attend the meeting because she has been hospitalized. The members decided to send Linda flowers to express their get-well wishes.
- 2) It was announced that the Delegate Assembly of MLA voted for option 1 of the proposed solutions for reorganization of the Allied Organizations. Thus, we will continue to have 2 sponsored sessions at MLA, one of which will be on either the first or last day of the convention, depending whether the meeting is held in the east, west, or in a central state.
- 3) Since there were practically no ballots returned in the 1989 April balloting for President, and since it was a no-contest, the members elected to call for nominations for a full slate of candidates. There will be a ballot printed in the 1990 April Newsletter with the names of those nominated (along w/ a brief statement), and the two members who receive the most votes will become President and Vice-President with terms to begin June 1, 1990.
- 4) There was discussion of the revised by-laws (printed in the 1989 April Newsletter). The members decided we should approve them by mail in January.
- 5) There was a good deal of discussion as to whether we should continue the Roundtable on pedagogy at MLA. The vote was narrowly in favor, but we agreed that the Roundtable should be modified so that we take something practical away from it. Members decided we would hold a series of workshops in which facilitators lead small groups on specific topics related to "a political pedagogy." Stacey Schlau has volunteered to coordinate these workshops., and Linda Fox will be asked if she wishes to co-chair it.
- 6) A session devoted to a woman writer ("Reading X with X") was proposed as the second session, but members felt that this could run as a special session or under another sponsorship. The members decided to accept Elena Sánchez Mora's proposal, "In Search of a Liberated Female Character" (in works by women written in the languages of the Americas and the Iberian Peninsula). She will coordinate the session.
- 7) It was agreed that Feministas Unidas needs to find ways to assist graduate students and junior colleagues in their search for jobs (and continued search for a comfortable place in the academy). It was proposed that a 'room party', in which an experienced mentor would be present, be held at the next MLA. Phyllis Zatlin has agreed to participate in this event if she attends the MLA (other members will participate as well).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosemary Geisdorfer Feal
Treasurer

Annual Business Meeting (continued)

The two sessions which Feministas Unidas will officially sponsor at MLA '90 in Chicago are as follows (times and dates as yet unknown):

1) "In Search of a Liberated Female Character"

Co-Presiders: Elena Sánchez Mora, St. John's University (MN)
Gwendolyn Barnes-Karol, St. Olaf College (MN)

Presenters:

Catherine G. Bellver, University of Nevada, Las Vegas: "Concha Méndez: A Feminist Voice Among the Vanguard"

María-Elena Angulo, Florida Atlantic University: "La mujer nueva latinoamericana en Yo vendo unos ojos negros de Alicia Yáñez Cossío"

María Inés Lagos-Pope, Washington University, St. Louis: "Writing the Subject: Female Protagonists in Narratives by Diamela Eltit, Paulina Matta and Reina Roffé"

Terry DeHay, University of California, Berkeley: "Poetics of Hope: Gioconda Belli's Línea de Fuego"

Beth Ellen Jörgensen, University of Rochester: "Reflections on the Search for a Liberated Female Character"

2) "Toward a Political Pedagogy in Literature and Culture: A Workshop"

Presiding: Stacey Schlau, West Chester University

Facilitators:

Carolyn Richardson Durham, Hampton University: "Strategies for Teaching the Other 'Other': The Black Woman in Latin America"

Maureen Shea and Teresa Soufas, Tulane University: "Strategies for Feminist Team Teaching Hispanic Women Writers"

Linda Fox, Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne: "Strategies for Teaching and Including U.S. Hispanic Women Writers"

Electa Arenal, College of Staten Island, City University of New York: "Strategies for Teaching a Feminist Political Latin American Culture Course"

The structure of this session is based on a perceived need within Feministas Unidas for: (1) sessions dealing with pedagogy, especially feminist teaching in Hispanic language, culture, and literature classrooms and (2) a desire to include as many interested persons as possible in as active a way as possible. Therefore, the format will be hands-on workshops in small groups, based on the four different arenas of interest.

Annual Business Meeting (continued)

We encourage *each* person attending the session to think through some ideas independently and with others, and discourage pat solutions and ready-made answers. Please--come, but participate as well!

More on day, time, and place of these 2 MLA '90 sessions in the December Newsletter.

BALLOT/POSITION STATEMENTS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF FEMINISTAS UNIDAS

As per the discussion at MLA '89, (see previous minutes), here are the position statements of our 5 candidates (and what an impressive slate they make!):

- 1) Lou Charnon-Deutsch, Hispanic Languages & Literatures, State University of New York at Stony Brook

Overall, my goal for Feministas Unidas would be to oversee a continued healthy growth pattern for the organization. As part of that growth, I would like to 1) implement more resource sharing (bibliographies, syllabi, etc.) among members and 2) look into the possibility of instituting a summer workshop (similar to the NEH summer seminars) in feminist literary theory.

- 2) Roberta Johnson, University of Kansas

As an officer of Feministas Unidas I would work to assure that Feministas Unidas maintains the present high quality of its functions as an independent organization (especially its networking through the newsletter). In addition I would like to see Feministas Unidas as an allied organization of MLA strive, aside from its own fine sessions at the annual meeting, to find ways of making feminist concerns of the Hispanic world more visible in the traditional professional journals and in the MLA Division sessions.

- 3) Patricia Klingenberg, Illinois Wesleyan University

I would like to concentrate the energies of our organization into a conference of our own, possibly in combination with Letras femeninas, in order to provide for more effective networking, more frequent and stimulating intellectual exchange and more accessible outlets for the kinds of research we are all doing.

- 4) Mercedes M. de Rodríguez, Hofstra University

I would like to see Feministas Unidas striving to develop a canon for Feminist Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian criticism. I believe this could be accomplished if our sessions were to be organized around a plan to form such a canon. We should also plan the periodic publication of our revised papers in book-form. I think this would strengthen our stance as feminist scholars and add prestige to our organization. I would like a more equal representation of Spanish Peninsular literature in our sessions.

5) Stacey Schlau, Department of Foreign Languages, West Chester University

Feministas Unidas makes an important contribution to Hispanic literary, linguistic, and cultural studies in the United States, as well as to the MLA, as a home for teacher-scholars who recognize a gender-related socio-historical context in their academic work. The organization, merely by its existence—especially through annual sessions at MLA and informal networking among its members—functions as an advocate. We could do more. We need to build more effective alliances with other feminists in our discipline and others in MLA, as well as with other Hispanic feminist academic and/or activist groups. We need to assure a strong Hispanic voice in Feministas. We need to engage in a series of dialogues about our long-range goals and develop strategies to achieve them. Since we have a solid organizational base from which to envision the future, we can easily begin this process.

TEAR-OFF BALLOT ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

ACE Calls For Foreign Language Competency Standards

The American Council on Education (ACE) has called on the nation's colleges and universities to require competence in a foreign language for recipients of bachelor's degrees, and urged increased opportunities for foreign language study at the elementary and secondary levels.

In a statement approved earlier this month by its board of directors, the council supported the adoption of admissions policies requiring prior knowledge of a foreign language, noting that such standards can encourage students to undertake foreign language study before reaching college. The statement adds, however, that entrance requirements should not limit access to higher education for students with inadequate opportunities for language study in high school or for those with specific learning disabilities.

ACE also urged institutions to improve their foreign language curricula by providing advanced training and opportunities for use through intensive language and study abroad programs, promoting cooperative arrangements between elementary and secondary schools to improve instruction, supporting faculty members who want to acquire or improve foreign language skills, and integrating foreign

(continued on page 4)

Foreign Language⁴ Standards Approved

(continued from page 1)

language instruction with other programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

In the document prepared by ACE's Commission on International Education, the council recommended that teacher training include foreign language competence and maintenance. In addition, campuses should encourage adult foreign language learning for use in business and travel, and for general intellectual development.

The statement, which will be published in full later this summer, follows several national studies citing the need for international education and foreign language competency to help the United States remain economically competitive. The National Governors' Association, in a recent report entitled "America in Transition: The International Frontier," called for all college and university graduates to be "knowledgeable about the broader world and conversant in another language."

A survey conducted by ACE last year found that few colleges and universities require foreign language study for admission, though two out of three four-year institutions require some or all students to study a foreign language before they graduate.

In a related action, the ACE board endorsed the concept of a federally-chartered national endowment for foreign language and international studies. Such a plan is being developed by the Coalition for the Advancement of Foreign Language and International Studies (CAFLIS), made up of more than 160 education, teacher, and foreign language and exchange associations.

As part of its action, ACE endorsed a set of goals for foreign language study for the year 2000. Among the goals:

- Greatly increase the percentage of undergraduate and graduate students with professional levels of foreign language proficiency to meet foreign language needs for business and the professions.

- Provide opportunities for students in all disciplines and pre-professional programs to achieve high levels of foreign language proficiency.

- Increase significantly the percentage of all students who study abroad, their diversity, and the number of nations to which they go.

- Provide opportunities for the achievement and maintenance of foreign language proficiency for faculty members in all disciplines.

BALLOT

Vote for TWO (the highest vote-getter will become President and the second-highest will become Vice President for a two-year term to begin January 1, 1991):

- _____ Lou Charnon-Deutsch, SUNY, Stony Brook
- _____ Roberta Johnson, University of Kansas
- _____ Patricia Klingenberg, Illinois Wesleyan University
- _____ Mercedes M. de Rodriguez, Hofstra University
- _____ Stacey Schlau, West Chester University

Return to:

Linda C. Fox
Dept. of Modern Foreign Languages
Indiana U.-Purdue U. at Fort Wayne
2101 Coliseum Blvd. E.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499

FEMINISTAS UNIDAS

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT 1989

BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1988:	\$1,669.61
Dues received for 1989:	\$ 1,576.50
Money received for MLA papers:	\$ 18.00
Interest on checking account:	\$ 126.82
	<u>\$3,390.93</u>

Disbursements:

Newsletter Expenses:	\$ 950.00
Duplication & Mailing, MLA papers:	\$ 333.25
Receptions: 1989 M/MLA & MLA:	\$ 592.47
Treasurer's Expenses:	
postage & photocopies for dues	
reminders and publicity materials	\$ 64.50
	<u>\$ 1,450.71</u>

BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1989:	\$ 1,450.71
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Submitted by Rosemary Geisdorfer Feal, Treasurer

Date: Feb. 1, 1990

PEMINISTAS UNIDAS

MEMBERSHIP 1989

There were 205 individual members for 1989:

Acosta-Belén, Edna
Addis, Mary Kathryn
Agosin, Marjorie
Albertson, Julie
Alborg, Concha
Alverio, Carmen S.
Angel, Adriana
Arenal, Electa
Arrington, Teresa R.
Balboa Echeverría, Miriam
Barnes, Gwendolyn
Bary, Leslie
Beaupied, Aida M.
Beck, Mary Ann
Bellver, Catherine G.
Bergmann, Emilie
Bermudez-Gallegos, Marta
Boling, Becky
Boschetto, Sandra M.
Boyer, H. Patsy
Braun, Diane
Brooks, Zelda
Brown, Joan Lipman
Bundy, Nancy L.
Burunat, Silvia
Carlson-Leavitt, Joyco
Carullo, Sylvia G.
Castro-Klarén, Sara
Caulfield, Carlota
Channon-Deutsch, Lou
Chittenden, Jean
Chuquin, Maria Emilia
Clark, Susan
Cofrosi, Lina L.
Cook, Beverly Richard
Corvalán, Graciela N.V.
Costa, Maria D.
Costa, Natalia R.
Cova, Joan M. de la
Covarrubias, Alicia Valero
Crosby, Margaret B.
Cuneo, Marilyn M.
Cypess, Sandra M.
Den Tandt, Catherine
Dever, Susan
Díaz de León, Aida

Donahue, Francis
Duarte, Maria
Durham, Carolyn Richardson
Eberle-McCarthy, Karen
El Saffar, Ruth
Emmanuelli-Huertas, Johanna
Enriquez de Salamanca, Cristina
Escandell, Neomi
Fayen, Tanya
Feal, Rosemary Geisdorfer
Feliciano, Wilma
Ferreira-Pinto, Cristina
Fonseca-Downey, Elizabeth
Fox, Linda C.
Franco, Jean
Frank, Francine H.
Frank, Roslyn
Freeman, Marion F.
Frouman-Smith, Erica
Fulks, Barbara
Galván, Delia V.
García-Pandavenes, Elsa
Ginsborg, Judith
Girón, Jacqueline
González-Montes, Yara
Gorfkle, Laura
Gossy, Mary S.
Greene, Patricia
Harges, Mary C.
Hart, Patricia
Heinicke, Elisabeth
Helsper, Norma
Hernández-Araico, Susana
Higginbotham, Virginia
Hindson, Jean M.
Homar, Susan
Horan, Elizabeth
Ibieta, Gabriella
Jessen, Patricia
Jiménez, Lourdes N.
Johnson, Anita L.
Johnson, Elaine Dorough
Johnson, Roberta Lee
Jones, Margaret E.W.
Jorgensen, Beth E.
Kaminsky, Amy

Kirkpatrick, Susan
Kiss, Marilyn
Klingenberg, Patricia
Lacayo-Salas, Damarys
Lagos, Ramona
Lagos-Pope, María Inés
Laura X
Levine, Linda Gould
Levine, Suzanne Jill
Lozano, Margarita M.
Lima, Maria H.
Livovsky, Isabel C.
Magnarelli, Sharon
Maier, Carol
Makris, Mary
Malavé Cintrón, Esperanza
Mangini, Shirley
Martin, Claire E.
Martin, Lisa A.
Martínez, Adelaida
Martínez Echazabal, Lourdes
Marting, Diane
Matthews, Irene
May, Barbara Dale
McNerney, Kathleen
Membrez, Nancy
Meyer, Doris L.
Minc, Rose
Molinaro, Nina L.
Mora, Gabriela
Myers, Eunice
Nichols, Geraldine Cleary
Nickel, Catherine
Nigro, Kirsten F.
Nittoli, Harriet D.
Norat, Gisela
O'Connell, Joanna
O'Connor, Patricia W.
Ordoñez, Elizabeth
Ordoñez, Monserrat
Ortuzar-Young, Ada
Pak, Chin-Sook
Panjabi, Kavita
Parham, Mary Gomez
Pérez, Janet
Perricone, Catherine R

Plumlee, Amanda
Pratt, Mary Louise
Reckley, Alice Ruth
Reetz, Claire L.
Renfrew, Ilcana
Revell, Elizabeth
Riker, Katharine A.
Riquelme, Sonia
Rivera, Margarita T.
Rivero, Eliana
Rivero-Potter, Alicia
Rodriguez, Mercedes
Rodriguez-Milanés, Cecilia
Rojas-Paiewonsky, Lourdes
Román-López, Aura N.
Rosenstiel, Sandra
Rubio de Lértora, Patricia
Sabat-Rivers, Georgina
Sánchez Mora, Elena
Scarlett, Liz
Schlau, Stacey
Scott, Nina M.
Seator, Lynnette Hubbard
Seda, Laurietz
Sepúlveda-Pulvirenti, Emma
Servodidio, Mirella
Shea, Maureen
Sherno, Sylvia R.
Spencer, Laura Gutiérrez
Starcevic, Elizabeth
Sternbach, Nancy
Stolley, Karen
Stycos, Maria Nowakowska
Sullivan, Constance
Sweet, Gabriela
Talbot, Lynn K.
Thompson, Guadalupe
Thorton, Sally W.
Titiev, Janice
Tolliver, Joyce
Torres-Rosado, Santos
Toruño-Castaneda, Rhina
Treacy, Mary Jane
Trovato, Barbara
Ugalde, Sharon Keefe
Umpierre, Luz Maria

Valdivieso, Teresa
Valis, Noel
Van Hooft, Karen
Vásquez, Mary S.
Velasco, Maria Mercedes de
Vernon, Kathleen M.
Vetterling, Mary-Anne
Vinkler, Beth J.
Vosburg, Nancy
Waldman, Gloria
Weber, Alison
Weissberger, Barbara F.
Welles, Marcia L.
Wescott, Julia Lupinacci
Williams, Tamara
Williamsen, Amy R.
Woodward, Hope D.
Zatlin, Phyllis
Zeitz, Eileen
Zetrouer, Karen V. Hall

FEMINISTAS UNIDAS

MEMBERSHIP 1990

The following individual members have paid dues between Jan. 1 and March 15:

Adams, Anna
Adair, Olga Mory
Addis, Mary Kathryn
Aguero, Irene
Arenal, Electa
Aronson, Stacey L. Parker
Arrington, Teresa R.
Barnes-Karol, Gwendolyn
Barton, Kathy P.
Beard, Laura J.
Beaupied, Aida M.
Becker, Stephanie
Bellver, Catherine G.
Bergmann, Emilie
Bieder, Maryellen
Blanco, Alda
Boling, Becky
Braxs, Maria Virginia
Bretz, Mary Lee
Bueno, Eva P.
Bundy, Nancy L.
Caivano, Joan M.
Caulfield, Carlota
Charnon-Deutsch, Lou
Chittenden, Jean S.
Clark, Barbara A.
Cordones-Cook, Juanamaria
Den Tandt, Catherine
Dever, Susan
DeWeese, Pamela
Dunn, Sandra L.
Dupl  a, Cristina
El Saffar, Ruth
En  riquez de Salamanca, Cristina
Escandell, Noemi
Feal, Rosemary Geisdorfer
Ferreira-Pinto, Cristina
Fox, Linda C.
Freeman, Marion F.
Frouman-Smith, Erica
Galv  n, Delia V.
Ginsberg, Judith
Gonz  lez, Miriam
Gossy, Mary S.
Greene, Patricia
Harges, Mary C.
Harris, Carolyn J.

Hern  ndez-Araico, Susana
Horan, Elizabeth
Ibieta, Gabriella
Ja  n Andr  s, Victoria
Jaffe, Catherine M.
Jehenson, Yvonne
Jessen, Patricia
Jessup, Florence Redding
Johnson, Elaine Dorough
Johnson, Roberta Lee
Jones, Margaret E. W.
J  rgensen, Beth E.
Kaminsky, Amy
Kirkpatrick, Susan
Kuhnheim, Jill S.
Lacayo-Salas, Damarys
Lagos, Ramona
Lagos-Pope, Maria In  s
Landin, Elizabeth
Lawless, Cecilia Burke
Lehman-Srinivasan, Kathryn
Maier, Carol
Makris, Mary
Mangini, Shirley
Marson, Ellen Engelson
Martin, Marina
Matthews, Irene
McGowan, Marcia P.
Miller, Martha LaFollette
Myers, Eunice
Nance, Kimberly A.
Nelson, Ardis L.
Nichols, Geraldine Cleary
Nickel, Catherine
Nittoli, Harriet D.
Norat, Gisela
O'Connor, Patricia W.
Ordo  ez, Elizabeth
Ortuzar-Young, Ada
Payne, Judith A.
P  rez, Angela
Perricone, Cathorine R.
Persin, Margaret
Plumlee, Amanda
Renfrow, Ileana
Richards, Judith C.
Riess, Cheryl R.

Rivero, Eliana
Rodriguez, Mercedes M. de
Rodriguez-Milan  s, Cecilia
Rosenstiel, Sandra
Salper, Roberta L.
S  nchez Mora, Elena
Sandoval-S  nchez, Alberto
Sauter, Silvia
Scarlett, Liz
Schiminovich, Flora H.
Schlau, Stacey
Seator, Lynnette Hubbard
Servodidio, Mirella
Starcevic, Elizabeth
Sullivan, Constance
Talbot, Lynn K.
Thompson, Guadalupe
Thorton, Sally W.
Titiev, Janice
Tolliver, Joyce
Tompkins, Cynthia
Toru  o-Casta  eda, Rhina
Treacy, Mary Jane
Ugalde, Sharon Keefe
Umpierre, Luz Maria
Valis, Noel
Van Hooft, Karen
V  lez, Diana
Vilarrubla, Montserrat
Weber, Alison
Whittingham, Georgina
Woodward, Hope D.
Zamora, Bernice
Zatlin, Phyllis
Zeitz, Eilcen

UPCOMING CONFERENCES OF INTEREST

AATSP, August 10-14, 1990, Miami, FL

There are various sessions of the AATSP which are of interest to Feministas Unidas, several of which involve our members. Please note the following:

Sunday August 12, 1990:

- 1) Women and Hispanic Literature I; Chair: Elizabeth S. Rogers, Miami University, Ohio (9:00-10:15 a.m.)
- 2) Perspectives on the Fiction of Rosa Chacel; Chair: Mercedes M. de Rodríguez, Hofstra University (9:00-10:15 a.m.)
- 3) Designing a Successful Rockefeller Fellowship Application; Chair: Doris Meyer, Connecticut College (1:30-2:45 p.m.)

Monday, August 13, 1990:

- 1) Luso-Brazilian Literature III; Chair: Joanna Courteau, Iowa State University (8:30-9:45 a.m.)
- 2) Luso-Brazilian Literature I; Chair: Carmen Chaves McClendon, University of Georgia (11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.)
- 3) Women and Machos According to the Spanish Dictionary; Chair: Richard D. Woods, Trinity University (4:00-5:15 p.m.)

Tuesday, August 14, 1990:

- 1) Women and Latin American Literature; Chair: Timothy J. Rogers, Miami University, Ohio (8:30-9:45 a.m.)
- 2) Una revisión de la historia: el nuevo discurso femenino en Latinoamérica; Chair: Gloria Gálvez-Carlisle, UCLA (10:00-11:15 a.m.)
- 3) La literatura chicana de los últimos diez años; Chair: Lynn A. Sandstedt, U. of Northern Colorado (10:00-11:15 a.m.)
- 4) Women and Hispanic Literature II; Chair: Jean Chittenden, Trinity University (10:00-11:15 a.m.)

Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature, October 4-6, 1990, University of Colorado, Boulder (Write: Local Coordinating Committee, Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Lit., Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, U. of Colorado, Campus Box 278, Boulder, CO 80309-0278)

FEMINISM, WRITING, AND POLITICS IN HISPANIC AND LUSO- BRAZILIAN CULTURE AND LITERATURE

October 12-14, 1990



- University of Minnesota
- Department of Spanish and Portuguese
- Center for Advanced Feminist Studies
- Chicano Studies
- Latin American Studies
- Women's Studies
- Group for the Critical Study of Colonialism
- Department of Professional Development and Conference Services
- Continuing Education and Extension

CALL FOR PAPERS

You are invited to participate in an interdisciplinary conference on approaches to women, gender, and feminism in the literatures and cultures of the Iberian peninsula, Latin America, Lusophone Africa, and the Spanish-speaking United States. Submissions welcome on all topics, and especially:

- feminist politics
- theorizing gender and other forms of diversity such as race, ethnicity, and class
- gender and nationalist discourses
- the problems of speaking and writing as a feminist in Hispanic cultures and of doing feminist work as Hispanists
- women, testimony, and human rights

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: April 15, 1990
PAPERS: June 15, 1990

Copies of papers will be sent to all participants prior to the conference so that meetings will be devoted solely to discussion of the papers.

Prospective participants are invited to contact the conference coordinators:

JOANNA O'CONNELL/CONNIE SULLIVAN
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
34 Folwell Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455
Department phone: (612) 625-5858
O'Connell: (612) 625-0110/379-1775
Sullivan: (612) 625-6377

AMY KAMINSKY
Women's Studies/Center for Advanced Feminist Studies
492 Ford Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455
Telephone: (612) 624-7319/6006

Child care will be provided during conference hours.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Upcoming Conferences (continued)

XVI Annual Hispanic Literatures Conference (This year's theme: *Literatura hispánica y el tercer mundo*), Indiana University of Pennsylvania, October 19-20, 1990 (Write: Prof. Peter G. Broad, Dept. Spanish and Classical Languages, 459 Sutton Hall, IUP, Indiana, PA 15705-1087)

MMLA, November 1-3, 1990, Hyatt Regency, Kansas City, MO (Contact: Maria A. Duarte, 302 English and Philosophy Bldg., U. of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242-1408) (For 1991, MMLA will be November 14-16 in Chicago, IL.)

CALLS FOR PAPERS/SUBMISSIONS

A volume on Homosexuality in Spanish Literature has been contracted by Garland Press; publication in 1991 is expected. Daniel Eisenberg is seeking someone interested in writing a chapter (or more) on Lesbianism. The publisher is offering a free copy of the new, two-volume Encyclopedia of Homosexuality (\$150) as an incentive. If interested, write Eisenberg at 1507 Sharon Road, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

New Understandings of the Experience of Women will be the unifying theme of an Interdisciplinary Symposium to convene in Moscow May 20-24, 1991. Papers of not more than 10 double-spaced pages written in clear and concise language are to facilitate cross-disciplinary and intercultural communication in a dialogue between academic women of the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Send two-page précis by November 15 to Lynette Seator, Department of Modern Languages, Illinois College, Jacksonville, IL 62650 or to Maureen Cole, Department of Psychology, College of Wooster, Wooster, OH 44691.

The Eighth Annual Wichita State University conference on Foreign Literatures is scheduled for April 11-13, 1991. The topic of the conference will be "Continental, Latin American, and Francophone Women Writers. For those interested in presenting a paper, the deadline for a one page abstract is November 15, 1990. Complete paper (8-10 pages) must be sent by December 15, 1990 postmark. Papers may be written in English, French, German, or Spanish. For French, Francophone and German literature send to Ginette Adamson; for Spanish and other languages send to Eunice Myers, Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, Box 11, The Wichita State University, Wichita, KS 67208. Phone: (316) 689-3180. Selected papers are published by University Press of America.

**Eighth Annual
Wichita State University
Conference on
Foreign Literature**

April 11 - 13, 1991

Call For Papers

Continental, Latin American, and Francophone Women Writers

Send a one-page abstract by October 15, 1990, postmark.

Refusals will be announced by mid-November 1990.

**Deadline for 8-page papers dealing with
any aspect of the conference theme:**

December 17, 1990, postmark.

Deadlines will be strictly observed.

The conference is devoted to women who write in languages other than English. In addition to critical papers by university faculty, writers from the US, Québec, Europe and Latin America come to read their works and to share thoughts on literature.

Selected papers are published by University Press of America on the recommendation of the publication's referees. Volume I (1984-1985) is available from UPA; Volume II (1986-1987) is available from the Department of Modern Languages, Wichita State University. Volume III (1988-1989) is now being prepared. Papers from the 1990 and 1991 conferences will appear as Volume IV. Papers may be written in English, French, German or Spanish.

Address:

French, Francophone, Italian, and German literatures: Ginette Adamson
Spanish and Latin American literatures: Eunice Myers
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Dept. of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures
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CALL FOR ESSAYS: ANALES DE LA LITERATURA ESPAÑOLA CONTEMPORANEA

Luis T. González-del-Valle, *General Editor*
University of Colorado at Boulder

ALEC is currently expanding. As a result, Professors Salvador Jiménez-Fajardo and John C. Wilcox, Farris Anderson, and Robert Spires were asked and agreed to be Guest Editors of special issues devoted, respectively, to twentieth century Spanish poetry, Spanish drama and theatre of the twentieth century, and Spanish narrative fiction from 1900-1936. Anyone wishing to submit a study must keep in mind the following: manuscripts should be between twelve and twenty-five typewritten pages (including notes). They must conform to the most recent edition of the *MLA Handbook*, all notes at the end. The original and an abstract in the language of the essay and two additional copies of both must be accompanied by unattached return postage. Articles may be written in English or Spanish. Manuscripts are welcome (*PLEASE REFER BELOW TO THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR EACH ISSUE*).

I. Twentieth Century Spanish Poetry

This special issue will attempt to offer a retrospective, critical review of this century's poetry. The areas and topics to be covered may include the following: 1) a re-evaluation of movements, 2) rethinking the notion of "generation" in Spanish poetry, 3) a re-evaluation of the major and minor poets, 4) a study of neglected figures and tendencies, 5) new readings of the poet's works in light of recent methodologies, 6) women poets, 7) poetry as social commentary, 8) poetry and ideology, 9) Spanish poetry in the context of international currents ("modernism" in its wider sense, "imagism", etc.), 10) the phenomenon of exile. If you would like to contribute to this project, please send an abstract by January 2, 1990; the completed manuscript should be in our hands by May 15, 1990. Shortly thereafter the Guest Editors will make their selections and recommendations which will be forwarded to the Editors of *ALEC*, whose decision in these matters is final. Please submit essays to Professors Salvador Jiménez-Fajardo and John C. Wilcox (Department of Foreign Languages, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois 61701).

II. Spanish Drama and Theatre of the Twentieth Century

Studies on all aspects of this topic are welcome. However, the editors are specifically interested in studies that treat the artistic and institutional experiences of Spain's twentieth century theatre in such a way as to illuminate its cogency and evolution across the century. Deadline for submission of essays: September 1, 1990. Please submit inquiries and essays to: Professor Farris Anderson (Department of Romance Languages [GN 60], University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195).

III. Reviewing the Canon: Spanish Fiction from 1900-1936

The goal of this special issue is to reassess the works forming the canon of this period, or to challenge the canon as now defined. To that end we are soliciting essays employing all the major approaches: philosophical, psychological, structuralist, post-structuralist, Marxist, feminist or any other variation or combination of the ones listed. Deadline for submission of essays: January 10, 1991. Please submit inquiries and essays to: Professor Robert C. Spires (Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044).

All manuscripts received will be evaluated by readers from within and/or outside *ALEC's* Editorial Advisory Council. All aforementioned issues will be published soon after the manuscripts are accepted.

(PLEASE POST)



SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

501 Crescent Street • New Haven, Connecticut 06515

March 6, 1990

Telephone

Dear Colleague:

We are seeking essays for a projected collection on feminisms for the 1990s tentatively entitled Reinventing the Wheel. Your work addresses some of the issues we would like to explore in the collection. If you are interested in contributing, we would be delighted to consider your submission for inclusion.

We want this book to defy the orthodoxies of the complacent safe white middle-class academic feminism that dominates current discourse. We want to raise the repressed feminist issues of race, class, heterosexism, and elitism into consciousness and into an agenda for action. We want to remind those who claim to advocate feminism that they can make a difference.

We seek a variety of essays including but not limited to the topics we suggest below. We are interested in critiques of feminist and especially of post-feminist theories and in essays on topics such as: the competition of feminism with other totalizing epistemological theories such as Marxism, psychoanalysis, and recovery theory; essays; the impact of racist, classist, heterosexist, and other exclusionary ideologies on feminist theory and praxis; feminist approaches to literary texts; feminist pedagogy; cross-cultural feminist issues; feminism and social policy; feminism and reproductive technologies; feminism and the professional elite; feminism and utopian thought.

In the current planning stage, we envision the book being divided into four sections. The first section will deal with feminism and theory, the second with feminism and praxis (e.g., applied literary criticism, teaching, social action, etc.), the third with feminist agendas (e.g., women and class, women and sexual preference, women and work, women and violence, etc.), and the fourth with the future of feminism (e.g., feminism and utopia, men and feminism, feminism and reproductive technologies, etc.).

Please send your submission by January 15, 1991 to either:

Dr. Jane Lilienfeld
55 Bristol Road
Medford, MA 02144
(617) 776-1858 (home)

or

Vara Neverow-Turk
Department of English
Southern Connecticut State Univ.
501 Crescent Street
New Haven, CT 06515
(203) 397-4204/4202 (office)

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Vara Neverow-Turk

Jane Lilienfeld

Calls For Papers (continued)

The Feminist Foreign Language Teaching Collective (FFLTC) seeks manuscripts for a collection of essays on the relationship between feminism and foreign language teaching at all levels of instruction (primary and secondary). Topics include, but are not limited to, teaching non-European languages (Asian, Slavic, African, Arabic); pidgins and creoles; black and hispanic English dialects and language standardization; bilingualism and biculturalism; Classics. Essays which also include analysis of race, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation and other forms of diversity are particularly encouraged.

Deadline for manuscripts: December 31, 1990
Abstracts and letters of inquiry welcomed prior to that date.

Typed manuscripts (in English) from 10-30 pages following MLA style may be submitted to either address below:

Melanie Hawthorne
Department of Modern and Classical
Languages
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843

Tamara Williams
Department of Romance
Languages
Hamilton College
Clinton, NY 13323

MEMBERS' NEWS

Notes from Amy Kaminsky, who is now WCML (Women's Caucus for Modern Languages) president:

Feministas Unidas Archive

Don't be the last one on your block to send your Feministas Unidas panel presentation to the Feministas Unidas Archive c/o Amy Kaminsky, Department of Women's Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Whether you presented your paper in 1989 or 1984 (or any time before or between), we want to keep a record and a copy of it. This is our organization and our archive! Do it today, even if it means xeroxing a not-quite polished, scribbled-on draft. If you went on to publish your piece, please include a brief note letting Amy know where and when. Thanks.

Florence Howe Essay Award

Every year since 1974, the Women's Caucus for the Modern Languages has sponsored an essay contest in honor of Florence Howe, the first feminist president of MLA. The contest is announced in journals and newsletters that we all get. Keep your eyes open for this year's announcement, and submit your articles! Not only is there a nice cash award, but the honor is substantial. It is time someone in our field won one of these, but to win we have to enter.

Doris Meyer has proposed a special session "Victoria Ocampo 1890-1979: A Centennial Retrospective of Her Writing" for MLA '90. Patricia Klingenberg has proposed one on construction of female subjects in Hispanic literature. Let the Editor know for the December Newsletter if these are approved.

Members' News (continued)

Luz María Umpierre has coordinated the topic for MLA '90 for the discussion group on Puerto Rican Literature and Culture. The session will be on "Transgressive Readings of the Work of Julia de Burgos."

Geraldine Cleary Nichols, recently plagued by health problems, reports that since the Institute for the Study of Ideology and Literatures has shut down she is distributing her book Escribir, espacio propio: Laforet, Matute, Tusquets, Moix, Riera y Roig por sí mismas. Write to her at University of Florida, Dept. of Romance Languages & Literatures, Gainesville, FL 32611-2005.

The Fourth Feria del Libro Latinoamericano will be held October 11-14, 1990, at New York University with the focus being Mexican Publishing. Octavio Paz will give a reading on opening night.

RESEARCH/PUBLICATIONS

Books Published By Our Members:

- 1) Agosin, Marjorie, tr. by Janice Malloy. The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo. Paperback \$10.95. Royalties from this very moving account go to the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo.
- 2) Boyer, H. Patsy, ed. The Enchantments of Love: Amorous and Exemplary Novels. María de Zayas. U. Cal. Press, March 1990, ISBN 06671-5, cloth \$40.00. According to Emilie Bergmann, "these novellas are of primary importance to an understanding of the evolving structures of narrative."
- 3) Charnon-Deutsch, Lou. Gender and Representation: Women in Spanish Realist Fiction. Purdue U. Monographs, Vol. 32, cloth, ISBN 1-55619-083-2. Challenges prevailing idea that 19th century Spanish novel is woman-centered. Author's examination of major novels by Valera, Pereda, Alas and Galdós demonstrates that these works are instead a complex exploration of male identity. She uncovers in the novels multiple configurations of androcentricity as well as voyeuristic tendencies.
- 4) Ferreira-Pinto, Cristina. O Bildungsroman Feminino: Quatro Exemplos Brasileiros, Sao Paulo: Editora Perspectiva, 1990. A discussion of 4 novels by Brazilian writers—Lucia Miguel Pereira, Raquel de Queiroz, Clarice Lispector and Lygia Fagundes Telles—focusing on the construction of an identity and on the development of a social awareness by the protagonists as it places the works within their socio-political context.
- 5) Hart, Patricia. Narrative Magic in the Fiction of Isabel Allende. New Jersey: Fairleigh Dickinson Univ. Press, 1990. ISBN 0-8386-3351-X, \$34.50. (See following flyer.)
- 6) The Same Sea As Every Summer by Esther Tusquets, trans. by Margaret E. W. Jones. U. Nebraska Press, 1990. LC 89-38371, cloth \$22.95; paper \$9.95. (See flyer.)

Books Published (continued)

- 7) Fred P. Ellison and Naomi Lindstrom, tr. Woman Between Mirrors by Helena Parente. Cunha. Contemporary woman writer of Brazil who uses innovative narrative technique in this novel. Austin, TX: U. Texas Press, 1989. \$18.95 hardbound, \$8.95 paper.
- 8) Mangini, Shirley, ed. Edition of Estación: Ida y Vuelta by Rosa Chacel. Madrid: Cátedra, 1989. Introduction to Rosa Chacel's first novel and overview of her life and work within context of European Modernism.
- 9) Meyer, Doris. Victoria Ocampo: Against the Wind and the Tide. U. Texas Press, 1990. ISBN 0-292-78710-3, \$13.95 paperback. (Originally published in 1979.) Biographical study by Meyer and 15 of Ocampo's essays, which Meyer translated.
- 10) Meyer, Doris. Lives on the Line: The Testimony of Contemporary Latin American Authors. Berkeley: U. California Press. (See flyer.)
- 11) Nichols, Geraldine Cleary. Escribir, espacio propio: Laforet, Matute, Tusquets, Moix, Riera y Roig por sí mismas. Minneapolis: Institute for the Study of Ideology and Literatures, 1989. A critical introduction to women's fiction in contemporary Spain, as well as 6 extensive interviews with the authors.
- 12) Umpierre, Luz María. Essays. Berkeley: Third Woman Press, 1990. Homosexual reading of Caribbean texts by Carlos Rodríguez, Manuel Ramos Otero, Carmen Lugo Filippi, Julia Alvarez, José Lezama Lima, among others.
- 13) Weber, Alison. Teresa of Avila and the Rhetoric of Femininity. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1990. Weber studies how Teresa of Avila used exceptional rhetorical skills to defend her ideas at a time when women were denied participation in theological discourse.

Fairleigh Dickinson University Press

NARRATIVE MAGIC IN THE FICTION OF ISABEL ALLENDE

PATRICIA HART

There is magic in Isabel Allende's first novel, *La casa de los espíritus*; readers sense it, and virtually every reviewer mentions it, often adding adjectives like *garciamarquian* or *magically real*. In this ground-breaking study, Patricia Hart examines in detail how magic functions in Allende's fiction to date. The use of magical events and entities is not only characteristic of Allende's fictional writing; it is also wide-ranging, embracing a spectrum that includes rich entertainment as well as profound social and political comment. Nine chapters probe different aspects of magic in *La casa de los espíritus*, and additional chapters assess the role of magic in *De amor y de sombra*, *Eva Luna*, *La gorda de porcelana* and *Civilice a su troglodita*.

Two major issues are addressed throughout—Allende's supposed similarity to Colombian Gabriel García Márquez and her forging of what Hart calls "magical feminism." By closely examining Allende's use of magical phenomena in her fiction, the book demonstrates that those who have defined her work as derivative have missed a great deal. Indeed, Allende's methods are unique and often incorporate a kind of ironic reference to the Colombian. Further, in femino-centric works—works with a deep sensitivity to the struggles of Latin-American women—Hart shows how Allende's use of the magical might be called "magical feminism" and how this outlook differentiates her work sharply from much of García Márquez's canon.

This book also examines another possible implication of Isabel Allende's use of magic—that it is delightful relief from unrelenting political horrors, but at the same time that it can be a symbol for feminine passivity, a charming but ultimately limited response to a lack of real power. By extension, Hart feels that Allende's fiction calls into question the efficacy of magical realism as a sole vehicle for expressing Latin America's all-too-real problems. Indeed, Allende at times implies that magic and superstition may be the opiate of her people. What is more, magical realism may have become a facile category into which readers in other countries plug Latin-American fiction, just as they previously pushed all the continent's literary productions into the "regional novel" mold, rejecting as unsuitable whatever did not fit.

In the final chapter, "Isabel Allende's Influence on García Márquez," Hart synthesizes the book's response to the similarities and differences between the two, and she provides a provocative response to the question of whether or not Isabel Allende is a leading practitioner of "magical feminism."

Most important of all, *Narrative Magic in the Fiction of Isabel Allende* is a critical appreciation. Hart's analysis draws the reader into Allende's fictional worlds; she examines the Chilean writer's work without breaking its spell. Perhaps that too requires a kind of magic.

About the Author: Patricia Hart received her education from Brigham Young University, the University of Utah, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her 1987 book *The Spanish Sleuth* is a history of the detective novel in Spain, and she is also the author of articles on Juan Marsé, Carlos Fuentes, Gabriel García Márquez, Juan Madrid, and Fernando Savater. She won first prize in the Utah Institute of Fine Arts novel contest in 1977 for *Death in Deseret*, and her novel *Little Sins* was published in 1980. Hart is currently an assistant professor of Spanish at Purdue University.

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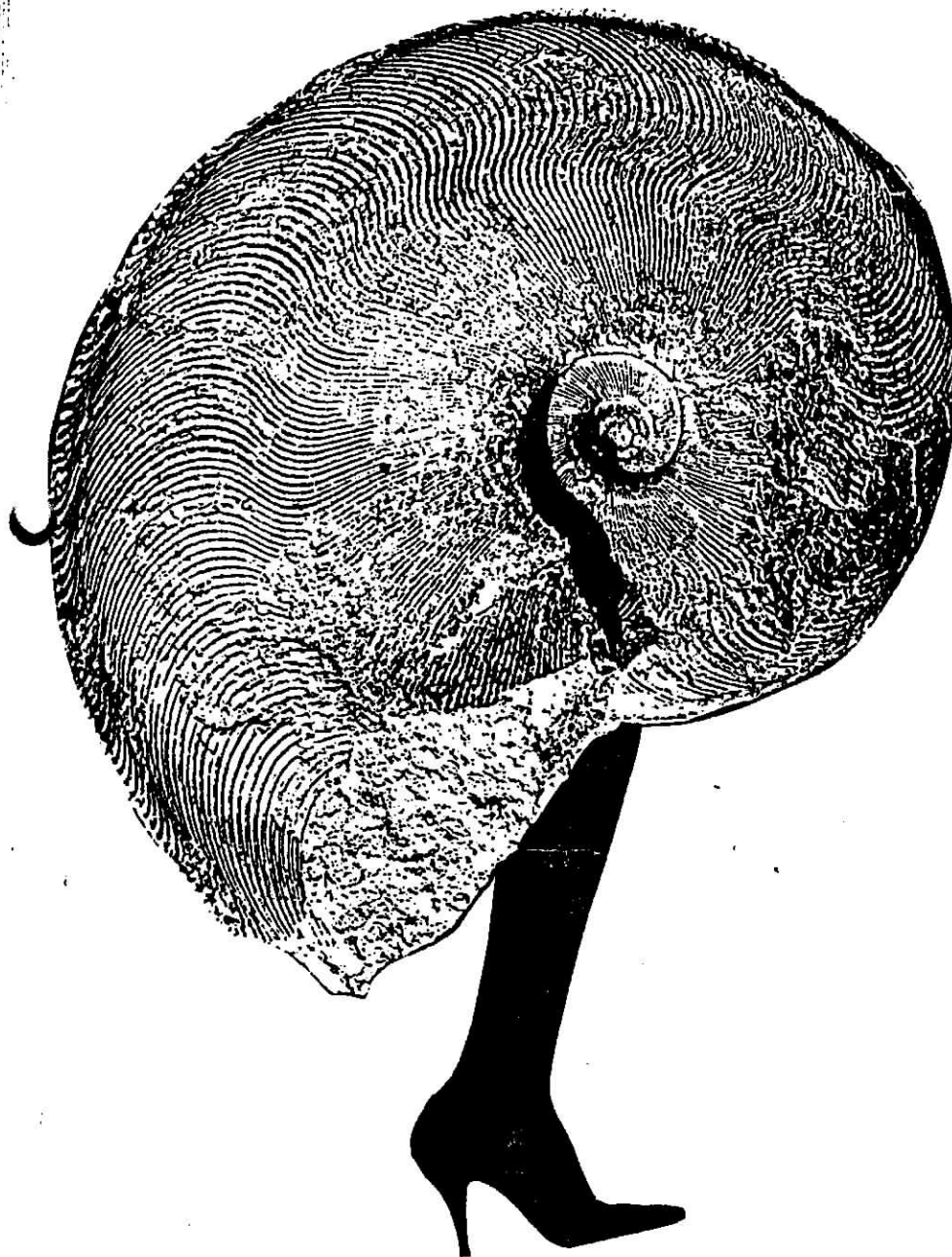
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The Same Sea As Every Summer

By Esther Tusquets Translated, with an afterword, by Margaret E. W. Jones



"The last straw would be for Clara . . . to see that I am crying and to guess that the only things that will always make me cry are not disasters in India or atrocities in Vietnam, not even the absurdity of human nature, or Julio's desertions or my own incurable loneliness, nor this bottomless emptiness in which my life has foundered, but silly children's stories with unhappy princesses and deserted girls, stories of ugly ducklings, of panthers who die in the snow, of mermaids turned to foam."

Poetic and erotic, *El mismo mar de todos los veranos* was originally published in Spain in 1978, three years after the death of Franco and in the same year that government censorship was abolished. But even in a new era that fostered more liberal attitudes toward divorce, homosexuality, and women's rights, this novel by Esther Tusquets was controversial. Its feminine view of sexuality—in particular, its depiction of a lesbian relationship—was unprecedented in Spanish fiction. Now its complex moods and rhythms have been caught in an award-winning English translation by Margaret E. W. Jones.

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Translator Margaret E. W. Jones has written an afterword on this novel's motifs. A professor of Spanish at the University of Kentucky, she is the author of *The Literary World of Ana Maria Matute* (1970), *The Contemporary Spanish Novel, 1939–1975* (1985), and other critical works on contemporary Spanish literature.

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Doris Meyer is Professor of Hispanic Studies at Connecticut College. She is the author of *Victoria Ocampo: Against the Wind and Tide*, and numerous articles on Hispanic literature.

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Conference Papers

- 1) Ferreira-Pinto, Cristina. Paper presented at Mid-American Conference on Hispanic Literatures, Lawrence, KS, November 1989. "A Auto-Marginalização Feminina como Forma de Transgressão em Perto Dolororacão Selvagem" discusses the question of transgression in Clarice Lispector's first work and concludes that, in this novel, transgression represents a feminine subversive mode of relation of the subject to the other and to the Law.
- 2) Ferreira-Pinto, Cristina. Paper Presented at NEMLA, Toronto, April 1990. "Lygia Fagundes Telles: Testemunha do Seu Tempo". A brief discussion of Lygia Fagundes Telles' novelistic work showing how her novels express a social concern, specifically with the situation of women in Brazilian society.

Articles

- 1) Charnon-Deutsch, Lou. "Voyeurism, Pornography and La Regenta," Modern Language Studies, Vol. 20.4, Fall 1989.
- 2) Feal, Rosemary Geisdorfer. "Spanish American Ethnobiography and the Slave Narrative Tradition: Biografía de un cimarrón and Me llamo Rigoberta Menchú," Modern Language Studies 20:1 (1990), 100-111.
- 3) Frouman-Smith, Erica. "Entrevista con Amparo Dávila," Chasqui 18, No. 2 (1989), 56-63.
- 4) Frouman-Smith, Erica. "Patterns of Female Entrapment and Escape in Three Short Stories by Amparo Dávila," Chasqui 18, No.2 (1989), 49-55. "In Dávila's stories where women are the powerful protagonists, patterns of entrapment and escape can often be observed which establish a strong link to British and American female writers of the nineteenth century."
- 5) Lagos-Pope, María Inés, "El testimonio creativo de Hasta no verte, Jesús mío," Revista Iberoamericana, Num. 150 (enero-marzo 1990), 243-253.
- 6) Martínez, Adelaida López de, "Hacia la emancipación de la lengua por la enseñanza de los géneros gramaticales," Hispania, 73, No. 2 (May 1990), 530-533.
- 7) Meyer, Doris, " 'Parenting the Text': Female Creativity and Dialogic Relationships in Isabel Allende's La casa de los espíritus," Hispania, vol. 73, No. 2 (May 1990), 360-365.
- 8) O'Connor, Patricia W., "Women Playwrights in Contemporary Spain and the Male-Dominated Canon," Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, 15.2 (Winter 1990), 376-390. "Various reactions of women dramatists to dominant (male) forms and concepts after the Civil War."

Articles (continued)

- 9) Tolliver, Joyce, "Knowledge, Desire and Syntactic Empathy in Pardo Bazán's 'La novia fiel'," Hispania, 72, 4 (December 1989), 909-918. "Using the notion of 'syntactic empathy' from discourse analysis, this examines the linguistic encoding, through the interplay of active and passive syntactic modes, of Pardo Bazán's criticism of cultural attitudes towards feminine sexuality."
- 10) Tolliver, Joyce, "Narrative Accountability and Ambivalence: Feminine Desire in Insolación," Revista de Estudios Hispánicos, 23.2 (1989), 103-118. "This examines the parallel ambivalence towards women's sexual desire on the parts of both the protagonist and the narrator, and the way in which this ambivalence serves as an authorial 'hedge' for the defense of women's right to sexual expression."

Journal Issues Edited By or Of Interest to Our Members:

- 1) Caulfield, Carlota, El Gato Fuerto/The One-eyed Cat, Issue 12, Spring 1990, is dedicated to three Cuban women poets in exile—Magali Alabau, Lourdes Gil and Juana Rosa Pita. Interviews and poems. (See following flyer.)
- 2) Pratt, Mary Louise y Marta Morello-Frosch, eds. Nuevo Texto Crítico, No. 4 (1989), con el título "América Latina: Mujer, escritura, praxis." (See following flyer.)
- 3) Weber, Alison, guest editor. Journal of Hispanic Philology, Vol. 13, No. 3, Spring 1989, has as its focus Feminist Topics. (See Following flyer.)
- 4) Special issue of Estreno. Cuadernos del teatro español contemporáneo, 16, No.1 (Primavera, 1990), with the focus "La mujer: autora y personaje." Members Catherine Bellver and Phyllis Zatlin have articles in this issue. For information, write: Dept. of Romance Langs. & Lits., U. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221. (número suelto-\$13.00, suscripción-individuo-\$14.00, institución-\$23.00)
- 5) The Winter and Summer issues of Intercambios femeniles. A publication of the National Network of Hispanic Women have many interesting articles. Their subscription fees are: student-\$35.00; individual-\$50.00; corporate-\$250.00. Write to: NNHW - Membership, 12021 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 353, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

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ISSUE 12, SPRING 1990

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Este número, editado por Mary Louise Pratt y Marta Morello-Frosch, reúne artículos de crítica literaria y análisis cultural escritos por colegas de América Latina y Estados Unidos. NUEVO TEXTO CRITICO tiene interés en recibir colaboraciones sobre temas feministas y sobre literatura escrita por mujeres. Invitamos a que nos remitan materiales críticos inéditos; actualmente estamos preparando un número especial sobre POSMODERNIDAD, y podríamos considerar colaboraciones sobre la relación feminismo-postmodernidad; artículos sobre otros diferentes aspectos serán bienvenidos para números de 1991 en adelante.

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NUEVO TEXTO CRITICO No. 4
SEGUNDO SEMESTRE 1989

**AMERICA LATINA: MUJER,
ESCRITURA, PRAXIS**

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Journal of Hispanic Philology

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Feminist Topics

Alison Weber, Guest Editor

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Charlottesville, VA 22903

ADDITIONAL BOOKS OF INTEREST

A Dream Compels Us: Voices of Salvadoran Women, ed. by New Americas Press. Boston: South End Press, 1989, \$25.00 hardcover, \$10.00 paperback. Anthology by and about women in the revolutionary movement of El Salvador.

Fisher, Jo. Mothers of the Disappeared. South End Press, \$13.00.

Taggart, James M. Enchanted Maidens. Gender Relations in Spanish Folktales of Courtship and Marriage. Princeton, NJ: Princeton U. Press, 1990. paperback \$12.95, ISBN 0-691-02852-4; cloth \$37.50 ISBN 0-691-09453-5. " . . . his study shows how men and women use the tales to grapple with some of the contradictions found in gender relations in their culture which conditions men to be sexually assertive and to marry virgins and which teaches women to fear the men who court them."

SOME ASSOCIATIONS OF WOMEN IN PERU:

Asociación Perú-Mujer
Av España 578 #301 (Brena)
Lima 5, Peru

Centro de Documentación
Sobre La Mujer
Av. Arenales
Lima, Peru

Centro de La Mujer
Peruana "Flora Tristan"
Jiron Quilca 431
Lima, Peru

Círculos Feministas Populares
CESAP (oficina central)
San José de Avila
Apdo. 4240
Caracas, Venezuela

Fundação Carlos Chagas
Av. Prof. Francisco Morato, 1565
05513 São Paulo, SP, Brasil

Women for Guatemala

National Coordinating Office
P.O. Box 322
Concordia, KS 66901
(913) 243-1013



Dear Friend of the Guatemalan People,

We write to you because we have hope in you!

We have been given your name as a person sensitive to the human suffering and to unjust situations. Guatemala is one of the countries where there is inconceivable human suffering.

We, Women for Guatemala, are Guatemalan women in exile and Northamerican women who attempt to be the VOICE of the voiceless Guatemalan people, especially the women and children. We feel sure you are a person interested in supporting the work of Women for Guatemala.

The following example is a small expression of the level of suffering and repression that the Guatemalan people are enduring at the hands of the army.

"The children were interrogated by other children brought in by the army. They were asked questions about whether their parents worked, when they went to and returned from work, if they slept at home, if they went out at night, who visited them, their names and where they were from, if they received money from other people and who they met with."

"The Human Rights in Guatemala", Guatemalan Committee for Justice & Peace, Guatemala, December 1987

The above quote cites a situation that is silenced from the world - especially the ears and eyes of the Northamerican population.

By supporting the work of Women for Guatemala, you will be aiding us in informing yourself and hopefully others about our neighbor in the hemisphere. You will also be given the opportunity to know about the tragedy of the progressive eradication of the Maya culture, the majority of the Guatemalan people.

Enclosed is a brochure outlining our work.

Women for Guatemala believes:

SOLIDARITY MEANS: YOUR STRUGGLE IS MY STRUGGLE

We feel sure that you will join us in making the Guatemalan people's struggle for justice and peace, your struggle too.

Charity Baker
Charity Baker

América Calderon
National Co-coordinators

Kay Studer
Kay Studer

Why Guatemala?

The Guatemalan army in this highest populated Central American country is responsible for:

- the disappearance of more than 40,000 persons, (40% of all disappeared in all of Latin America)
- the destruction of 440 villages,
- 325 documented massacres,
- the assassination of over 100,000 people since 1954
- militarizing the countryside.

The first civilian government after 30 years of military rule is not able to control the continued army repression. It will not investigate or prosecute those responsible for the killings and "disappearances." The economic situation is worse than ever in the history of Guatemala.

Why Women and Children?

Under these circumstances, WOMEN and CHILDREN suffer from the poverty of a system of dependence and lack of political power. They are also:

- the majority of the 1.3 million refugees and displaced people in and outside Guatemala.
- the 46,000 widows due to the repression and internal situation,
- the 100,000 orphans who are left in this condition because the army killed or "disappeared" one or both parents.

We believe that women are survivors and therefore WFG wants to focus on giving them support.

Who are We?

WOMEN FOR GUATEMALA is a non-profit organization of Guatemalan and Northamerican women who are dedicated:

- to channeling material help for refugee and displaced women and children inside Guatemala, through groups that work for that cause,
- to linking women of both countries in their common struggle for self-determination.

- to promoting understanding among Northamerican women about the struggle for self-determination of the Guatemalan people,
- to generating a network of moral and active support for Guatemalan women and children.

WOMEN FOR GUATEMALA has chapters in 20 states which give educational programs, organize cultural events, sponsor house parties and do general organizing on Guatemala.



How Can You Help?

- by inviting a WOMEN FOR GUATEMALA representative to speak to your club, church group, etc.
- by joining a chapter of WOMEN FOR GUATEMALA in your area,
- by making a financial contribution to WOMEN FOR GUATEMALA in order to aid our work in generating moral and active solidarity for the Guatemala people,
- by helping with the weavers' and Empowerment for Women and Children projects,
- by offering to have a house party,

What Will You Receive?

- a small remembrance of Guatemala for your financial gift . . .
- a booklet of general information about Guatemala
- the satisfaction that you are helping to break the silence surrounding Guatemala
- and supporting them in their struggle to free themselves from repression and poverty.

**Solidarity Means:
Your Struggle Is My Struggle.**

ROSA MONTERO

“Los hombres inventan cuentos de hadas para explicarlo todo”

La escritora y periodista Rosa Montero acaba de publicar una nueva novela, *Temblo*, editada por Seix Barral. La autora de *Crónicas del desamor* y *Amado amo* se aventura, por primera vez, en este nuevo libro, en la literatura fantástica. Un mundo desolado, envuelto en nieblas misteriosas y dominadas por frías sacerdotisas en el escenario de la obra

JOSÉ MANUEL FAJARDO. Fotos: BERNARDO PÉREZ

SU último trabajo, *Temblo*, es un libro de literatura fantástica, algo bastante sorprendente en una escritora como usted que hasta ahora ha cultivado siempre en sus novelas, el realismo...

—Sí, ¿verdad? Eso es lo que se temía mi editor. Me decía: yo no sé cómo van a reaccionar tus lectores. No sé, si existen los lectores de una habrá que ver lo que dicen.

—Su libro no sólo es sorprendente en su trayectoria, también lo es en el panorama literario español, porque no abundan los textos de ese género.

—Es cierto, pero yo en realidad lo que he querido conseguir con esta novela es ese nivel de los buenos cuentos infantiles, que perduran porque son emblemáticos del ser humano. He querido hacer un cuento que representara emblemática, fantásticamente los horrores, los terrores, las angustias y las melancolías de nuestro mundo. He buscado escribir un cuento para adultos que tuviera la capacidad mítica de los cuentos infantiles.

—¿Se ha sentido usted influida por la literatura fantástica anglosajona, que es la que goza actualmente de mayor renombre?

—Sí, me gusta esa literatura, aunque también hay mucha morralla entre ella. De igual modo que me gusta determinado tipo de ciencia-ficción, aunque ese es un término confuso porque en seguida se piensa que hablas de marcianos. Lo verdaderamen-

te fascinante es construir una realidad distinta y que responda a una lógica propia, que tenga una armonía.

—¿Algún autor predilecto?

—A mí me interesa mucho el Ende de *La historia interminable* y sobre todo Ursula K. Le Guin con su libro *La mano izquierda de la oscuridad*, que es magnífica. Sin embargo, *El señor de los anillos*, de Tolkien, no me gusta, y en la ciencia-ficción otro clásico que tampoco me convence es Ray Bradbury porque lo encuentro demasiado blando.

—Su libro, como el de Ursula K. Le Guin, es en realidad un viaje iniciático del protagonista por un mundo fantástico.

—En *Temblo* existe ese viaje, pero la verdad es que, al final, la protagonista ve que no le ha servido para nada. Es iniciático, pero también

HE querido escribir sobre las angustias de nuestro mundo. Un cuento para adultos con la capacidad mítica de los infantiles

quiere ser desmitificador, porque en realidad no conduce a ninguna revelación. Ningún personaje sabe en definitiva nada. No hay ningún mago omnisciente. En realidad todos son lamentables y eso es lo que yo creo que es la humanidad: no somos ni buenos ni malos, ni heroicos ni ruines, ni felices ni trágicos... nada en realidad o todo un poco. Yo creo que eso aleja mi libro de otros del género que son más épicos.

—En *Temblo* hay también mucho de aventuras, porque no falta casi de nada: desde despertares en casas de enanos a los laberintos o el desierto.

—Pero esos escenarios no han sido buscados a propósito sino que han surgido conforme escribía el libro. Este es un libro en el que he intentado meter todo lo que sé y todo lo que soy. Es mi libro más ambicioso porque, en definitiva, lo que quiero decir con él es que esa es mi visión del mundo. Es la primera vez que me atrevo a intentar algo semejante. Todo lo que he ido tragando en mi vida cabe allí. Por ejemplo, la descripción del desierto proviene del impacto que me causó un libro de Peter Fleming sobre sus viajes a Manchuria en los años 20. Además, el desierto como aventura final es inevitable en un relato de viaje. La otra cosa es el mar, pero yo he preferido no utilizarlo.

—En ese sentido su libro es continental. Porque existe una geografía de la aventura en nuestra cultura. En general, los viajes al Oeste y al Sur son viajes de conquista y los viajes al Este y al Norte son viajes de conocimiento.

—Eso es verdad, pero no lo he hecho conscientemente. Lo que sí he hecho a propósito es poner ciertas cosas, juegos privados que vienen a decir que aunque hablo de un mundo imaginario, en definitiva, se trata de nuestro mundo. Por ejemplo, el palacio de las sacerdotisas se llama Talapote y lo llamé así por el Potala, que es el palacio de los lamas tibetanos.

—Hay ecos de la novela *1984* de George Orwell en su libro, sobre todo en la descripción del lavado de cerebro a que someten las sacerdotisas a sus novicias...

—Puede ser, pero en este caso no ha sido voluntario porque yo leí *1984* hace 15 años y la verdad es que no recuerdo prácticamente nada, salvo la figura del Gran Hermano.

—¿Cómo le surgió la idea de adentrarse en la literatura fantástica?

ENTREVISTA

—Yo no me lo propuse, fue resultado de la emoción, del impulso del que surgió el libro. Yo iba un día por la calle Reina Victoria, en Madrid, y pasé ante la casa de alquiler donde viví con mis padres desde los 5 hasta los 20 años. Mis padres ya no viven allí, así que pensé: ¿quién vivirá ahora?, ¿cómo habrán arreglado la casa? Seguramente habrían cambiado el suelo, que estaba fatal. Y entonces traté de recordar cómo eran los dibujos de los baldosines de mi cuarto, pero no fui capaz. Y aquellos dibujos habían sido muy importantes para mí cuando era adolescente y me pasaba horas sentada, pensando y mirando los dibujos del suelo.

—Esa obsesión por la memoria es una constante en sus libros...

—Sí, me obsesiona el despenñadero de las cosas y de la vida hacia la nada. Y me di cuenta que cuando yo muriera los dibujos de aquellos baldosines habrían desaparecido para siempre. Entonces me pregunté: ¿qué pasaría si existiera un mundo en donde eso fuera algo físico, un mundo donde las cosas desaparecie-

ESTA es una novela contra el dogmatismo y el fanatismo. Por eso hago hincapié en que todo cambia y en la importancia de la razón

ran cuando murieran las personas que las recordaban? De ahí nació *Temblo*.

—¿Hay algún escritor español de literatura fantástica que le interese?

—A mí me gusta muchísimo Cristina Fernández Cubas, en especial sus relatos de *Los altillos de Brumal* y *Mi hermana Elba*.

—En su novela hay una referencia a la frase de Heráclito de que las aguas de un mismo río son siempre

distintas. ¿Podría decirse que en cierto modo su novela es una diatriba contra el dogmatismo?

—Es que esta es una novela contra el dogma, contra el fanatismo. Por eso hago hincapié en que todo cambia y en la importancia de la razón. Aunque sé que la razón sola no basta para comprender la vida.

—Esa es una reflexión muy actual, ahora que los fanatismos religiosos y nacionalistas están en auge.

—Eso se debe a que aunque el libro suceda en el futuro responde a mis preocupaciones de hoy. El dogmatismo es algo que me da horror.

—Usted no es una persona religiosa y sin embargo en su libro hay un componente religioso, tanto en la reflexión sobre la función social de la fe como en la descripción de las sumisiones e intolerancias religiosas...

—Es curioso porque yo me eduqué en un colegio laico y no soy nada religiosa, efectivamente. No sé por qué he sentido esa necesidad de dar una veta religiosa en mi libro. Probablemente sea porque hay una dimensión espiritual que sí me interesa, aunque la religión propiamente dicha no me

interesa nada. Pero las religiones sí me interesan como representaciones del mundo, como mitos para explicar el mundo. Luego, el uso que se hace de ella es horrible. Me parece entrañable que los hombres se inventen tantos cuentos de hadas para tratar de explicarse el mundo. Quizá por eso me inventé una religión en mi libro.

—En *Temblo* vuelve usted a tocar uno de sus temas favoritos, las relaciones entre hombres y mujeres. Pero en esta ocasión usted se ha inventado un mundo al revés, dominado por las mujeres. ¿Por qué?

—Porque en el libro lo que hago es plantear lo ridículos que son los estereotipos sexuales y para ello invertí los papeles tradicionales. De todos modos, el que las mujeres dominen el mundo en mi libro no es fruto de mi voluntad sino consecuencia lógica del mundo que estoy describiendo.

—¿Cómo coexisten la escritora y la periodista?

—Muy mal, porque cuando escribes una novela necesitas dedicarle todas las horas del día, más aún en un libro como éste en que tienes que tener todo un mundo en la cabeza. Ten-



go la amarga sospecha de que si no hubiera tenido que viajar para hacer reportajes para el periódico el libro podía haber sido mucho mejor.

—Usted es una escritora de éxito. ¿Va a retirar, en algún momento, la novelista a la periodista?

—Ya me gustaría, pero no quisiera retirarme del todo en primer lugar porque me gusta el periodismo. El trabajo de reportera te aporta unas posibilidades de conocimiento de otra

gente y otros mundos que es muy importante para uno mismo, para crecer, para madurar. Eso quiero poder seguir haciéndolo. Que caiga el Muro de Berlín y estar allí al día siguiente, como he tenido que hacer, es maravilloso. Viajar a la URSS para hacer un reportaje y ver lo que está pasando allí, también es maravilloso. Y eso lo da el periodismo. Además, este libro, *Temblo*, en cierto modo es deudor de mi experiencia como periodista: llevo 21 años en este oficio y las experiencias vividas durante este tiempo están presentes.

—¿No será que teme usted convertirse en una profesional de la novela?

—Es que no quiero vivir de la literatura. Entre las novelas *Te trataré como una reina* y *Amado amo* estuve cinco años sin publicar, porque me atranqué, empecé una novela que no me gustó y la tiré. Si yo hubiera dependido de mis libros para vivir, probablemente hubiera tenido que publicar una novela que no me gustaba, y no quiero. Pretendo tan sólo las novelas de las que esté medianamente satisfecha, porque nunca llegas a estarlo del todo.

Book Review

Rodriguez gives special focus to New York Puerto Ricans

Puerto Ricans: Born in the U.S.A., Clara E. Rodriguez, Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1989, pp. 218

If diversity is perceived only in racial and ethnic terms without questioning the relations of, and to, power structures, then it also becomes a celebration of oppression and continues the marginalization of the 'diverse' people in question by assigning them a framed space and date in which to perform, according to Eliana Ortega and Nancy Saporita Sternbach in "At the Threshold of the Unnamed: Latina Literary Discourse in the Eighties," *Breaking Boundaries: Latina Writings and Critical Readings*.

In *Puerto Ricans: Born in the USA*, Puerto Ricans are at the center because Clara Rodriguez is clear about how power structures affect their daily lives. In this book, Rodriguez's main purpose is to provide a context for the experience of Puerto Ricans in the United States, with a special focus on those who live in New York City.

The space she defines for Puerto Ricans is created by presenting a social history of the migration and their political economic situation since the time of peak (im)migration.

In the first chapter she points out the parallels of this (im)migration to those of other colonial immigrants and in the fourth she spells out the structural realities that shaped that experience. Throughout the book these two frameworks serve to remind us of the similar and unique aspects of this (im)migration.

The remaining chapters of the book deal with "subject areas . . . chosen because they are important to a complete picture of the Puerto Rican experience in the United States."

In the second chapter a census-based portrait of the community includes a brief look at population size, sex ratios, age distribution, birthplace, language,



Angela Ginorio

education, and economic indicators, including income, work force participation, household structure, family composition and, occupations.

A chapter each is dedicated to racial issues, housing and education—complemented by an appendix on tracking in New York City. A seventh chapter presents a case study of the cultural phenomenon called "Menuendo."

Each chapter provides a compendium of the available information on the subject and the volume includes a 30 page bibliography. After the information is presented it is usually followed by Rodriguez's own interpretation and/or challenge to the traditional explanations that have been offered for such information.

For example, the cold statistics on

housing (27,763 units of housing were lost in the South Bronx between 1970-80) are presented within the context of a community that struggled to keep some semblance of normalcy against all odds and against the backdrop of a city which responded by spending more of its budget destroying buildings than repairing them.

In addition, each chapter is complemented by a set of incredibly rich and informative footnotes — the kind that researchers are tempted to read ahead of the text.

The author organized each chapter in small modules of information — a page per topic on the average. This makes for ease in finding information although occasionally necessitates repetitions across chapters. In addition, each chapter stands separately.

This organization makes the book particularly well suited for a number of different uses: from classrooms where Puerto Ricans or other Latinos may be the main topic to those in which any of the content areas, such as education or housing are the concern.

As a psychologist this reviewer was disappointed to see that mental health was not even mentioned in the well organized index—the author acknowledges that "many critical areas have not been touched — politics, health, crime, the success stories."

As a feminist this reviewer was sorry to see that sexism or women's issues were not addressed separately although relevant data or information on women is presented in a number of places.

As an island-born Puerto Rican that came to the U.S. as an adult, this reviewer was thankful for the number of places where Rodriguez's conclusions or endings differed thus giving me a better understanding of the experience of a second-generation mainland Puerto Rican.

Puerto Ricans: Born in the U.S.A. is definitely a "must read" for anyone wanting a broad and informed view on Puerto Ricans in New York, and to find a context for the Puerto Rican (im)migration.

Angela B. Ginorio
University of Washington

Supplement now available

The 1989 supplement to the *Women of Color and Southern Women: A Bibliography of Social Science Research 1975 to 1988* is now available for \$10.

Approximately 900 new references are cited, providing more

access to current research in the study of southern women and women of color.

Both the 1988 bibliography and the 1989 supplement are available for \$22.

See the order form on page 11 of this newsletter.

Spring, 1990/3