

# **UCLA**

## **The Proceedings of the UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Conference**

### **Title**

Introduction

### **Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4g2478hg>

### **Journal**

The Proceedings of the UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Conference, 1(1)

### **Author**

Villarreal, Belen M

### **Publication Date**

2012

### **Copyright Information**

Copyright 2012 by the author(s). All rights reserved unless otherwise indicated. Contact the author(s) for any necessary permissions. Learn more at <https://escholarship.org/terms>

Peer reviewed

# Introduction

Interest in the concept of transnationality has increased notably in academia during the last decades. Considering the sizeable amount of theories which try to explain the phenomenon of how relations, traditions and ideas are built and maintained in spite of national borders, we resolved to create a forum whose purpose was to stimulate dialogue on the subject from an interdisciplinary perspective. As a result of that effort, a limited number of the papers presented at the VII UCLA Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Student Conference “Transnationality in the Luso-Hispanic World” were selected for publication. The works included in this volume approach the concept of transnationality from a variety of perspectives. All of them share a vision of our present world that emerges as the result of fluidity between cultural groups and the exchange of languages, ideas, customs and values.

As a result of the diversity of the conference presentations, we decided to organize the proceedings into two main sections: literature and film, on one hand, and linguistics on the other. The section on literature opens with a study of the intersections of language, culture and identity in Juan Marsé’s novel *El amante bilingüe* as described by Laura Connor. In her article, Connor provides an in-depth discussion of the competing identities present in contemporary Barcelona, Catalan and Castilian, and examines the parallels that can be made between these and the characters in Marsé’s work. Connor’s study is followed by Krista Brune’s examination of language and translation in *Duas Praças* as a commentary on the disjunctive democracy transforming Brazilian metropolitan areas into parallel cohabitating societies. She also explores the politics of memory that continue to exist in postdictatorial societies throughout the region. The topic of identity is again addressed in Eduardo da Silva’s article on the construction of Brazilian femininity. Da Silva discusses the representation of sexuality in three of Jorge Amado’s novels and their adaptations to film and television. Amado’s depiction of three female protagonists, da Silva argues, questions the transnational conceptualization of Brazilian women. Continuing with a cinematic focus, Erin K. Hogan’s work compares children’s perspectives in two films, the Spanish-Uruguayan-Argentine *Paisito* and the Brazilian *O Ano em Que Meus*

*Pais Sáíram de Féiras*, in order to present the ways in which soccer functions both as an ideological instrument of the state and as a means of subverting such a mechanism of repression. Turning next to poetry, Cristiane B. Lira compares the ideas of exile and insile that are presented in the works of the lusophone poets Florbela Espanca and Cecília Meireles. Lira argues that being exiled does not necessarily mean being geographically dislocated. Finally, this section closes with Juan Jesús Payán's exploration of the possibilities of the heteronymous in contemporary poetry and the difficulties presented when applying this concept to the poems of Juan Gelman. He compares Gelman's *Los poemas de Sidney West* with the works of Fernando Pessoa, Bertolt Brecht and Edgar Masters.

The linguistic perspective begins with Covadonga Lamar Prieto's historical analysis of Spanish in California during the nineteenth century. Lamar Prieto's research focuses on documents written by Pío Pico regarding the conflict between English and Spanish at the time of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1847). From nineteenth-century California, we move to the present with Belén Villarreal's discussion of the dialectal acquisition of the Los Angeles Spanish vernacular in a public primary school in Southern California. Villarreal combines quantitative and qualitative methods in her ethnographic and sociolinguistic approach. Broadening the area of study to the entire country, Carolina I. Viera analyzes the formation of the Latino community in the United States and the adaptation of *voseante* speakers to these communities. Their assimilation or lack thereof, she concludes, has lasting consequences for their linguistic identities. This section concludes with Christine Guedri Giacalone's investigation of Lebanese-Brazilians' perceptions of Arabic loanwords. In this article Guedri Giacalone quantifies how phonological aspects from both the borrowing and lending languages are incorporated into loanword adaptations.