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MESTER

FOCUS: HEMISPHERIC INTERSECTIONS



XLII

2013

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Introduction

Mester Volume XLII: Hemispheric Intersections brings forth the literary and linguistic possibilities when Spanish and Portuguese-speaking worlds traverse and collide. With constant interaction and dialogue, hemispheric contact differs from a simple cross-comparison rather, unfolding how said lived experiences react, change, and/or adapt within the intersections. As nation-states' political, economic, social and geographic borders are being redefined and reinforced, technological advances, active migration, culture and pursuits beyond the nation simultaneously challenge them. Recent scholarship on Hemispheric Studies has delved into these 'national ruptures', extending and overarching into realms traditionally silenced, marginalized and excluded from hemispheric discourses.

For Volume XLII, we have a wonderful range of contributions from professors and graduate students, such as articles that discuss Latina experiences within the urban landscapes of North and South America, along with the linguistic resistance found within the Judeo-Spanish community, the absent pages from the Brazilian novel *Zero* and childhood studies in the Inca Garcilaso de la Vega. This volume also contains interviews with writers Sara Sefchovich and Carla Guelfenbein, both of whom discuss their positionalities as women writers in and outside of Latin America; as well as scholar and Professor John Beverley who graciously granted *Mester* an interview in the Spring of 2013 and conversed with us about his recent work *Latinamericanism After 9/11* (2011). For this edition we have two translated works by Brazilian writer Luiz Ruffato, whose speech at the 2013 Frankfurt International Book Fair sparked a debate on a writer's role when it comes to political and social injustices. Concluding this publication with academic book reviews, we have included works by Chicano scholar José D. Saldívar and his framework on the trans-Americanity of Greater Mexico, new theories on 19th century Latin American literatures, along with Joanna Crow's valuable work on Mapuche identity politics and debates in modern-day Chile.

I would like to acknowledge *Mester's* 2012–2013 Editorial Board, a group of passionate and committed graduate students whom actively engaged with our submissions and are the core of this journal's legacy. Without their contributions this edition would not be possible. Thank you to the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University

of California, Los Angeles whose funding and foundation serves *Mester's* history as one of the longest running journals at UCLA. To our Faculty Mentor, Profesora Adriana Bergero, we thank you for constantly inspiring and cheering on our efforts. Much gratitude deservedly goes to UCLA Graduate Student Association's Publications Director, Stacey Meeker, whose door is always open and readily available in times of editing and publishing crisis. I am also grateful to the Del Amo Fellowship and Graduate Student Association for their financial support. Finally I would like to thank, Brenda Loyola-Ortiz, Rafael Ramírez Mendoza, Isabel Gómez, Carolyn González, and Valeria Valencia for their collective encouragement and support. I hope you enjoy engaging with these fantastic works that demonstrate our journal's devotion to the constant evolution and growth of the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking worlds.

Sandra Ruiz
Editor-in-Chief, 2012-2013
University of California, Los Angeles