

LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE IN TRANSITION PRE-1492–1800

The year 1492 invokes many instances of transition in a variety of ways that intersected, overlapped, and shaped the emergence of Latin America. For the diverse Native inhabitants of the Americas as well as the people of Europe, Africa, and Asia who crossed the Atlantic and Pacific as part of the early-modern global movements, their lived experiences were defined by transitions. The Iberian territories from approximately 1492–1800 extended from what is now the US Southwest to Tierra del Fuego, and from the Iberian coasts to the Philippines and China. Built around six thematic areas that underline key processes that shaped the colonial period and its legacies – space, body, belief systems, literacies, languages, and identities – this innovative volume goes beyond the traditional European understanding of the lettered canon. It examines a range of texts including books published in Europe and the New World and manuscripts stored in repositories around the globe that represent poetry, prose, judicial proceedings, sermons, letters, grammars, and dictionaries.

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LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE IN TRANSITION

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This series proposes a new organization of Latin American literature through a focus on moments of transformation, change, revitalization, and retreat. Latin American Literature in Transition explores the way in which the field has transitioned, and how what is considered under the rubric of Latin American Literature has evolved and changed. It moves beyond national, regional, and linguistic traditions and introduces a continental multifaceted account of Latin American literature.

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LATIN AMERICAN
LITERATURE IN
TRANSITION PRE-1492–1800

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Rocío Quispe-Agnoli:
Para Stephen, de nuevo, siempre y para siempre
Amber Brian:
To Mira, Silas, and Brian, always and forever . . .

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Acknowledgments

This volume brings together a fine collection of chapters that examine an ample and rich gamut of transitions in more than three hundred years' worth of colonial Latin American literary, visual, and performance texts. Once called “el imperio donde no se pone el sol” [“the empire where the sun does not set”], the Spanish – and Portuguese – territories in the Americas extended from what is now the US Southwest to Tierra del Fuego at the southernmost point of the American continent, and from the Iberian coasts to the Philippines and China. The Iberian territory between 1492 and 1800 was transatlantic, transpacific, and hemispheric. We have been able to bring together a group of scholars from multiple continents, each of them an expert in this geography and time period that spans such extraordinary breadth. We are grateful for their contributions to these collective reflections on transitions in colonial Latin American literature.

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