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Restos transepultos y espectros de la modernidad
latinoamericana

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In This Issue

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Essays

- 7 *Emily Celeste Vázquez Enríquez*
Ecos de extracción en *Noche de fuego* de Tatiana Huezco
- 23 *Allen Guillermo Rivas Prado*
“María Antonia” de Reinaldo Echemendía: una obra que se rehúsa abandonar la Revolución
- 39 *Sergio Gutiérrez Negrón*
Labor, Colonization, and the Freedom from Restraint in Nicolás Pizarro Suárez’s *El monedero* (1861)
- 59 *Antonio Rivera-Montoya*
La ilegítima *cuerpa* de la loca chilena: teoría y performance travesti sudaka
- 79 *Jeonghwan Kim*
La danza de los *tastoanes* y la viruela: la conversión de una ceremonia indígena a una fiesta patronal
- 95 *Verónica Pérez García*
Speculative Transecology and Caribbean Space-Time: Queer Relationalities in Rita Indiana’s *La mucama de Omicunlé*

Special Section: Restos transepultos y espectros de la modernidad latinoamericana

Guest Editors: Carlos A. Jáuregui and Valeria Añón

- Carlos A. Jáuregui and Valeria Añón
115 Introducción: restos transepultos y espectros de la modernidad latinoamericana
- Valeria Añón
129 *El mundo es poco*. La disputa acerca de los restos y los monumentos colombinos
- Carlos A. Jáuregui
153 Hernán Cortés y el secreto público de sus huesos transepultos
- Mariselle Meléndez
185 Which Body After All? Between Memory and Body Parts: The Case of Micaela Bastidas in the 21st Century
- Mario Rufer
207 Sueños, entierros, profanaciones: en torno a la relación entre historia y soberanía
- Emmanuelle Sinardet and Juan Carlos Grijalva
229 The Eternal (De)Composition of National Identity: Juan Montalvo's Patriotic Mummy
- Luis Duno-Gottberg
243 The Mythological Machine and The Revolutionary Remains of Hugo Chávez: Reflections on Memorialization and Conservative Returns

Book Reviews

- 257 *Disidencia e hipernormalización. Ensayos sobre sexualidad y masculinidades* por Alfredo Martínez Expósito
Itxaro González Guridi
- 260 *The Op-Ed Novel: A Literary History of Post-Franco Spain* by Bécquer Seguí
Caglar Erteber
- 262 *Entranced Earth: Art, Extractivism, and the End of Landscape* by Jens Andermann
Amanda M. Smith
- 264 *Representaciones del espacio fronterizo en la literatura mexicana del siglo XX* por Sergio M. Martínez
Jaime Chávez
- 266 *Handbook of Latin American Environmental Aesthetics* edited by Jens Andermann, Gabriel Giorgi and Victoria Saramago
Javier Muñoz-Díaz

- 268 *A Planetary Avant-Garde: Experimental Literature Networks and the Legacy of Iberian Colonialism* by Ignacio Infante
 Paula Park
- 269 *Digital Encounters: Envisioning Connectivity in Latin American Cultural Production*
 edited by Cecily Raynor and Rhian Lewis
 Melissa A. Fitch
- 270 *España postimperial: ideologías del imperio restaurativo. Otras (in)surgentes* por Joseba Gabilondo
 N. Michelle Murray
- 272 *Sovereign Joy: Afro-Mexican Kings and Queens, 1539-1640* by Miguel A. Valerio
 Nicholas Molinary
- 274 *Fines infrapolíticos: de la razón, la representación y la narrativa española moderna*
 por Pedro A. Aguilera Mellado
 Miguel Caballero-Vázquez

In This Issue

This issue of the *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies* features six essays in the main section, exploring various approaches to cultural production. They examine how cultural products respond to the hegemonic forces that shape history, identity, and the spaces we inhabit across various regions of Latin America and the Caribbean. The essays draw on concepts and approaches from ecocriticism, gender and sexuality studies, and colonial/decolonial studies.

Emily Celeste Vázquez Enríquez opens with “Ecos de extracción en *Noche de fuego* de Tatiana Huezo,” discussing the role of acoustic ecology in the lives of children in a remote mountainous region in rural Mexico affected by extractive exploitation. Allen Guillermo Rivas Prado analyzes Eugenio Hernández Espinosa’s play, *María Antonia* (1964), comparing cinematic adaptations with Reinaldo Echemendía’s 2005 choreographic adaptation. He critiques Echemendía’s neglect of Cuba’s socioeconomic and racial dynamics during the Periodo Especial in the 1990s. In “Labor, Colorization, and the Freedom from Restraint in Nicolás Pizarro Suárez’s *El monedero* (1861),” Sergio Gutiérrez Negrón highlights literary discourse as a form of political intervention, advocating for labor reform within a socialist framework tied to Benito Juárez’s liberal ideals. Antonio Rivera-Montoya examines the influential work of transvestite and trans performers in the Southern Cone, unpacking the concept of “la cuerpa” to challenge patriarchal norms. Jeonghwan Kim analyzes the “Danza de los *tastoanes*,” reinterpreting it as a commemoration of indigenous acculturation, which counters established scholarship depicting the dance solely as a narrative of resistance. Finally, Verónica Pérez García explores anticolonial speculation in Rita Indiana’s novella *La mucama de Omicunlé* (2015), delving into themes of trans-ecology and colonial resistance through the protagonist’s experiences.

These contributions are followed by an exceptional special section titled “Restos transepultos y espectros de la modernidad latinoamericana,” coordinated by Carlos A. Jáuregui (University of Notre Dame) and Valeria Añón (Universidad de Buenos Aires). The essays trace the journeys and examine the evolving meanings and appropriations of “restos” (human remains) of superstar figures in (early) modern historical narratives, including Columbus, Cortés, Micaela Bastidas, Pancho Villa, Cuauhtémoc, Juan Montalvo, and Hugo Chávez, who have persisted as imperial and national symbols within cultural expression, historical commemorations, and memorial contestation. These interventions are poised to be an essential reading for scholars in memory studies across disciplines.

Vibrant journals are constantly evolving. Our Editorial Board has benefited greatly from the support of outstanding scholars Bradley S. Apps, David K. Herzberger, and Jorge Mariscal, who stepped down this year. Additionally, Ronald W. Sousa passed away in 2023

after a remarkable academic career in Luso-Brazilian studies, primarily at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he remained a strong supporter of the journal until his passing. We are grateful for their enduring dedication and commitment to excellence in our publication. These shifts have created opportunities for other distinguished colleagues in Hispanic cultural studies.

In this issue, I am excited to welcome our newest board member, Benita Sampedro Vizcaya. She holds the John Cranford Adams Chair in the Humanities and serves as a Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures at Hofstra University. Her scholarship focuses on the Global Hispanophone, emphasizing the transhistorical legacies of Spanish colonialism and imperialism in North and sub-Saharan Africa and in regions and islands across the seas and oceans from the Mediterranean to the Pacific. She underscores key themes influenced by imperial power, including migration, deportation, and the lasting impact of the archive, particularly from the nineteenth century onward.

I want to express my deep appreciation for our managing editor, Agustín Cuadrado; assistant editor, Caglar Erteber; dedicated senior and production editors; and our book review editor, Nuria Morgado. This issue celebrates her new position as president of the Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española (ANLE). Morgado (CUNY Staten Island) has supported the *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies* in various capacities since her time as a graduate student at the University of Arizona. She served as assistant editor from 1998 to 2004 and as book review editor from 2005 to 2024. With a deep commitment to our journal, she will continue as Senior Consulting Editor. Nuria, thank you for your exceptional work, which has significantly contributed to this journal's success and reach.

Our assistant editor since 2022, Caglar Erteber, known for his helpfulness, efficiency, reliability, and exceptional insight into all aspects of production, is stepping down from this role but will continue to assist the journal in the critical position formerly held by Morgado, that of Book Review Editor. I appreciate his dedication and his acceptance of this demanding role. As assistant editor, I am pleased to welcome Ellen Deemer Pérez, a PhD candidate in Hispanic Linguistics. She has distinguished herself among graduate students with her outstanding language and research skills, as well as her attention to detail. Welcome, Ellen!

As I conclude these remarks, I would like to share that Professor Víctor Sierra Matute (Baruch College, CUNY) is editing the 2025 Special Section titled "The Past Awakened: Cultural Reimagination in the Global Hispanophone." As always, we welcome your submissions and proposals for future special sections.

Santa Arias
Executive Editor