

COMPARATIVE FEMINIST STUDIES SERIES

Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Series Editor

PUBLISHED BY PALGRAVE MACMILLAN:

Sexuality, Obscenity, Community: Women, Muslims, and the Hindu Public in Colonial India

by Charu Gupta

Twenty-First-Century Feminist Classrooms: Pedagogies of Identity and Difference

edited by Amie A. Macdonald and Susan Sánchez-Casal

Reading across Borders: Storytelling and Knowledges of Resistance

by Shari Stone-Mediatore

Made in India: Decolonizations, Queer Sexualities, Transnational Projects

by Suparna Bhaskaran

Dialogue and Difference: Feminisms Challenge Globalization

edited by Marguerite Waller and Sylvia Marcos

Engendering Human Rights: Cultural and Socio-Economic Realities in Africa

edited by Obioma Nnaemeka and Joy Ezeilo

Women's Sexualities and Masculinities in a Globalizing Asia

edited by Saskia E. Wieringa, Evelyn Blackwood, and Abha Bhaiya

Gender, Race, and Nationalism in Contemporary Black Politics

by Nikol G. Alexander-Floyd

Gender, Identity, and Imperialism: Women Development Workers in Pakistan

by Nancy Cook

Transnational Feminism in Film and Media

edited by Katarzyna Marciniak, Anikó Imre, and Áine O'Healy

Gendered Citizenships: Transnational Perspectives on Knowledge Production, Political Activism, and Culture

edited by Kia Lilly Caldwell, Kathleen Coll, Tracy Fisher, Renya K. Ramirez, and Lok Siu

Visions of Struggle in Women's Filmmaking in the Mediterranean

edited by Flavia Laviosa; Foreword by Laura Mulvey

Islam, Women, and Violence in Kashmir: Between India and Pakistan

by Nyla Ali Khan

Gender Epistemologies and Eurasian Borderlands

by Madina Tlostanova

“Neoliberalization” as Betrayal: State, Feminism, and a Women’s Education Program in India

by Shubhra Sharma

Transnational Borderlands in Women’s Global Networks: The Making of Cultural Resistance

edited by Clara Román-Odio and Marta Sierra

*Transnational Borderlands in
Women's Global Networks*

The Making of Cultural Resistance

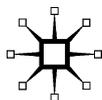
Edited by

Clara Román-Odio

and

Marta Sierra

palgrave
macmillan



TRANSNATIONAL BORDERLANDS IN WOMEN'S GLOBAL NETWORKS
Copyright © Clara Román-Odio and Marta Sierra, 2011.
Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2011 978-0-230-10981-0
All rights reserved.

First published in 2011 by
PALGRAVE MACMILLAN®
in the United States—a division of St. Martin's Press LLC,
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

Where this book is distributed in the UK, Europe and the rest of the world,
this is by Palgrave Macmillan, a division of Macmillan Publishers Limited,
registered in England, company number 785998, of Houndmills,
Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS.

Palgrave Macmillan is the global academic imprint of the above companies
and has companies and representatives throughout the world.

Palgrave® and Macmillan® are registered trademarks in the United States,
the United Kingdom, Europe and other countries.

ISBN 978-1-349-29231-8 ISBN 978-0-230-11947-5 (eBook)
DOI 10.1057/9780230119475

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Transnational borderlands in women's global networks : the making of
cultural resistance / Clara Román-Odio, Marta Sierra, editors.
p. cm.—(Comparative feminist studies)
Includes bibliographical references.

1. Women—Social networks. 2. Feminism. 3. Transnationalism. I.
Román-Odio, Clara, 1960– II. Sierra, Marta, 1968–

HQ1885.T73 2011
303.48'208209051—dc22 2010043775

A catalogue record of the book is available from the British Library.

Design by Newgen Imaging Systems (P) Ltd., Chennai, India.

First edition: June 2011

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Transferred to Digital Printing in 2011

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	vii
<i>Series Editor's Foreword</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiii

Part I Introduction

Introduction: Transnational Borderlands in Women's Global Networks: The Making of Cultural Resistance <i>Clara Román-Odio and Marta Sierra</i>	3
---	---

Part II Globalization, Transnationalisms, and the Politics of Representation in the Borderlands

One Transnational Feminism, Globalization, and the Politics of Representation in Chicana Visual Art <i>Clara Román-Odio</i>	23
Two Markings on the Walls: Writing in Opposition in Alicia Gaspar de Alba's <i>Desert Blood</i> <i>Irene Mata</i>	45
Three Global Patagonia: Belén Gache's Nomadic Writings <i>Marta Sierra</i>	77
Four Family Imaginaries and Postmemory in Chilean Narrative: Andrea Jeftanovic's <i>Escenario de guerra</i> and Lina Meruane's <i>Cercada</i> <i>Bernardita Llanos</i>	99
Five Iraqi Women, Jewish Men, and Global Noises in Two Texts by Ya'qub Balbul <i>Orit Bashkin</i>	119

Part III Transnational Decentering of Human/Women's Rights

Six Race, Gender, and Human Rights: A Glimpse into the Transnational Feminist Organization of Afro-Brazilian Women <i>Jessica Franklin</i>	141
---	-----

Seven	Shaping Political Discourse on Women's Rights: The Role of Women in the Amendment of Gender Policies in Turkey <i>Gul Aldikacti Marshall</i>	165
Eight	Trouble in the Global Village: A Snapshot of LGBT Community in Eastern Europe <i>Anna Kłosowska</i>	179
Part IV Pedagogies of Crossing and Dissent		
Nine	<i>The Vagina Monologues</i> : Theoretical, Geopolitical, and Pedagogical Concerns <i>Kimberly A. Williams</i>	203
Ten	The Long Table Model: Bringing Transnational Feminist Debates to a Small Midwestern University <i>Katy Strzepek, Beatrice Jacobson, and Katherine Van Blair</i>	221
	<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	241
	<i>Index</i>	245

Figures

1.1	<i>California Fashions Slaves</i> © Alma Lopez, 1997	29
1.2	<i>Virgen de los Caminos</i> 1994 @ Smithsonian American Art Museum	32
1.3	<i>Virgen de las Red-Hot Tortillas</i> © Consuelo Jimenez-Underwood	34
1.4	<i>Shrine to Guadalupe</i> © Marion C. Martinez, 2005	36
1.5	<i>Virgen de las Calles</i> © Ester Hernández	39
3.1	Usuhaia Prison (hallways) where the installation took place	79
3.2	<i>Diary of the Cannibal Moon</i> (video still). Usuhaia Prison (exterior). Behind, the Cinco Hermanos mountains	87
3.3	<i>Diary of the Cannibal Moon</i> (video still). Photograph taken from inside a prison's cell	88
3.4	<i>Diary of the Cannibal Moon</i> . Promotional image for the installation	91

Series Editor's Foreword

As I write, we have witnessed historic people's revolutions in Tunisia, and Egypt, and are witnessing the rise of social movements against autocratic rulers and neoliberal economic policies in other parts of the Arab world, most notably Libya. And as many of us are glued to the media and hungry for news, we hear very little about women's roles in these movements, women's leadership in organizing the community resistance in Tahrir Square (Egypt), women's visions, dreams, and strategic organizing skills in these revolutions. And yet, we see images of women confronting armed police, organizing picket lines, reeling from being beaten by militias, and video taping and blogging at great risk to themselves. The last two months have profoundly changed the landscape of democratic and social justice struggles in the Arab world, and while women are perhaps less visible than we would like, gender politics remain at the center of these human rights struggles. Perhaps we need better lenses, better feminist analytics to "see" women's participation and leadership in these revolutions. The mobilization of transnational organizing and knowledge networks is readily acknowledged in the current anti-authoritarian social movements, and women's broad based participation in creating sustainable infrastructures is evident to some of us. But, many of us still ask "where are the women?" *Transnational Borderlands in Women's Global Networks: The Making of Cultural Resistance* provides some provisional answers to this question. As a whole the book provides innovative feminist theoretical and methodological lenses that allow us to "see" and analyze transnational forms of cultural resistance. *Transnational Borderlands* is thus a perfect fit for the CFS series.

The Comparative Feminist Studies (CFS) series is designed to foreground writing, organizing, and reflection on feminist trajectories across the historical and cultural borders of nation-states. It takes up fundamental analytic and political issues involved in the cross-cultural production of knowledge about women and feminism, examining the politics of scholarship and knowledge in relation to feminist organizing and social justice movements. Drawing on feminist thinking in a number of fields, the CFS series targets innovative, comparative feminist scholarship, pedagogical and curricular strategies, and community organizing and political education. It explores a comparative

feminist praxis that addresses some of the most urgent questions facing progressive critical thinkers and activists today.

Over the decades, feminists across the globe have been variously successful at addressing fundamental issues of oppression and liberation. In our search for gender justice in the early twenty first century, however, we inherit a number of the challenges our mothers and grandmothers faced. But there are also new challenges to face as we attempt to make sense of a world indelibly marked by the failure of postcolonial (and advanced) capitalist and communist nation-states to provide for the social, economic, spiritual, and psychic needs of the majority of the world's population. In the year 2011, globalization has come to represent the interests of corporations and the free market rather than self-determination and freedom from political, cultural, and economic domination for all the world's peoples. The project of U.S. Empire building, the rise of Islamophobia in the United States and Europe, alongside the dominance of corporate capitalism and neoliberalism kills, disenfranchises, and impoverishes women everywhere. Militarization, environmental degradation, heterosexist State practices, religious fundamentalisms, sustained migrations of peoples across the borders of nations and geopolitical regions, environmental crises, and the exploitation of women's labor by capital all pose profound challenges for feminists at this time. Neoliberal economic policies and discourses of development and progress mark yet another form of colonial/imperial governance, masking the exercise of power over peoples lives through claims of empowerment. Recovering and remembering insurgent histories, and seeking new understandings of political subjectivities and citizenship have never been so important, at a time marked by social amnesia, global consumer culture, and the worldwide mobilization of fascist notions of "national security."

These are some of the very challenges the CFS series is designed to address. The series takes as its fundamental premise the need for feminist engagement with global as well as local ideological, historical, economic, and political processes, and the urgency of transnational dialogue in building an ethical culture capable of withstanding and transforming the commodified and exploitative practices of global governance structures, culture, and economics. Individual volumes in the CFS series provide systemic and challenging interventions into the (still) largely Euro-Western feminist studies knowledge base, while simultaneously highlighting the work that can and needs to be done to envision and enact cross-cultural, multiracial feminist solidarity.

Transnational Borderlands is a book about the intricate connections between local and global sites that women occupy in

transnational networks—sometimes in highly visible ways, sometimes not. The book illustrates in subtle and complex ways what Egyptian feminist Nawal el Saadawi said of the revolution in Egypt and the gathering in Tahrir Square: women are everywhere, and we are here to stay! In the introduction, editors Clara Roman-Odio and Marta Sierra describe the project of the book in this way: “*Transnational Borderlands* examines the impact transnational feminist methodologies have in conceptualizing women’s place in the global sphere and in understanding emancipatory ways of connecting knowledge, location and subjectivity” (p. 1). Drawing on literary, cinematic, and cultural texts, on art, organizing strategies, knowledge systems, and grassroots networks, the essays offer innovative and challenging ways to recognize and understand women’s place in transnational justice work. The volume is organized around analyses of (1) transformations in literature and art, (2) in social movements, and struggles over human rights, and citizenship, and (3) radical antihegemonic pedagogies that theorize and enact transnational border crossings. Anchored in the theorizations of feminists of color, anticolonial theorists, and transnational feminist methodologies, the text offers new conceptualizations of “borderlands” linking questions of subjectivity, citizenship, political economy, and cultural production to women’s agency in the Global South and North. A volume that will be of interest to scholars and activists alike—one that helps us “see” what we so often miss in the grand narratives of revolutions, social movements, and knowledge paradigms.

CHANDRA TALPADE MOHANTY
Series Editor
Ithaca, New York

Acknowledgments

The genesis of this book is a vigorous interinstitutional collaboration seeded under the auspices of the Great Lakes College Association and Kenyon College. The conference “Transnational Dialogues: Decentering the Academic Debate on Global Feminisms” that took place at Kenyon College in 2008 sought to engage a group of faculty in a dialogue that would challenge academic exclusions of transnational feminist debates from our curricula and students’ common preconceptions about first-/third-world dichotomies, western/nonwestern women, and developed/developing countries. It was with these early ideas and with the enthusiastic encouragement of many colleagues and friends that we drafted a collaborative project that eventually brought this volume to fruition. We would like to call out the special and invaluable contributions of several individuals whose perspectives and commitment to transnational feminist methodologies have guided our efforts, especially Chandra T. Mohanty and Jacqui M. Alexander for their extraordinary leadership in the “Teaching Transnational Feminisms” summer seminar (Kenyon College, May 2009) and Kum-Kum Bhavnani for her outstanding presentation “Shaping Transnational Feminisms, Shifting Development” (Kenyon College, September 2008). We extend our immense appreciation to all our contributors for their enduring enthusiasm and hard work. We especially thank Palgrave’s *Comparative Feminist Studies* series and their editors and staff for their ongoing assistance and support, along with the feedback from Palgrave Macmillan’s anonymous evaluators. The complete project was made possible by several grants and sponsors, including the GLCA Academic Innovation Fund: Single and Multi-College Initiatives, Faculty Lectureships from Kenyon College, and the Teachers Teaching Teachers Kenyon College grant. We also want to thank Kenyon College for its unyielding support every step of the way. Our largest debts are to our families, Alan Hirsch and Alejandro Hirsch-Sierra, Mauricio Odio, and Camila and Catalina Odio for their steadying love and support.