

## INTRODUCTION

This issue of *RCEI* is devoted to “Contemporary Challenges in Chicana Literature and Culture,” with some incursions into Latinx authors to show the inextricable link between them in the US mosaic. The reader will find an ample selection of articles, notes, and also creative works, a tribute and an addendum essay. Eleven papers in the “Articles” section show a variegated display of perspectives and tackle diverse topics nowadays in full force. Among the most recurrent ones, we can highlight gender studies, dealing not only with masculinity: music and booze, US state prison crises ..., but also with Chicana spiritual feminism, or “queering” Aztlán. Some of them peep into the mistreatment of human rights: undocumented aliens, violence against minorities, border traumas... Others examine ideology and culture: utopianism, filmic representations of the “Day of the Dead,” chicana documentaries, hermeneutic studies about distancing ... All in all, a plethora of innovative critical analyses are offered to show the vitality of the Chicana polyphonic vision of the nation (and by extension of the Occidental world); one capable of transforming centric attitudes and decoding hegemonic positions. This section is accompanied with an addendum essay that analyses the misuse of a Romance written by a white American female writer and activist in the late nineteenth century to simplify and act against native peoples’ rights in favor of “progress and civilization.”

Four short papers by young scholars can be read in the “Notes” section that follows, with a predominant taste for social, gender and environmental studies. Two of them are devoted to Chicana authors in their quest for intercultural communication and bridging social gaps in the problematic North American borders and boundaries. The other two delve into engaged feminism and an ecocritical reading of the land. Proudly enough, this issue includes eight Chicana/Latinx poets in the “Creation” section plus a moving tribute to recently passed away acclaimed novelist Rudolfo A. Anaya. Apart from the literary material, a series of drawing images can also be found. The result is harmonious and mindful, aesthetically powerful and radically non-conformist in equal parts.

Finally, the editors want to express their gratitude to all of the contributors, academics and writers, who have participated in this monograph, making it, to our viewpoint, a complete, challenging and compelling manual for future Chicana studies to come. Besides, Juan Ignacio Oliva acknowledges the support of the research project “Aesthetics, Ethics and Strategies of the New Migratory Cartographies and Transcultural Identities in Twenty-First-Century Literature(s) in English” [PID2019-109582GB-IOO], granted by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation.

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