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WOMEN'S STUDIES

The Insides of the Outsider

*Women and the Poetics of
Space and Place*

Edited by
Mariangela Ugarelli

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The articles in "The Insides of the Outsider: Women and the Poetics of Space and Place" by Mariangela Ugarelli (ed.) move through the in-between spaces where feminine subjectivities navigate homes, institutions, diaspora, the limits of life and death, and desire—challenging borders both visible and unseen. This stunning work powerfully explores the role of female and queer subjects in creating alternative spaces and how their movement through becomes an act of transgression and self-assertion. This book offers a bold, intimate portrait of feminine experience in flux across diverse traditions, periods, and literary movements.

Dr. Rocío del Águila Gracey
College of William and Mary

About the editor

Mariangela Ugarelli is a writer, artist, and scholar born in Lima, Perú. Ugarelli received her Ph.D. in Spanish from Johns Hopkins University and her B.A. in Hispanic Literature from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. As a writer, she has published two short story collections, 'Artilugios' (2022) and 'Fieras' (2023), which explore her interest in the intersection between the Gothic and representations of nature. Her academic work encompasses Latin American Gothic, horror and other so-called minor literatures, the female Gothic, and eco-Gothic as well as Latin American visual culture. Ugarelli's scholarly work on said topics has been published in journals such as 'Gothic Nature', 'Brumal', and 'Latin American Literary Review'. She currently resides in the United States, where she is writing her third book.

Summary

When asked if being a woman had a negative impact on her ability to succeed as a writer, Argentine poet Alejandra Pizarnik stated that, even if not a physical impediment, being a woman in a patriarchal society is 'a tragedy' in itself. She followed this comment by saying: 'What matters is what we do with our own tragedies'. Beyond sex assigned at birth, feminized bodies around the world share a similar phenomenological experience, which is dictated by a complicated relationship to space. Before setting pen to paper, the woman writer, a monster herself within patriarchal discourse, must confront the role society has set for her. For a writer in a feminized body, thus, the act of writing never begins with a tabula rasa but with a refusal and a challenge, an ushering out of the supposed 'eden' of the domestic.

The question of the women-writer's space is further exacerbated when considering matters of intersectionality. The poetics of space and place change within the confines of different geopolitical structures and their relations amongst each other. How do they shift when the center becomes de-centered and writing stems not from a place of political power but from the quieted voices of minor literature, queer and racialized bodies or subalternized latitudes? This volume will attempt to address these questions with input from a diverse group of scholars dealing with an equally diverse corpus. North and Latin America converse with Europe while 'genre' literature, minor literature and 'gendered' literatures take center stage. By taking into account a wide array of cultural objects, from poetry and children's literature to Gothic tales and television shows, this collection of articles reveals the profound link between space and the female experience through the lens of art and literature.

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