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Edited by Rafael Miguel Montes & Ajit Kumar

Margins Speaking to Margins

Multinational Perspectives on African-American Literature

SERIES IN LITERARY STUDIES

Summary

African-American scholars in the United States and Western Europe continue to concentrate on African-American literary studies. The expanding interest in Caribbean publishing, which focuses on the intersection of Afro-Caribbean and African-American communities, indicates that there is an expanding academic readership for African-American narrative studies and other intellectual outputs from other countries. This collection features writers from underrepresented countries, including India, Tunisia, Romania, Morocco, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, and South Africa, discussing their perspectives on African-American narratives. The collection is rich in pedagogical vibrancy, as many academics teach African-American literature to national students. It explores how non-American contributors teach African-American narratives to a global audience, aiming to help academics envision teaching narratives outside their comfortability and understanding a culture they may not have contact with. This collection aims to provide meaningful re-readings of these works, recognizing the potential for change and promoting inclusivity in Women's Writings and Marginal Literature.

About the editors

Rafael Miguel Montes, Ph.D., has published nearly 100 academic articles, book chapters, and poems. Twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize for poetry, his work often explores issues of immigration and exile and the underlying trauma that often accompanies this often-violent upheaval. He is the author of 'Making Places: Inter-generational Trauma in Contemporary Cuban-American Narrative'.

Ajit Kumar, Ph.D., is an academic, editor, reviewer and interviewer from Haryana, India. His research interests include cross-cultural conversations, critical analyses of marginalized narratives, women writing, and cinematic representation. He has interviewed many writers and poets from the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Ireland, France, Brazil, Sri Lanka and India. His interviews and reviews have been published in the university journals of India, Australia and the USA.

At a time when late capitalism grasps (and gasps) towards fascism globally and white supremacist anti-immigration grievance is on the rise, "Margins Speaking to Margins: Multinational Perspectives on African American Literature," edited by Dr. Rafael Miguel Montes and Dr. Ajit Kumar, is right on time as it audaciously considers, rightly, the humanity of Black diasporic people through the lens of Black women's literary production from Harriet Jacobs to Toni Morrison and Jamaica Kincaid to Wangari Maathai and Rita Dove. The title itself is a deft trickster move by the editors (Drs. Montes and Kumar), for these creatives on both sides of the Atlantic (or page) have centered Black peoples' expansive and varied experiences and stories that have reshaped the literary landscape and redirected across waters and nations academic discourse from enslavement to the Harlem Renaissance (New Negro) and Black Arts movements to literatures produced from the African, Caribbean, and South Asian diasporic imaginary. What emerges from this acute academic treatment is an abundant, scholarly anthology of an ever-evolving transnational discourse on Black humanity and the necessity of its centering. The scholars herein do not approach their subjects from the white gaze holding us in the periphery but provide adroit multidimensional literary analyses, the scope of which is global and as varied and interconnected as the first-world peoples are vis-à-vis our contiguous histories and struggles.

Professor Tony Medina
Howard University

Just a look at its table of contents assures the reader that this is an extraordinary book, both in its surprisingly wide range of perspectives and the seriousness with which its authors approach the critical task. Clearly this is a volume which should be on a shelf in every academic library, casting new light on African American literature from widely various directions.

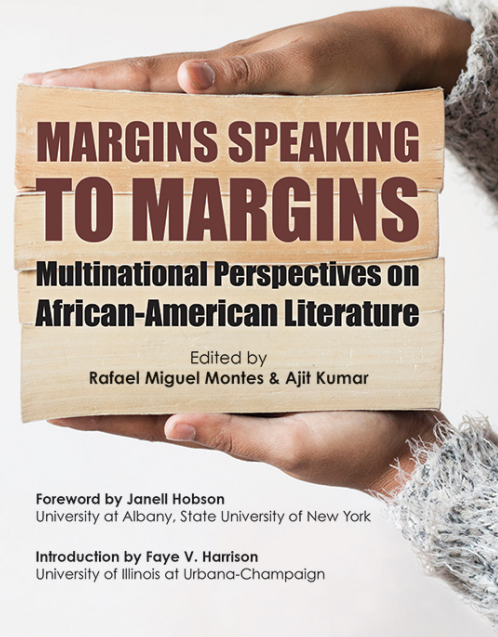
Professor Emerita Marilyn Nelson
University of Connecticut

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MARGINS SPEAKING TO MARGINS

Multinational Perspectives on African-American Literature

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