

Ana Corbalán and Ellen Mayock. *Toward a Multicultural Configuration of Spain: Local Cities, Global Spaces*. Madison: Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2015. vii–xix + 211 pp.

A timely and thorough anthology, *Toward a Multicultural Configuration of Spain: Local Cities, Global Spaces* offers fifteen chapters (on top of a well-developed introduction and an extremely useful index) that analyze topics of multiculturalism in contemporary filmic and literary cultural production in Spain. This carefully researched book will appeal to scholars of contemporary Spain; European urban studies; studies on space and places; and twenty-first century diaspora, migration, and immigration, in general.

Editors Ana Corbalán and Ellen Mayock should be lauded for compiling an impressive team of authors from the United States and Europe who contributed a splendid variety of well-researched studies to this anthology. In their introduction, Mayock and Corbalán delineate four configurations of multiculturalism in Spain—the local versus the global, the rural versus the urban, the center versus the periphery, and nationalism versus micronationalisms—and summarize the scholarship of cultural geography. A common theme that runs throughout the book is Augé’s concept of “non-places,” which highlights the cultural consequences of place and the intersections of the global and the local that help to redefine subjectivities in societies. The editors do not miss the opportunity to also briefly discuss two other key figures in the study of how social spaces are produced and maintained: Henri Lefebvre and Edward Soja. The introduction, thus, not only functions as a presentation of the book but also is a valuable resource for a general introduction to contemporary themes of space and migration.

In the first section, readers will find five chapters that analyze three novels, several short stories, and one graphic novel. Four of the chapters are devoted to the study of fictional works written by Spanish women, which offers inherently peripheral fictional interpretations of experiences in spaces, and four of the five chapters examine the experience of the self in Spain’s two most populated cities: Madrid and Barcelona. Victoria L. Ketz looks at the metaphorical corners of the city in Rosa Montero’s novel *Instrucciones para salvar el mundo*. Montero explores alienation in the Spanish capital, which leads to interpersonal connections between individuals of different backgrounds. The mosaic of subjectivities in the novel—a taxi driver, a doctor, a drug dealer, a prostitute, and a Muslim boy—come together to construct a community of diverse, yet connected, people. Another contemporary novel, *Cosmofobia* by Lucía Etxebarria, examines the marginalized Madrilenian neighborhood of Lavapiés. In her chapter, Hayley Rabanal invokes Julia Kristeva’s notion of abjection as she analyzes the experience of the other in Etxebarria’s novel—in this case, women

and Muslims—in the peripheral urban space. Also tapping into the marginalized perspective of women, María del Carmen Alfonso García examines Madrid in a collection of short stories written by women titled *Madrid, con perdón*. Analyzing several of the stories from the collection, Alfonso García charts experiences in Madrid, including those that she denotes “herstories” (39; italics in original). Basing her analysis on Nestor García Canclini’s term “glocal” and José Colmeiro’s example of “glocal” as “the deterritorialization of the Galician cultural map” (51), Pilar Martínez-Quiroga explores the formation of public and private spaces of rural Galicia in María Reimóndez’s novel *O club da calceta*. The section closes with a chapter devoted to the graphic novel *El nord*, which takes up reappropriation of the global in local space, this time in the outlying city of Lleida, and with the experiences of two distinct people: a Catalan historian and a Moroccan woman.

The second part of the anthology, which also includes five chapters, examines the representation of human movement and the occupation of space in recent Spanish film. Immigration and the experience of the Other is at the forefront in this section. In their chapter, Megan Saltzman and Javier Entrambasaguas reflect on the experience of immigrants in Madrid and Barcelona in two recent documentaries. They understand the city to be a dynamic and fluid place that continuously opens and closes to subjective experiences. It is a theme that Alicia Castillo Villanueva and Maryanne L. Leone also take up in their chapters. Castillo Villanueva analyzes a documentary about immigrants in Madrid and Leone looks at Ecuadorian immigrants in Madrid. In fact, both she and Castillo Villanueva frame their chapters with urban studies theory, and Leone does a stellar job of classifying how people experience spaces according to Henri Lefebvre’s *The Production of Space*. Sohyun Lee and Thomas Deveny analyze rural immigration in Spain in their two chapters. Lee looks at the repopulation of Aguaviva and Deveny offers a fresh perspective on immigration in his outstanding chapter on the construction—and inhabitation—of golf courses by the Northern Europeans on the Mediterranean Coast of Spain, as explored in the documentary titled *La guerra de golf*.

The third and final section brings the anthology back to the local, concluding the circumvention the anthology takes from the center to the periphery and from the global to the local. Donna Gillespie’s contribution is a welcomed general overview of spaces in fiction and film in Spain from 1997 to 2011. María R. Matz and Carole Salmon take on the idea of *glocal* in Madrid, but this time, from the perspective in Almodóvar’s films. Framing his study with David Harvey’s *The Urban Experience*, William J. Nichols explores capitalist consumption in the peninsular country as a possible road to “another non-place” (174). Finally, Diana Norton and Roberto Robles Valencia close the anthology with their chapters on immigration in Spain by vindicating the immigrant as an

integral part of Spanish communities and in the formation of collective subjectivities.

Together Corbalán and Mayock have put together a valuable and timely collection. Because their introduction is so well informed and organized, a brief conclusion from these two renowned scholars of contemporary Spain would have been welcomed. This, however, does not take anything away from the success of what will surely be an essential text for many.

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