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CENTER AND PERIPHERY

Twenty-first-century literature, cinema, media from Spain

Edited by
Amparo Alpañés

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“Center and periphery: Twenty-first-century literature, cinema, media from Spain” is a compelling collection of interdisciplinary essays that probe the tensions between center and periphery in contemporary Spain. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the authors expand the notion of periphery to include various forms of geographic, historic, and socio-political marginalization, thereby contributing to a more complete and complex understanding of Spanish identity. Exploring pressing issues such as independence movements, xenophobia, sexism, genderism, and racial discrimination, the volume serves as a valuable resource for students and scholars alike.

Dr. Jessica R Boll
Carroll University

About the editor

Amparo Alpañés (she/her) is an associate professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages at Washington and Jefferson College in Pittsburgh, PA.

Her research interests include Spanish literature and culture, Spanish Cinema, Gender Studies, the twentieth-century history of Spain—particularly the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939)—and the contemporary period.

She presents in the US and at international conferences yearly and is the co-organizer of the international biannual Bridges Across Cultures Conference on the Humanities. Her most recent publication is “La bruja, la loca y la madre: mujeres en las series españolas y estereotipos de género,” ‘El reflejo de Medusa,’ *Advoock*, Seville, 2023, pp. 89–105.

Summary

In a country where the richness of diverse cultures is often overshadowed by historical conflicts, this book delves into the complex relationship between the so-called “center” and “periphery” within Spain’s borders. Traditionally, the center has symbolized Castilian identity, while the periphery encompassed other regional cultures. But in today’s rapidly evolving social landscape, what do these terms really mean?

This groundbreaking work reexamines the “center vs. periphery” paradigm through the lens of contemporary Spanish literature, cinema, and media. It poses critical questions about the existence and nature of a unified Spanish identity and investigates whether the tension between these cultural spheres persists. The book also challenges readers to consider which aspects—linguistic, gender, or other forms of identity—play the most significant role in this dynamic. Furthermore, it scrutinizes whether marginalized groups such as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and differently-abled communities are relegated to the periphery in modern Spain.

With no other published work focusing on these issues in 21st-century Spain, this book offers a fresh and nuanced perspective on cultural tensions that have shaped and continue to shape the nation. Its innovative approach makes it an indispensable reference for researchers and students in gender and women’s studies, Queer studies, media studies, Spanish literature, and language, as well as those exploring nationalism, separatism, race, and Blackness.

January 2025 | Hardback 236x160mm | 238 Pages | ISBN: 979-8-8819-0093-9

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