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## INTRODUCTION

### BEFORE *BORDERLANDS* AND BEYOND: "MAKING THE WORD LUMINOUS AND ACTIVE"<sup>1</sup>

SONIA SALDÍVAR-HULL

As this volume of *El Mundo Zurdo 2* goes to press, we mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the monumentally influential *Borderlands/La Frontera*. Anzaldúa's legacy, however, began years before this publication. In 1981, with the initial printing of *This Bridge Called My Back: Radical US Women of Color*, we first read about "el Mundo Zurdo." Typical of Anzaldúa's quiet way of enunciating path-breaking ideas, in just the few paragraphs that served as the introduction to the last section of the anthology, she presented a visionary theory that she would develop throughout her lifetime as a writer and philosopher. From the start she confounded us with her spiritual, mystical visions, sounding echoes of a long-forgotten or destroyed cultural memory that included hints of an indigeneity that had already been colonized out of our racial recall; "india" had been reduced to an epithet used by dark skinned elders in the South Texas of her youth in the 1950s.

Even today, when Chicana/os engage in the attempt to decolonize history<sup>2</sup> and claim that mestizaje, they are considered appropriative, nostalgic in the worst