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INTRODUCTION

THE CRITICAL WORK OF ANZALDÚAN STUDIES

T. JACKIE CUEVAS

The 2013 conference for the Society for the Study of Gloria Anzaldúa (SSGA) assembled a range of people interested in thinking together about the critical contributions of Anzaldúa as writer and theorist. Since its inception in 2007, the conference has gathered Anzaldúan thinkers, and the attendant publication has archived a selection of contributions to build up the body of written work on Anzaldúa. The finale event of Cindy Cruz's 2013 plenary keynote brought together a mixed crowd of activists, academics, artists, creative writers, spiritual healers, and families with children. The conference's panels featured a wide range of topics, such as spirituality, pedagogy, illness, queerness, and connections between Chicana feminism and Palestinian activism. The formats included scholarly papers, roundtables, workshops, art exhibits, and poetry readings. The volume here represents a sampling from participants of the 2013 meeting.

This collection opens with Cindy Cruz's keynote talk, in which Cruz reflects on the significant role Anzaldúa's work has played in her research and teaching as she helps her students "think through the process of knowledge construction and coming to political consciousness." Cruz's work with queer youth of color who find themselves embattled in California's public education system serves as