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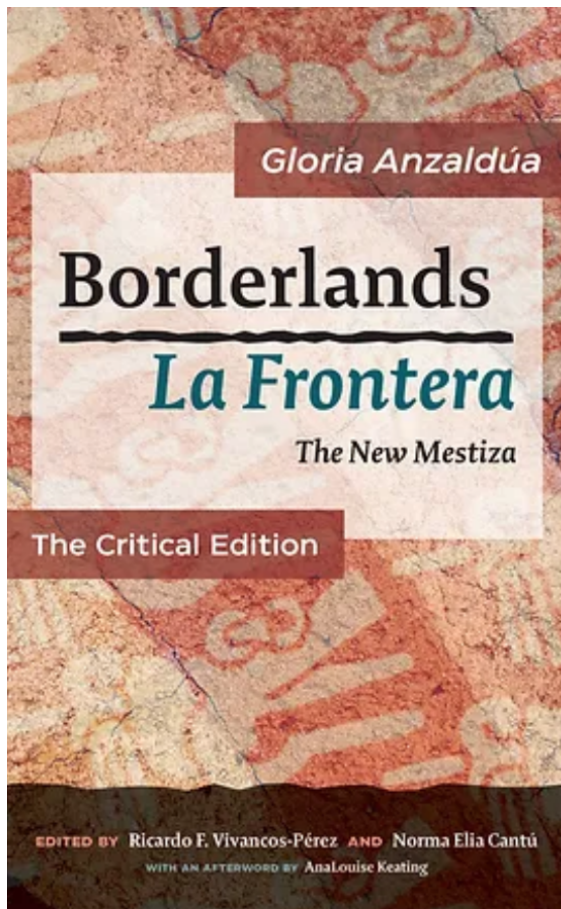
Borderlands/La Frontera

The New Mestiza, Critical Edition

By Gloria Anzaldúa

Edited by Ricardo F. Vivancos-Pérez and Norma Cantú. Afterword by AnaLouise Keating

Resource Guide - 2023



Book Description

Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza was first published in 1987 after an organic composition process, mixing prose and poetry and integrating personal memories with a philosophical search for a consciousness-raising and coalition-building method for the oppressed. Conceptually innovative, visionary, and rebellious at the time, Borderlands has continued to be studied as a distinctive creative work and a spiritual guidebook to heal and empower Chicanxs, queer communities of color, and other marginalized groups. Rooted in Gloria Anzaldúa's experience as a Chicana, a lesbian, an activist, and a writer, the essays and poems in Borderlands/La Frontera, her first book and signature work, remap our understanding of "borders" as psychic, social, and cultural terrains that we inhabit and that inhabit all of us.

Aunt Lute Books is pleased to offer this critical edition of *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, written by Gloria Anzaldúa, edited by Ricardo F. Vivancos-Pérez and Norma Cantú. Featuring an afterword by scholar AnaLouise Keating, this conclusive exploration into the iconic text that changed the course of Chicana, queer, and feminist theory breathes new life into the themes still present in today's political and social climate. At the same time this book offers insight into the construction of Anzaldúa's philosophies.

Drawing heavily on archival research and a comprehensive literature review, this critical edition elucidates Anzaldúa's complex composition process and its centrality in the development of her philosophy and contextualizes the book within her theories and writings before and after its 1987 publication. It opens with two introductory studies; offers a corrected text, explanatory footnotes, translations, and four archival appendices; and closes with an updated bibliography of Anzaldúa's works, an extensive scholarly bibliography on *Borderlands*, and her biography.

About the Author

Gloria Anzaldúa was a Chicana-tejana-lesbian-feminist poet, theorist, and fiction writer from South Texas. In addition to authoring *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (Aunt Lute, 1987), she was the editor of the critical anthology *Making Face/Making Soul: Haciendo Caras* (Aunt Lute, 1990) and co-editor of *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* (Persephone, 1981), winner of the Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award. Her works also include *Interviews/Entrevistas* (Routledge, 2000) and *This Bridge We Call Home: Radical Visions for Transformation*, edited with AnaLouise Keating (Routledge, 2002). She also authored three bilingual children's books, including *Prietita Has a Friend/Prietita tiene un amigo*. She taught Creative Writing, Chicano Studies, and Feminist Studies at University of Texas, San Francisco State University, Vermont College of Norwich University, and University of California Santa Cruz.

Gloria Anzaldúa passed away in 2004 and was honored around the world for shedding visionary light on the Chicana experience by receiving the National Association For Chicano Studies Scholar Award in 2005. Gloria was also posthumously awarded her doctoral degree in literature from the University of California Santa Cruz. A number of scholarships and book awards, including the Anzaldúa Scholar Activist Award and the Gloria E. Anzaldúa Award for Independent Scholars, are awarded in her name every year.

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Praise for the critical edition

"Imagine *Borderlands* as a timeless pyramid of ideas that has been added to, deconstructed, reconstructed, transcribed, translated, and trans-interpreted by every generation of Chicana and non-Chicana feminist scholars in the thirty-five years since its publication. This critical edition offers both a painstakingly articulated scholarly scaffolding around Anzaldúa's original text and a bridge into the life and memory of the author who designed the blueprint of that pyramid." — Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Professor of Chicana/o Studies, English, and Gender Studies, UCLA

"Vivancos-Pérez takes readers by the hand in this straightforward, well-crafted edition, offering a detailed introduction describing the eminent author's iterative process of writing *Borderlands*. The archival documents—including unpublished poetry and essays with Anzaldúa's own annotations—add flavor, temperament, and in-depth insight into the complex philosopher's early writings. Scholars, students, family, soul-mates, and friends of Anzaldúa (myself included) will be thrilled with this long-awaited, noteworthy critical edition." — Emma Pérez, author of *The Decolonial Imaginary: Writing Chicanas into History*

"Ricardo F. Vivancos-Pérez's meticulous archival work and Norma Elia Cantú's life experience and expertise converge to offer a stunning resource for Anzaldúa scholars; for writers, artists, and activists inspired by her work; and for everyone. Hereafter, no study of *Borderlands* will be complete without this beautiful, essential reference." — Paola Bacchetta, Professor of Gender & Women's Studies, UC Berkeley

"Readers will delight in the new pathways to Anzaldúan thought thanks to the work of the editors. Whether coming to Anzaldúan thought for the first time or returning again to a much-treasured *Borderlands*, the editors' loving care will enable us all to hear her call—no hay más que cambiar . . . there's nothing else to do but change." — Nancy Tuana, author of *Beyond Philosophy: Nietzsche, Foucault, Anzaldúa*

"The emotional and intellectual impact of the book is disorienting and powerful...all languages are spoken, and survival depends on understanding all modes of thought. In the borderlands new creatures come into being. Anzaldúa celebrates this "new mestiza" in bold, experimental writing." — *The Village Voice*

"Anzaldúa's pulsating weaving of innovative poetry with sparse informative prose brings us deep into the insider/outsider consciousness of the borderlands; that ancient and

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contemporary, crashing and blending world that divides and unites America.” – Women’s Review of Books

The Editors

[RICARDO F. VIVANCOS-PÉREZ](#) (he/they) is Associate Professor at George Mason University in Northern Virginia and specializes in the cultural production of Hispanics and Latinxs in the United States. Vivancos-Pérez is the author of the book *Radical Chicana Poetics* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) and the editor of the special dossier “Transdisciplinary Approaches to Gloria Anzaldúa’s Thought” in the peer-reviewed journal *Cuadernos de ALDEEU* (2019). Their publications also include articles on social movements in Spain and Latin America, on exile and displacement in Hispanic literatures, on masculinities in transatlantic Hispanic Studies, and on the relationship between cultural production, human rights, and feminist activism.



Photo Credit: Mark Roth



Photo Credit: Al Rendón

[NORMA ELIA CANTÚ](#) (she/her), founder and director of the Society for the Study of Gloria Anzaldúa, organized [El Mundo Zurdo](#), a gathering of Anzalduistas from 2017–2019. She currently serves as the President of the American Folklore Society and is the Norine R. and T. Frank Murchison Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. Her research and creative writing have earned her an international reputation as a folklorist, scholar, poet, and novelist. Her most recent publications include the co-edited Anthologies *Teaching Gloria E. Anzaldúa: Pedagogies and Practices for our Classrooms and our Communities* and *Mexicana Fashions: Politics, Self-Adornment, and Identity Construction*; the novel *Cabañuelas*; and *Meditación Fronteriza: Poems of Love, Life, and Labor*.

Afterword by AnaLouise Keating

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ANALOUISE KEATING (she/they) is Professor of Multicultural Women's & Gender Studies at Texas Woman's University. Keating co-edited this bridge we call home: radical visions for transformation with Gloria Anzaldúa and is the editor of Anzaldúa's *Light in the Dark/Luz en lo oscuro: Rewriting Identity, Spirituality, Reality*; *The Gloria Anzaldúa Reader*; and *Interviews/Entrevistas*. Keating's most recent book is *Transformation Now! Towards a Post-Operational Politics of Change*.



Photo Credit: Eddy Lynton

Resources

Teacher testimonials

- "I've had the opportunity to teach Gloria's Anzaldúa's *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, The Critical Edition only once thus far, in a graduate course on Sexualities and Colonialism in the Department of Gender and Women's Studies at University of California, Berkeley. For many students it was the first encounter with *Borderlands/La Frontera*, and so they felt all the excitement and all the stunning beauty of a first reading along with the depth, breadth and soulful relationality that the footnotes provide. For others, including one student doing their dissertation on Anzaldúa, our course was the first encounter with an Anzaldúa text that is supplemented, layered, so helpfully saturated with brilliant and thorough archival materials and historical research. For Anzaldúa scholars at whatever stage of knowledge the entry onto the page of all these elements at once opens the book to a total reimagination of the whole. Every page of the original is, of course, a deeply moving and intellectually exciting experience on its own. However, the Critical Edition includes the original while also offering to the reader a plethora of insights in the footnotes that totally illuminate the original text to the point of transforming it. We can now much better understand Anzaldúa's theoretical, literary and intimate psychic process during the writing of her book. It was a joy to teach and my students loved it. I absolutely can't wait to have such an opportunity in a future course to

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bring the book back into my classroom so students can again engage with it.” - Paola Bacchetta, Professor, Department of Gender and Women's Studies, University of California, Berkeley

- “The publication of *Borderlands/La Frontera: The Critical edition* marks a new point of departure for research on the works of Gloria E. Anzaldúa. As the editors add aspects of her life and contextualize the process of writing, the reader finds an invitation to dig into tremendously complex questions of race, ethnicity, gender and sexualities that she includes in her critical essays and poems. Anzaldúa's exercise of intersectionality takes a new dimension when the notes of her working papers are incorporated because we discover her inner struggles, her public battles as well as her disappointments and successes with fellow scholars and/or women in general. Her natural use of a combination of English and Spanish supports her defiance to conventions when she explains her mixed heritage, a mestizaje that far from blocking her, empowers her to become a symbol of resilience and vindication of a fair place in society for Chicana population of the Southwest of the US.

With this new critical edition of *Borderlands*, students can feel closer to the person who wrote *Borderlands* and understand to what extent her heritage determined the work she was doing and the importance of highlighting how her gender and sexual identity sometimes placed her in a disadvantaged situation in relationship to other writers and scholars of color of her time.” - Dra. Imelda Martín Junquera, Profesora Titular del Dpto. de Filología Moderna, Directora de la Revista Estudios Humanísticos: Filología, Universidad de León

Related Writing

- [Teaching Gloria E. Anzaldúa: Pedagogy and Practice for Our Classrooms and Communities](#), Edited by Margaret Cantú-Sánchez, Candace de León-Zepeda, Norma E. Cantú (2020) (University of Arizona Press)
- [Writing the Self: Gloria Anzaldúa, Textual Form, and Feminist Epistemology](#) (Michigan Feminist Studies)
- [Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza](#) (The Great Questions Foundation)
- [Lesson Plan: Gloria E. Anzaldúa \(The Legacy Project\)](#)

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- [Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza | Study Guide](#) (Course Hero)
- [PRESERVING U.S. LATINO LITERATURE](#) (University of Houston)
- [Gloria Evangelina Anzaldúa Papers](#) (UT Austin)

Further Reading

- [Bibliography on Gloria E Anzaldúa's Borderlands/La Frontera, 1987-2020](#) (Ricardo F. Vivancos-Perez)
- [The Book That Changed The Borders](#) (WAMU)
- [Let's All Read Borderlands/La Frontera by Gloria Anzaldúa!](#) (Autostraddle)
- [My archive: 20 years of Los Angeles' LGBTQ+ movement](#) (High Country News)
- [11 Books and Movies That Explore Indigenous Connections to Land](#) (Global Citizen)
- [Gloria E. Anzaldúa Google doodle](#) (Search Engine Land)
- [Celebrating Latin American Heritage Month and Banned Books Week](#) (GLAD)
- [Let's Talk About Chicana Feminism and How We Might Apply It Today](#) (BE Latina)
- [During the pandemic, Latin American women writers' voices crossed borders, platforms](#) (Colorado State University)
- [Pan y Café: A love letter to the Spanish language](#) (Daily Trojan)

Where to get a copy

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