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Narratives of Violence

edited by
Roger Canadell, Josep-Anton Fernàndez
and Teresa Iribarren



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Ca' Foscari



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Biblioteca di *Rassegna iberistica*

Serie diretta da
Enric Bou

21



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Abstract

Narratives of Violence is a contribution to the ethical turn in literary studies. In the current context of systemic political violence unleashed in the wake of 9/11 and the global advance of capitalism and neoliberalism, literature constitutes a particularly timely device to raise awareness about injustice, the abuse of power, and the violation of human rights. Literature may also be helpful in order to face social challenges such as peaceful coexistence with immigrants and displaced people, and the settling of refugees.

This book is an invitation to read a selection of narratives of violence anchored in different geopolitical realities, and located in historical contexts ranging from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day. By adopting ethical criticism in order to tackle the dilemmas posed by these stories, we aim to contribute to the configuration of global imaginaries based on respect, recognition, and empathy, especially towards those who are most vulnerable.

This collection offers critical readings of nine works of various genres, originally written in different languages. Authors discussed comprise Caterina Albert (Catalonia), Mrīrida n'ait 'Atiq (Morocco), Eva Koch (Denmark), Pius Alibek (Iraq-Catalonia), Janina Heschels (Poland), Leila Abdelrazaq (Palestine), María Galindo and Sonia Sánchez (Argentina), Arundhati Roy (India), and Juan Pablo Villalobos (Mexico). The corpus includes biographical, autobiographical, testimonial, and fictional narratives, sometimes very close to documentary or life history. The works analysed in this collection portray experiences of violence and oppression caused by social, political, and military conflicts. The novelty of this book lies in the challenge it poses to the Western-centric and patriarchal bias often found in similar collections of scholarly essays. Thus, the book focuses to a large degree on female authors, seeking to give visibility and voice to women victims, generally forgotten in hegemonic cultural discourses.

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Sumario

Introducció

Roger Canadell, Josep-Anton Fernàndez i Teresa Iribarren

El substrat filosòfic de la violència a la narrativa de Caterina Albert

Jordi Larios

A Moroccan Amazigh Courtesan in Memory Rewinding History, Debunking Amnesia, and Revisiting Mrīrīda n'ait 'Atiq

Lhoussein Simour

Personal Remembrance as Historical Memory

Eva Koch's Interactive Visual Work on Her Mother's Experience of the Spanish Civil War

Montserrat Lunati

Arrels nòmades, by Pius Alibek

Josep-Anton Fernàndez

Janina Heschel, o el trasbals en la condició de subjecte: Identitat, heroisme i dignitat

Alfons Gregori

Representations of Violence and Exile in Leila Abdelrazaq' Baddawi

María Porras

Memoria Transversal

Genealogías del movimiento feminista en Argentina en *Ninguna mujer nace para puta*, de Galindo-Sánchez

Federico Pous

L'escriptora i els guerrillers

Caminant amb els camarades, d'Arundhati Roy

Teresa Iribarren

Yo tuve un sueño

El viaje de los niños centroamericanos a Estados Unidos,
de Juan Pablo Villalobos

Roger Canadell

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