

# MESTER

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FOCUS: HEMISPHERIC INTERSECTIONS



XLII

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2014

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

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# Introduction

Sexuality, desire and diversity are intriguing issues surrounding the definition of human identity. For this reason, consider this issue within the field of literature and the different forms of art is a work of deep and somewhat a subversive act because, during the process, the researcher faces the reprehensible and forbidden of the subject. The Special Issue of Mester 38 is the product of several of those researchers who have managed to put his critical curiosity over the uncertainty that those studies represent. The articles presented here have been instigated by the challenge to explore and reflect on these issues facing the social conventions that govern our society. Likewise, these studies have been seen within those alternative behaviors that are discordant with the stereotypes and social parameters. For this reason, we find in the following pages a group of researches that goes deep to certain subjects as: Feminism, Homosexuality, Sexism and Racial and Ethnic Discrimination. Key questions have governed these studies, such as: Are the stipulations and social parameters responsible for social segregation of certain dissident groups? Alternative sexualities are hazardous agents for social order? Are desire and sexual passion elements that corrode the sanity of the human being to take itself to the self marginality for their behavior and actions? Is sexuality, and desire decisive agents of the definition of human identity? I hope that after consulting the articles presented here, these questions produce certain responses and develop new interrogations that will guide further researches that certainly promote the continuity of gender studies.

For these reasons, it gives me pride and pleasure to introduce this edition that includes articles carefully selected by a group of excellent editors who gave their time, effort and knowledge to make this a truly special edition. The five articles presented here include studies in the fields of cinema and literature in the geographical areas of South America, Spain and the Caribbean and a review of the novel written by Donato Ndongo Bidyogo, *El Metro*.

I take this opportunity to thank immensely all students and faculty members who sent us their articles. Although, some of them were selected for their relevance to the topic, it was a pleasant and instructive process to read and consider each of them. I also want to thank the editors of Mester 38. Each of them dedicated their time to

select carefully the articles presented here making this issue one of the particular value to our department. I also wish to express my gratitude to the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California, Los Angeles. Many thanks to the administrative team and faculty, especially Dr. Maite Zubiaurre, the Faculty Advisor of Mester 38, who very kindly put their trust in me to lead this edition. I am also grateful to the Del Amo Foundation and the UCLA Graduate Students Association for their financial support and Mr. Matthew Winfield, Mrs. Laura Cerruti, Mrs. Gabriela Venegas, Stacey Meeker, and William Morosi, who kindly helped me to publish this edition, online and printed. To all of you thank you very much for being part of this wonderful work. I hope that you enjoy the reading of these excellent works and that you continue to support our Journal that only seeks to maintain an open forum for graduate students and faculty who wish to contribute to literary scholarship of Luso-Hispanic world.

*Joanna Dávila*  
*Editor in Chief 2009*  
*Mester Literary Journal*

# Introducción

To come...

