

INTRODUCTION

SUSANA ROCHA RELVAS, MARK GANT
AND SIÂN EDWARDS

With the publication of this sixth volume the Association for Contemporary Iberian Studies seeks to promote research in the field of Iberian studies, originating from selected papers presented at the 43rd ACIS conference held in Palma de Mallorca in September 2022. They focus on the complexity and uniqueness of the Peninsula, more specifically on the identities, transnational exchanges, transatlantic crossings, and cultural and intellectual networks. The contributors are globally located, including Portugal, Spain, Germany, Brazil, Japan, India, Mexico, and the UK.

We continue to remain committed to exploring the diversity of the Iberian cultures by choosing conference venues in overlooked locations which are culturally important, but often underexplored academically. This was the case of Palma de Mallorca, allowing us to discover its history, its cultural background and literary effervescence up to the present day. In this sense, and as expected, Catalan studies had a special presence in the conference, and a selection of chapters in this area are gathered in this volume, with a specific focus on literature produced in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War, during the dictatorship and the transition period to Democracy alongside discussion of historical events from the same period.

Furthermore, cultural, and literary representations among the full range of Iberian nationalities are also represented, with particular emphasis not only on the above-mentioned Catalan identities, but also on Portuguese-Galician and Basque cultures, considering the relational and multicultural realities beyond the traditional approach grounded on the two official Peninsular nationalities, which prevailed in academia until very recently.

Comprising a total of fifteen chapters, this collection showcases an extensive range of research fields such as cinema studies, political, economic, and social sciences, as well as literary and cultural studies providing a comprehensive perspective of this emerging area of expertise. A considerable number of chapters are devoted to Memory, reflecting the impact of the historical memory law in Spain and the lively discussion in the public square around this topic. Alongside this the pressing and perennial themes of Spanish Civil War, dictatorships, and exile; social mobilization and economic dynamics also play an important role in this volume.

In addition, transatlantic contacts between Iberia and the Portuguese and Spanish-speaking countries are covered, revealing not only cultural and literary reception and influences but also old and new forms of imperialism, in colonial and postcolonial periods.

Contributions entail new theoretical and methodological approaches applied to Iberian Studies, namely those under the core academic research fields such as Area Studies, focusing on geo-political, socio-economic and historical areas, in a transnational perspective. This has stimulated the study of Peninsular geo-cultural diversity and connections with outer territories frequently referred using the contested term Global South.

Moreover, the contribution of Cultural Studies and Comparative literature or World literature, is also worth mentioning, and has helped reshape the discipline of Iberian Studies in terms of epistemological, theoretical, and methodological domains. Ultimately, this reflects the multi-interdisciplinary stance of the Association which supports new paradigms of this emerging and consistently productive academic field.

The book is divided into six sections. The first is devoted to Catalan voices during the Francoist dictatorship, providing cutting-edge research on gender, regional and social conflicts, and exile. Section Two relies upon transnational contacts, focusing on cultural and literary representations. Section Three is comprised of chapters dedicated to Cinema studies, related not only to the challenges of adaptation, but also the historical events portrayed on the big screen. Section Four centres its attention on memory and social intervention in Iberian literature. In Section Five the relationships between Iberia, South America and Africa are highlighted with a transatlantic perspective, and past and present forms of imperialism are also the object of thorough attention. Finally, Section Six focuses on political and economic development on a national and regional scale.

The authors framed in Section One deal with the recuperation of historical memory, bringing to light new data about the facts and characters involved on both sides of the Spanish Civil War. This is a valuable and necessary effort with a view to a more accurate and complete interpretation of the tragic events that marked Spain in the 20th Century: the Civil War and subsequent dictatorship. This section also sheds some light on labour exploitation and social discrimination on a Peninsular scale and how literary production can be a means of social and political compromise.

Therefore, in Chapter One, Durba Banejee focuses on Catalan female memorial literature, establishing a comparison between the novels of Mercés Rodoreda and Teresa Pàmies, where the themes of repatriation and return are portrayed. She states that, although exile is framed in Spanish Cultural studies, it is not so present in the case of trauma studies and migration studies. The topic of women writers in exile has witnessed a revival in the second half of the 20th Century, providing a distinctive identity to Catalonia's culture of exile, especially from the transition period onwards. The author concludes by highlighting that the writing exercise was vital for these women writers, both as personal empowerment and as a testament to survival.

In Chapter Two, Margaret Woods de Vivero analyses the ambiguous role of Bishop Josep Miralles during the Civil War. This controversial figure claimed the use of Mallorcan and Catalan languages in literature, daily life, and even religious activities. During Primo de Rivera's dictatorship, Miralles's stance provoked conflict with civil authorities, understanding that his actions threatened Spanish unity. During the Second Republic, Miralles sought to protect the church away from political quarrels due to constant attacks on churches and clergymen. However, with the dawn of the Civil War, and the consequent intensification of attacks on the clergy, he became a moderate supporter of the Nationalist wing and a concerned voice on Nazism. Nevertheless, until today, many doubts remain about his dubious attitude towards repression perpetrated by the Falangists, and whether his efforts to save Fr. Jeroni Alomar from death were sufficient.

In the following chapter, Gemma Nadal presents a comparative study of the novels *Terres de l'Ebre* by Juan Arbó and *Gaibéus* by António Alves Redol, establishing a bridge between the two sides of the Iberian Peninsula at the time marked by social struggle. Beyond the similarity of thematic options, both authors shared a sympathetic and empathetic outlook regarding the most disadvantaged and oppressed social fringe. The main difference relies, though, on the fact that on the Spanish side fatalism and hopelessness prevailed, whereas in the Portuguese case social and political commitment was evident. The author stresses the literary value of both works, produced under the same ideological framework. Their multiple readings from the ethnological, philosophical and symbolic perspectives make these works worth reading.

Section Two relies upon transnational cultural and literary representations, focusing on the image and reception of the *other* between Portugal and Spain. Therefore, in Chapter Four, Carlos Pazos-Justo focuses on the Portuguese perspective on Spain and the Spaniards. Despite historical and geographical links between the two countries and past conflicts, distrust and annexationist fears, intra-Iberian contacts benefited from a considerable change upon the common entry into the European Community (1986), mainly at economic and educational levels. Seeking multidisciplinary theoretical support from marketing, tourism, diplomacy and comparative literature, the author explores the concepts of *imagem* (ideas/beliefs) deepening this study in the understanding of discursive constructs of the *other* and the *self*-image developed over centuries, to conclude in favour of a neo-romantic imago type prevailing in the present Portuguese imaginary, based on positive images and a sense of relational superiority.

Chapter Five focuses on the analysis, led by Diego Rivadulla Costa, of two plays *Nome: Bonita* by Vanesa Sotelo and *Mar Revolto* by Roberto Vidal Bolaño, in which a dialogue between Portugal and Galicia is established within the scope of Iberian cultural memory. The author stresses the importance of theatre as a performative art form with multiple didactic potentialities, highlighting its ethical compromise and raising awareness towards collective memory, especially related to the Spanish Civil War and dictatorships. Although these two plays are bounded by shared imaginaries, in *Nome: Bonita* the playwright pays tribute to feminist identity and creates a universal archetype of women fighters on a Lusophone scale, whereas in *Mar Revolto*, based on the "Dulcinea operation", a coup attempt on the Santa Maria cruise liner, perpetrated by Portuguese and Galician soldiers, aiming to establish Democracy in Portugal and achieve an Iberian federal union.

Section Three, which is entitled Iberian Cinema: Challenges and Perspectives, addresses not only the theoretical concepts and practical constraints of adapting a classic novel to the screen, but also the increasing interest given to memory, allowing the recovery of lesser-known episodes of history, now accessible to the general public through TV series and the Seventh Art. Filomena Antunes Sobral's chapter focuses on the analysis of the Portuguese fiction series *Our Consul in Havana* (2019), which takes place in the late 19th Century. This tells the story of Eça de Queirós, one of the most prominent Portuguese writers, launching his diplomatic career in Habana, Cuba, assigned the mission of solving the case of Chinese emigrants, who entered Cuba through Macau and ended up treated as slaves. Within the scope of historical fictional narrative, the author reflects on the methodological and thematic aspects that shape fiction, history and memory, carrying out an interdisciplinary approach to discourse analysis.

In Chapter Seven Luís Cardoso verses the challenges of transposing a classic novel to film, focusing on a possible typology guided by its diachronic representativeness and evolution, and the use of narratology as an instrumental vector. Considering different forms of adaptation and criteria, proposed by prominent academics such as Wagner, Garcia, or Noriega, based on transposition, commentary and analogy, the author concludes that these theoretical approaches are all aligned in the respect of the semiotic, aesthetic and ideological independence of both cinema and literary works, which makes the mission of creating a unique adaptation typology impossible.

Section Four comprises three chapters dedicated to memory and social intervention in Iberian literature. In Maria de Lourdes Pereira's chapter, the theme of dehumanization in the literary works of the Portuguese writer Valter Hugo Mãe is analysed, taking into account the role of language as a path to humanism and citizenship. Combining literature and philosophy, prose and poetry, portrayed and followed by his own drawings, the writer's works have been translated profusely and extensively, with a prominent projection in the Lusophone space. His activity as a writer has spanned more than twenty-five years of consistent literary production, conveying an innovative style and a profound ethical and aesthetic conscience. Besides these traits, which stimulate the reader's critical judgement and an urge to active citizenship, Hugo Mãe appends to his narrative an ontological dimension, at local and universal levels, especially in *A desumanização*, as analysed by Maria de Lourdes.

In the following chapter, Andrea Sanz debuts a theoretical framework on memory, establishing the difference between political/historical/ collective memory, which comprises forgetting in the interests of a national consensus, and individual memory, which are both in constant tension. Additionally, the author focuses on how memory and oblivion are two interconnected forces represented in *The Lone Man [El hombre solo]* by Bernardo Atxaga. In this novel the identity crisis experienced by Carlos, the main character, resides in his need to forget the past, related to ETA, his incapability of doing so, and the inadaptability to a new life after Amnesty, compromising his future, condemning him to solitude and the annulment of his humanity.

In Chapter Ten, Florian Grafl starts by calling the reader's attention to the fact that the historical period encompassing the Spanish Civil War and the Francoist regime, still provokes lively discussion in the public square resulting in fractured positions in Spanish society today. Grounded in a recent investigation, which analyses measures taken by several authoritarian regimes regarding the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, the author then focuses on gender discrimination during Francoist dictatorship. He concludes that, within the scope of a traditional society, ruled by rigid Catholic and patriarchal norms, especially those regarding women's attitudes, extremely repressive measures, both highly questionable and inhuman, were undertaken with those who deviated from the *status quo* ideology.

Section Five comprises two chapters devoted to old and new ways of Imperialism in the case of Spain towards Morocco, and transatlantic crossings entailing Spanish literary references and influences in South America. Therefore, in Chapter Eleven, Manuel López Forjas explores Spain's attempts to regain imperial role since the 19th Century until the present day. At the start of the period, the Spanish Africanist campaign was jeopardized by British interests, which counted on the Spanish leaders' acceptance. Then, during Primo de Rivera and Franco's dictatorship imperialist propaganda witnessed an upsurge, with the establishment of several projects which engaged intellectuals such as Joaquín Costa, Fernando de los Ríos or Federico García Lorca. Nevertheless, the African dream was frustrated due to Spain's decay, leading to economic weakness and the impoverishment of the Spanish people. Today, political, and economic elites have revived their imperialist dream in Africa, working alongside the Moroccan government.

In Chapter Twelve, Maria Stella Galvão Santos analysis how referential, mythical, and fantastic discourses are gathered in *Cien años de Soledad*, by Colombian writer Gabriel García Márquez. The author states that myth is present in Latin-America since pre-Hispanic times, and intensified during colonization period, where violence prevailed. Literary production in South America is, therefore, the result of the combination of the ancient and modern worlds. In the case of García Márquez, in association to this invaluable cultural background is the influence of Spanish literature. The pioneer of Magical Realism recognizes his narrative affiliation to the literary Spanish Golden Age, namely, the timeless works Don Quixote, Amadis or Lazarillo de Tormes.

Finally, Section Six is dedicated to national and regional political and economic development in different areas of Iberia, comprising of three chapters. The first, authored by Carla Sequeira, focuses on the elites and political organization in the Upper Douro wine region (1910-1940), examining regional political evolution and the objectives of the emerging elite in the two periods represented by the implantation period of the Republic and the subsequent institutionalisation of the military dictatorship from 1926. Among her conclusions, she notes that, over the first phase, the Douro region witnessed the emergence of a political elite focussed above all on the winegrowing interests of the area, drawn together by defence of their common interest in the latter industry and that this was to continue through the Dictatorship and *Estado Novo*, despite divisions between those favouring the regime and those opposed to it, to the exclusion of the lower classes of society.

In the following chapter, Makiko Narita centres her attention on the economic development in the Basque Country, and particularly on the determinants of firm location. She explores the Basque experience of successful shift from heavy industry to an innovative high-tech economy as an example for other countries and regions, considering the characteristics of the Basque economy, its industrial context, the role of foreign direct investment (FDI and the factors which have attracted it. She concludes that, while the overall level of FDI is not particularly high, prominent companies have invested and there are clusters of high-tech manufacturing in particular and she provides some useful indications of areas on which future research might focus.

Lastly, Nick Sharman analyses Spain's economic modernisation, focusing on the autarkic political model and its constraints in the seven decades between the loss of Spain's last colonies in 1898 and the end of Francisco Franco's regime. He gives detailed consideration to the subsequent debate over how to modernise the country's

economy, exploring the solutions attempted by liberal and conservative protections in turn, followed by the radical autarkists of the Franco dictatorship, all of whom rejected free-market ideology in favour of varying interventions. His view is that it was not protectionism which drew Spain into fascism, since for both liberal industrialists and the authoritarian conservative right, this was seen as a temporary measure to prepare the country for the pressures of full entry into international trading and commercial systems, contending that it is vital to consider instead the structural political weaknesses that prevented greater participation of the wider working population beyond the bourgeois elite in policy making and engagement with wholesale reform.

In conclusion, this wide-ranging and eclectic volume once more makes a valuable contribution to the important field of Iberia Studies in a variety of sub-disciplines. Its scope in covering lesser spoken languages and culture areas, postcolonial and transatlantic relations and influences is testament to the currency of the work of the global network of scholars comprising the Association for Contemporary Iberian Studies.

Two chapters were translated into English by members of the editorial team: Chapter Nine by Mark Gant and Chapter Twelve by Susana Rocha Relves.

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