

Introduction to New Trends in Iberian Galician Comparative Literature

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Ed. María Teresa Vilariño Picos and Anxo Abuín González
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Introduction to New Trends in Iberian Galician Comparative Literature
María Teresa Vilariño Picos and Anxo Abuín González

The special issue *New Trends in Iberian Galician Comparative Literature* of *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/>> is the result of the collective effort of a group of scholars who share a dedication to the discipline of comparative literature. As opposed to sceptical visions and perceptions of the discipline, the scholars collaborating in this project believe that the so-called crisis of the discipline is not necessarily a negative or paralyzing aspect. This belief stems from both a well-defined theoretical and methodological orientation, as well as the discipline's established presence in Spain both on the level of scholarship and institutionally. In this respect, it cannot be denied that the history of comparative literature is relatively recent: La Sociedad Española de Literatura General y Comparada was founded in 1977 and institutional recognition — by the Ministry of Education in 1990 — of the discipline in university curricula through its merger with literary theory into one area of knowledge is still not beyond debate even today, in 2011. Add to this the fact that the scholars participating in the project are writing from Galicia, a region of Spain that has struggled and struggles still to arrive at the recognition of its distinct culture (see also Kirsty Hooper and Manuel Puga Moruxa, eds. *Contemporary Galician Cultural Studies: Between the Local and the Global*. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2011).

This introduction is not the appropriate place to insist upon the obvious intercultural and plurilingual nature of the Galician culture: the articles of the collection speak for themselves. Suffice it to say that in order to underline the role of Galicia and particularly of Santiago de Compostela Galician culture is still struggling to distance itself from the locus of periphery. This is a paradoxical but at the same time enriching duality which makes Galicia a unique place for comparativist reflection from the local-global dialectic framed by a situation of constantly questioned minoritization whether in Spain proper or globally. On the other hand, running parallel to Iberian Galicia's place in Europe, the cultural participation of Galicia as an *entre-deux* in the Spanish and Lusophone spaces cannot and should not be ignored whether in scholarship or public discourse. And this, of course, refers us to European cultural identity rooted in a network of both historical and contemporary contact.

At the center of the above explained common ground, the scholarship presented in *New Trends in Iberian Galician Comparative Literature* is intended to introduce and share the state of comparativist

research in Galicia aimed at a global readership. Although a result of a major collaborative research project, contributors were not suggested directives with regards to the orientation of their work apart from the inherent disciplinary dimension they were to develop. Thus, a plural whole is offered, heterogeneous although at times contradictory in its principles and/or affirmations. But much like our comprehension of the hackneyed crisis of the discipline of comparative literature whether in Europe or the U.S., this dimension is not a drawback, but an encouraging sample of the inherently polyhedral, integrating, and dialoguing character of the discipline. Of import is also that the scholarship presented is in English as the majority of the work of the University of Santiago de Compostela research project was and is published in Galician and thus the scholarship presented is accessible to a global readership not the least owing to the journal's mode of publication in open access.

We thank our colleagues Marla Arbach, Karen J. Duncan-Barlow, Belén Iglesias Arbor, Manus O'Dwyer, and Mark Wiersma for the arduous task of the translation of articles in the collection. We also thank the editor of the journal, Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek, for the invitation to publish our work and for his editing the articles once translated. The articles underwent the journal's standard double-blind peer review.

New Trends in Iberian Galician Comparative Literature contains the following articles:

- Abuín González, Anxo. "National Theaters on the Iberian Peninsula." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/11>>.
- Becerra Suárez, Carmen. "The Don Juan Myth in Iberian Galician Literature." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/8>>.
- Cabo Aseguinolaza, Fernando. "The Spatial Turn in Literary Historiography." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/5>>.
- Casas, Arturo. "Metapoetry as Paratext." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/6>>.
- Domínguez, César. "Literary Geography and Comparative Literature." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/3>>.
- Gil González, Antonio J. "Comics and the Graphic Novel in Spain and Iberian Galicia." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/17>>.
- Gutiérrez García, Santiago. "Galician Portuguese Medieval Poetry and the Iberian Interliterary System." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/9>>.
- MacCarthy, Anne. "The Image of Ireland in Iberian Galicia in the Early Twentieth Century." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/16>>.
- Palacios González, Manuela. "Landscape in Irish and Iberian Galician Poetry by Women Authors." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/7>>.
- Rábade Villar, María do Cebreiro. "The Ophelia Motif in the Work of Iberian Galician Writers." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/12>>.
- Rodríguez Fontela, María Ángeles. "Advertising and Autobiographical Discourse." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/13>>.
- Rodríguez González, Olivia. "Catalan and Galician Literatures in Spanish and European Contexts." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/14>>.
- Torres Feijó, Elias J. "About Literary Systems and National Literatures." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/4>>.
- Vilariño Picos, María Teresa. "The Library and the Librarian as a Theme in Literature." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/15>>.
- Vilavedra, Dolores. "Narration and Identity in Iberian Galician Literature." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/10>>.
- Villanueva, Darío. "Possibilities and Limits of Comparative Literature Today." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.5 (2011): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/2>>.

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