

# **Tropicalizations**

*Transcultural Representations of Latinidad*

Edited by Frances R. Aparicio and  
Susana Chávez-Silverman

**Dartmouth College**

Published by University Press of New England  
Hanover and London

# Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	vii
<b>Frances R. Aparicio and Susana Chávez-Silverman</b>	
Introduction	I
I. Tropical Refractions: <i>Latinidad</i> under the Dominant Gaze	
<b>Beatriz Urraca</b>	
—A Textbook of Americanism: Richard Harding Davis's <i>Soldiers of Fortune</i>	21
<b>Stephen Benz</b>	
Through the Tropical Looking Glass: The Motif of Resistance in U.S. Literature on Central America	51
<b>Debra A. Castillo</b>	
The Tropics of the Imagination: "Quetzalcoatl and All That"	67
II. In the Heat of the Night: Sexuality (South) of the Border	
<b>Susana Chávez-Silverman</b>	
Tropicolada: Inside the U.S. Latino/a Gender B(l)ender	101
<b>David Román</b>	
Tropical Fruit	119
III. Relocating Hegemony: Tropicalizing Cuba from the United States	
<b>María Teresa Marrero</b>	
Historical and Literary <i>Santería</i> : Unveiling Gender and Identity in U.S. Cuban Literature	139

**Silvia Spitta**

Transculturation, the Caribbean,  
and the Cuban-American Imaginary

160

**IV. Si(gh)ting *Latinidad*: Tropicalized Cultural Locations**

**Juan Flores**

The Latino Imaginary: Dimensions  
of Community and Identity

183

**Frances R. Aparicio**

On Sub-Versive Signifiers:  
Tropicalizing Language in the United States

194

**Juan León**

Tropical Overexposure:  
Miami's "Sophisticated Tropics" and the *Balsero*

213

*Notes on Contributors*

229