



Images and Voices of the Other

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Research and Performance Showcase 2020

Learning Objectives

Learning Outcome 1: Readers will be introduced to the work of Gloria Anzaldúa and Josephine Donovan.

Learning Outcome 2: Readers will be introduced to new language and ideas that were created by these feminist theorists.

Learning Outcome 3: Readers will be able to apply the language and ideas of these feminist theorists in their reflections on, and interactions with, images and voices of the other in their lives.

Anzaldúa

A Chicana, feminist, and queer theorist

“

Because I, a **mestiza**, continually walk out of one culture and into another, because I am in all cultures at the same time, *alma entre dos mundos, tres, cuatro, me zumba la cabeza con lo contradictorio. Estoy norteadada por todas las voces quote me hablan simultáneamente.*”

- Gloria Anzaldúa, “*La conciencia de la mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness*”

Gloria Anzaldúa

(1942 - 2004)

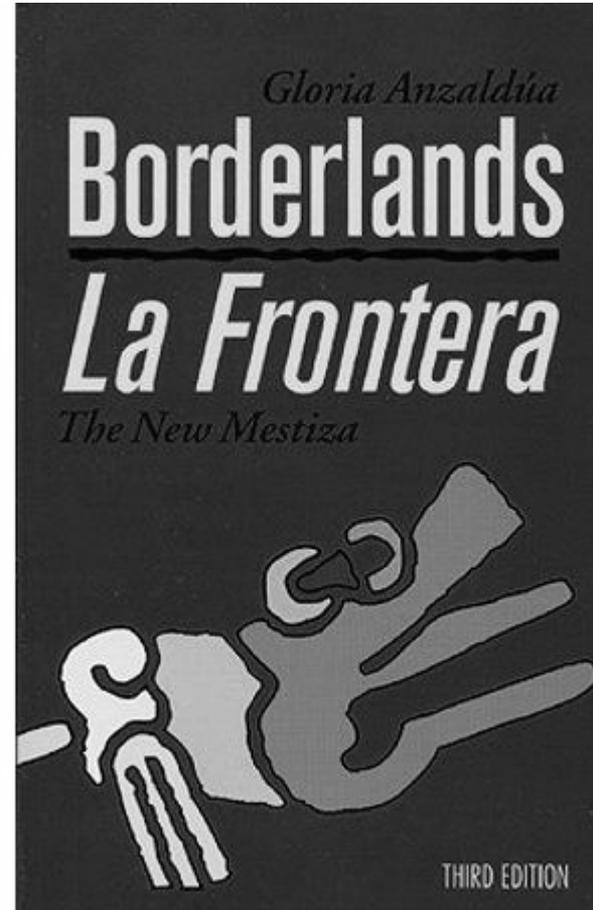
- Author of *The Borderlands/La Frontera: The Mestiza*
 - About her experiences growing up on the Mexico-Texas border
- "***La conciencia de la mestiza***" = a consciousness of the Borderlands
 - A clash of cultural and spiritual values
 - The *mestiza* confronts psychic restlessness as a result of the collision



Gloria Anzaldúa cont'd

(1942 - 2004)

- Advocates for *the mestiza* to create a new consciousness for herself
- ***La conciencia de la mestiza*** = a new *mythos*, a way of perceiving reality, that uproots and transcends heteronormative, patriarchal, and colonial binaries established by, and for, the oppressor
- With this new *mythos*, *la mestiza* is now the definer of her experiences at the Crossroads



“

As a **mestiza** I have no country, my homeland cast me out; yet all countries are mine because I am every woman's sister or potential lover. . . *Soy un amasamiento*, I am an act of kneading, of uniting and joining that has produced both a creature of darkness and a creature of light, **but also a creature that questions the definitions of light and dark and gives them new meanings.**”

- Gloria Anzaldúa, "*La conciencia de la mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness*"

Donovan

A feminist critic and theorist

“

Much of the literature of our Western tradition has not risen to such heights. Its male authors do not reach that 'extremely difficult realization' that women, 'something other than' themselves, exist, are real. Their works are morally insufficient, for they do not attend to the **independent reality** of women."

- Josephine Donovan, "Beyond the Net: Feminist Criticism as a Moral Criticism"

Josephine Donovan

(1941 -)

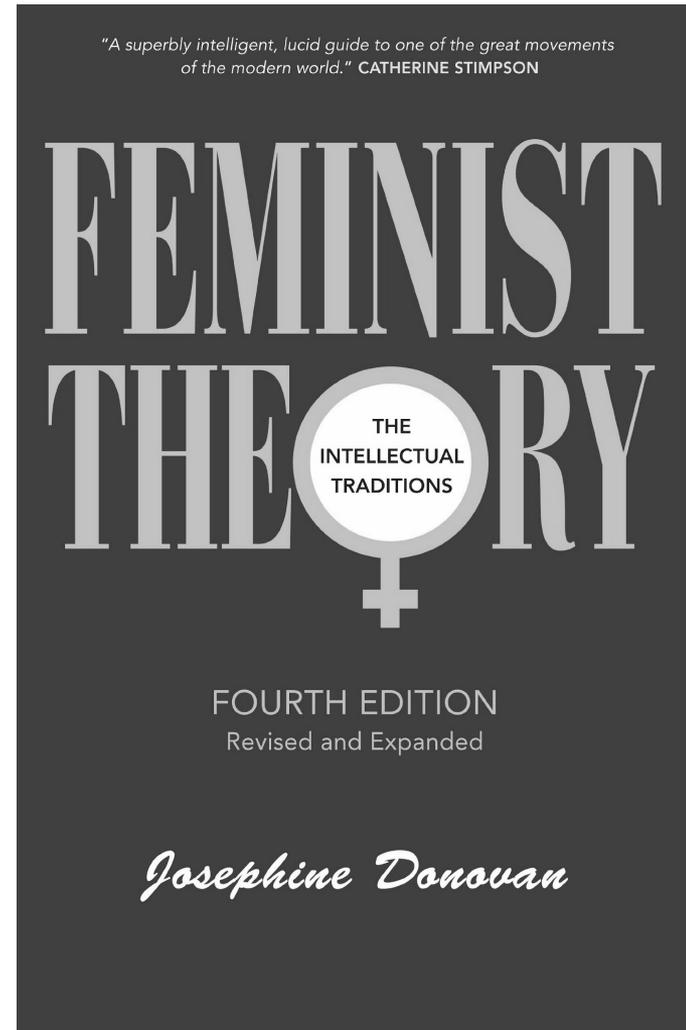
- Objects to the representation of women as “seats of consciousness; [as they] **are Selves, not Others**”
 - This Self-Other binary is a fundamental reality of women
 - It enables the oppressor to become the Self (essential) while the oppressed become the Other (inessential)
- Because women are consigned as Others, **female characters are rarely authentic**



Josephine Donovan cont'd

(1941 -)

- Female characters are usually presented as objects used for the pleasure of the male viewer
 - This exploitation of female characters is often justified as an **aesthetic**
 - In other words, the female character is divorced from her moral existence as a Self
 - Denying female viewers *catharsis*, release and relief, this aesthetic serves as propaganda to further sexist ideology



“

One can argue, of course, that a woman reader can suspend her femaleness and appreciate great works which have male protagonists (and objectified women) when the protagonists are wrestling with universal problems. . . The real question is not whether a woman *can* identify with the subjective consciousness or the self if it is male, but whether she *should*, given her own political and social environment.”

- Josephine Donovan, “Beyond the Net: Feminist Criticism as a Moral Criticism”

Implications:

We are called to...

- Challenge the binary by decolonizing and resisting discriminatory institutions in order to unite all women in the feminist movement.
- Create and maintain safe spaces that support women of color.

