



Intersections of Harm: Narratives of Latina Deviance and Defiance (American Literatures Initiative)

By Laura Halperin



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In this innovative new study, Laura Halperin examines literary representations of harm inflicted on Latinas' minds and bodies, and on the places Latinas inhabit, but she also explores how hope can be found amid so much harm. Analyzing contemporary memoirs and novels by Irene Vilar, Loida Maritza Pérez, Ana Castillo, Cristina García, and Julia Alvarez, she argues that the individual harm experienced by Latinas needs to be understood in relation to the collective histories of aggression against their communities.

Intersections of Harm is more than just a nuanced examination of the intersections among race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality. It also explores the intersections of deviance and defiance, individual and collective, and mind, body, and place. Halperin proposes that, ironically, the harmful ascriptions of Latina deviance are tied to the hopeful expressions of Latina defiance. While the Latina protagonists' defiance feeds into the labels of deviance imposed on them, it also fuels the protagonists' ability to resist such harmful treatment. In this analysis, Halperin broadens the parameters of literary studies of female madness, as she compels us to shift our understanding of where madness lies. She insists that the madness readily attributed to individual Latinas is entwined with the madness of institutional structures of oppression, and she maintains that psychological harm is bound together with physical and geopolitical harm.

In her pan-Latina study, Halperin shows how each writer's work emerges from a unique set of locales and histories, but she also traces a network of connections among them. Bringing together concepts from feminism, postcolonialism, illness studies, and ecocriticism, *Intersections of Harm* opens up exciting new avenues for Latina/o studies.



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Editorial Review

Review

"Though several of the texts Halperin discusses have heretofore received extensive attention, Halperin places all the texts in conversation with each other and with other works, revealing a landscape of women seen as deviant, often mentally ill, for their resistance to oppression. Halperin argues for deviance itself as a form of hope, and maintains that pain, though disempowering, can be transformative ... Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty."

(CHOICE)

"With scholarship that is broad and deep, *Intersections of Harm* offers excellent, original, and nuanced readings of Latina/o literature that add to ongoing conversations in Latina literary studies and beyond." (Suzanne Bost *author of Encarnación: Illness and Body Politics in Chicana Feminist Literature*)

"*Intersections of Harm* makes a distinctive contribution through its careful analysis of how individual physical and psychological damage interacts with larger, geopolitical forms of harm, making for rich, nuanced reading."

(Marta Caminero-Santangelo *author of On Latinidad: U.S. Latino Literature and the Construction of Ethnicity*)

About the Author

LAURA HALPERIN is an assistant professor of English and comparative literature and Latina/o studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Users Review

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Carlo Young:

Now a day people who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not involve people to be aware of each data they get. How many people to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Looking at a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information particularly this Intersections of Harm: Narratives of Latina Deviance and Defiance (American Literatures Initiative) book because this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

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This book untitled Intersections of Harm: Narratives of Latina Deviance and Defiance (American Literatures Initiative) to be one of several books this best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this

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Joseph Fulkerson:

Typically the book Intersections of Harm: Narratives of Latina Deviance and Defiance (American Literatures Initiative) has a lot of information on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of help. The book was written by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research just before write this book. This particular book very easy to read you may get the point easily after looking over this book.

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