

THE ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF LATIN AMERICAN LITERARY TRANSLATION
EDITED BY DELFINA CABRERA AND DENISE KRIPPER

The Routledge Handbook of Latin American Literary Translation, Delfina Cabrera and Denise Kripper (eds.). Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge, 2023.

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As the field of translation studies grows in popularity, there is increasing demand for studies that address the specificity of literary translation in disparate global contexts. Scanning the series list for the Routledge Handbooks in Translation and Interpreting Studies, one recent addition leaps out as an anomaly: *The Routledge Handbook of Latin American Literary Translation*, edited by Delfina Cabrera and Denise Kripper, as the only title with a geographic focus. Many scholars of Latin America understand that the very idea of the region, itself a ‘disputed territory and problematized identity’ (1) was shaped and transformed by acts of translation; translation was crucial for forging national politics and literary canons. In this remarkable and wide-reaching volume, Cabrera and Kripper draw on their expertise as academics and practising literary translators to examine the fundamental importance of translation in Latin America, in a volume that is of value both to scholars of the region and to researchers with a broader interest in translation.

The book’s introduction is entitled ‘Delineating a Latin American Approach to Literary Translation’. Cabrera and Kripper make the case for specificity in translation studies, highlighting that translation was an important element that shaped both Latin America’s colonial and postcolonial periods, and therefore the region offers a ‘specific locus of enunciation’ (1) that has been little heard in Anglophone translation studies: often, Latin America is not considered a site of theory, but instead viewed as a site that others theorise about. This book aims to counter this tendency by foregrounding Latin American critics and intellectuals as the source of translation theory. The question of linguistic diversity is prominent in the book, from the literature cited in its pages to the diverse background of the academics Cabrera and Kripper bring together. For many of the scholars, this is their first contribution in English – after having published elsewhere in Spanish, Portuguese, French, Chinese and more – as part of the editors’ stated aim to further internationalise translation research networks and to promote increased exchange.

The editors situate their work at the rich intersection of translation and Latin American literature, with an ample bibliography for interested readers that examines translation’s role in identity formation in the relatively recent construction of ‘Latin America’; translators’ and writer-translators’ roles in constructing literary traditions in the region; and the journeys Latin American literature has taken when translated into other languages. Cabrera and Kripper highlight their loosely chronological approach that traces trajectories in translation from nineteenth-century independence movements to twenty-first-century global literature networks, touching on culture formation, politics, and the invention of literary traditions. To end their introduction, they assert the value of the volume for pedagogical purposes, as its scope explores both the local and global. This is an ambitious collection of 22 chapters, and it seems likely that scholars in many disciplines will benefit from the foundations laid here.

The book has three parts: Part I is titled ‘In Translation: Linguistic & Cultural Diversity Within the Continent’, and explores how translation shaped a ‘Latin American *ethos*’ and led to the region’s translational foundations; Part II is ‘In & Out of Latin America: Reception of Translated Literature’, examining the interplay of Latin American and translated literatures on a global scale; and Part III is ‘In Circulation: Publishing & Networks

of Translation', looking at migration and how various global networks led to the circulation of translation. While the division between the sections may at times seem arbitrary – especially when the content overlaps – this is more a result of the nature of the complex and plural networks of literature and translation in the region, as opposed to a lack of editorial structure, and the book itself is clearly laid out to make it accessible for a wide readership.

Within Part I, the first four chapters focus on four literary figures who, by their roles as translators and authors, shaped the invention of Latin American literary canons in the first hundred years or so after the independence of many republics in the region: Andrés Bello, Heinrich Heine, José Martí, and José María Arguedas. The latter is an important early entry in this work, stating emphatically the importance of Quechua and other Indigenous languages in the region's literature. The following four chapters in Part I then focus on multilingualism and linguistic diversity across the Americas and the Caribbean. Highlights include Chapter 5, in which Mónica María del Valle Idárraga highlights the colonial legacy of the languages of the Caribbean, and Chapter 7's exploration of the foundational importance of multilingualism and hybridity, from various Spanglishes to Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui's conception of 'ch'ixi' as ways of understanding cultural mixing (122).

Part II turns its attention to the reception of translated literature and translators in the Americas, and in turn the journeys Latin American literatures have made across the globe. Chapters 9 and 15 look at the reception of James Joyce and Shakespeare in the region, while Chapters 10 and 13 focus on two influential writer-translators and the theories they brought to their translation practice: Jorge Luis Borges and Octavio Paz. Chapters 11, 12, and 16 examine the translation and reception of the region's literature in French, Chinese, and English respectively. In Chapter 12, Teng Wei's work on the political climate that led to large-scale efforts to translate Latin American literature into Chinese highlights an important element of global history that has been under-studied thus far. Chapter 14 on 'Tequio literario' ('an ethos of shared literary labour') by Paul M. Worley and Ellen Jones is a crucial reminder that translation is a force that acts within the region too, highlighting translation from Indigenous languages into the 'dominant European languages' (231) that have an outsized influence on external perceptions of the region. The concept of shared labour and authorship in this chapter speaks not only to the translations analysed but the work that contributes to this volume. Lastly, Chapter 16, on Anglophone translations and the construction of a 'New Female Gothic', is likely to be of particular interest to readers of this English-language volume, given its attention to the market forces that act on us as readers today.

Part III hones in on the circulation of Latin American literature and translation, with Chapters 17, 18, and 19 looking at the emergence of print culture and institutions that supported the transmission of literary works. Chapter 17 on 'Translation and Print Culture' offers case studies that will likely be recognisable to contemporary readers of Latin American literature, such as Mexico's *Fondo de Cultura Económica* and the magazine *Revista Casa de las Américas*, while Chapter 18 introduces the pertinent factor of exile and Chapter 19 examines how translation offered a laboratory for importing ideas around gender roles. Chapters 20 and 21 highlight the contributions of two Brazilian translators to the circulation of literature: the writer Haroldo de Campos, for whom Isabel C. Gómez makes the case that, 'shoulder to shoulder with Jorge Luis Borges', de Campos was 'the Latin American thinker leaving the greatest mark on literary translation' (362); and the publisher, translator, and children's author José Bento Monteiro Lobato, who has remained influential for generations of Brazilians as an author and translator of children's literature. The book concludes with Elizabeth Lowe's comments in Chapter 22 on the 'changing norms of production and reception' (394) in the digital age, examining both international and Brazilian networks of literary circulation on the Internet, while also considering how digital culture influences the

texts themselves. It offers a fitting consideration of our present moment and provides a point of reflection that brings the volume to a close.

Overall, *The Routledge Handbook of Latin American Literary Translation* is an impressive feat that will be used by students and experienced scholars alike, across the fields of Latin American studies, comparative literature, and translation studies. In the introduction, Cabrera and Kripper note that no volume could ever be exhaustive when it comes to the topic of Latin American literary translation. Nevertheless, together the editors have compiled a remarkable volume that scales the length and breadth of the Americas from the nineteenth century to the present, examining many of the languages and literatures that have come to be called Latin American, bringing specificity, regionality, and complexity to translation studies. And with the reading lists included at the end of each chapter and the orientation towards both pedagogy and research, they and their contributors issue an invitation to future generations of scholars not only to continue this task for Latin American literary translation, but to pursue this approach for other languages and regions too.