

Epilogue: Towards a Queer Hispanism¹

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The epilogue to this special issue of *InterAlia* has almost the same title as the introduction that opens it. The removal of the bracketed phrase can be interpreted from a variety of perspectives, but it does not mean that the three editors did not share the same objectives. In the first place, let me express my gratitude to Jorge Luis Peralta and Łukasz Smuga for their passion, energy, and dedication throughout the nearly two years of work on this issue; with editors as enthusiastic as they are we can speak, without a doubt, about an (even more) queer hispanism—the same conclusion can be drawn from their individual publications. I have chosen the phrase “towards a queer hispanism”—instead of “towards an (even more) queer hispanism”—because, in my opinion, the essays in this collection evidence the multiple axes of encounter and evasion around hispanic and queer studies, which in itself is a sign of vitality and dialogue. Also because these contributions retrieve and look through the canonical and the marginalised questions; in other words, they visit both the centres and the peripheries, reassessing them at the same time. And, finally, because there is absolutely no doubt that the dialogue between the different contributions will open new debates and foster new perspectives.

Any collection of similar size thrives on the generosity of its coeditors and contributors, all of whom I would like to sincerely thank for their work and their trust. I have always been fond of publications which combine the plurality of academic research with a communal spirit, especially in the field of queer studies. The fact that the authors were not aware of what other names would finally appear in the table of contents is the best proof of the lack of orthodox thinking and of putting on airs. We do not know most of the contributors personally, and I am tremendously happy that it has been that way, for obvious reasons, and because queer studies should never be confined to ivory towers and sects. Though we invited some ivory-tower dwellers and sectarians, they chose not to join the project. I am glad that this space is shared by people who live thousands of kilometers apart (physically and not ideologically speaking), and that some of them have recently started their academic careers, while others have been working for as long as three decades, so that our activism could break through and find its own modest space within the academia, inside and outside of the Spanish-speaking geographic regions.

¹ This special issue of *InterAlia: A Journal of Queer Studies* titled “Among Others. Queer Perspectives in Hispanic World/Entre otros/as. Perspectivas *queer* en el mundo hispánico,” including the above text and the other essays published in it, forms part of the project FEM2015-69863-P MINECO-FEDER (“Diversidad de género, masculinidad y cultura en España, Argentina y México”), developed within the Spanish National Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my warmest thanks to the editors of the journal *InterAlia*, based in Poland, for having encouraged and welcomed so bigheartedly this adventure of ours in such turbulent times. Some things have changed for the better in a lot of countries from the last decades of the 20th century until the year 2017, other remain as they were or have changed for the worse. Queer studies will remain of vital importance at least until these problems have disappeared or until we have eradicated them.

Like every self-respecting afterword, this one will be concise. I could have filled it with personal anecdotes (academic and non-academic), with quite a few bibliographical references (evident and surprising), and with an endless number of quotations (in different languages, of course), but suffice it to say that the purpose of this epilogue is precisely this: to thank you all for being part of this project and to signal that there is still work to be done; and, finally, to invite you to read this voluminous collection of essays, as well as to encourage you to look at things from new perspectives, and always critically.