

Editorial Note

Brazilian Contemporary Narrative

Even before *P: Portuguese Cultural Studies* had been launched, it already had been decided to have as one of its first volumes a number dedicated specifically to contemporary narrative in Brazil. Maria Eunice Moreira generously accepted to organize such a special volume and immediately proceeded to issue a call for papers and started selecting essays for inclusion. From the large number of submissions a choice was finally made that limits the notion of “narrative” to fiction and leaves out other modalities, especially poetry. Nonetheless, the volume is still very heterogeneous. Some of the articles sketch an historical view that frames the development of Brazilian narrative to the present, some focus specifically on theoretical issues, such as postmodernism, yet others look at the representation of several groups within Brazilian society or analyze one specific novel. Established figures of the Brazilian literary canon get discussed alongside more recent or lesser-known ones. Theoretical presuppositions that inform the essays are also very varied. It would have been possible to come up with a more strictly arranged collection of essays, yet the editors feel that precisely the variety of voices, perspectives, and ideological premises evidenced in the volume, serve more directly to represent the extraordinary variety of contemporary Brazilian narratives. Without any pretensions at historical or other form of coverage, the present volume is intended rather as a forum for discussion on the variety of the Brazilian narrative and as a guide to some of its features.

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