

VOLUME TWO

Editorial Note

The current volume of P: Portuguese Cultural Studies is dedicated to questions of contemporary poetry and poetics. The essays published here had their beginning at a conference that took place in Utrecht in June 2007, under the heading of Contemporary Lusophone Poetry and the European Imaginary. The essays collected here are only a selection of the papers read at the conference that also had the participation of several poets. The current volume was delayed for a variety of factors, including a reorganization of the journal, which will have one annual volume from now on. At that conference many aspects related to poetry and society were discussed, among which the need to develop systematic, cooperative, research avenues for contemporary poetics. The initial idea to form a research group on poetry and comparative poetics came from Rosa Maria Martelo and was based on the perception of the need to renew current studies on poetry from a theoretical basis. If reflection on poetry and poetic forms long constituted a source for the development of literary theory, the last twenty years have seen a gradual abandonment of such studies with a concentration on prose to reflect on postmodernism and the explosion of theoretical paradigms on the literary. After several discussions, it was decided to hold some conferences with the dual goal of both advancing reflection on poetry concretely and discuss ways to systematize such a study into research programmes. At the meeting in Utrecht, a number of the presenters discussed the possibilities for establishing an international research group, which has been named LYRA. A second conference was held at the University of Porto in September 2007, organized by the Institute of Comparative Literature Margarida Losa. Selected papers from the conference held in Porto have been published in *Cadernos de Literatura Comparada*, 17 (December, 2007), under the title: *Poesia e Outras Artes: Do Modernismo à Contemporaneidade*. A third conference at the Universidade Fluminense, Rio de Janeiro, followed in November 2007. The research group has now members from a number of European as well as North and South American universities and after a meeting at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Paris in February 2009, dedicated to the relations between Poetry and Cinema and Photography, it was decided to continue that theme for the 2010 conference to be held at the University of Salamanca. I would like to extend my thanks to Rosa Maria Martelo, co-editor of this volume, as well as to the other contributors for the intellectual stimulation provided and for their patience. Soon an internet site for LYRA will be available on-line, to better disseminate the results of the group's research and to stimulate dialogue. Paulo de Medeiros