

## ABSTRACTS/RESUMOS

### **Literature on the Periphery of Capitalism: Brazilian Theory, Canadian Culture**

Imre Szeman

In order to get past the blind spots that have developed in contemporary postcolonial theory, it is essential to seek out complementarities and solidarities in different national situations and in different modernities. This essay undertakes this task by exploring the homologous situations faced in Brazil and Canada in their respective attempts to create genuine national cultures. As in many postcolonial situations, the problem of creating an authentic culture is directly related to the sense that postcolonial culture is necessarily imitative and belated. In *Misplaced Ideas*, Roberto Schwarz exposes the hidden class character of the problem of cultural authenticity in Brazil, and in so doing, shows that the trauma of national-cultural identity merely reflects the contradictory structural position of Brazil's postcolonial elite. Using Schwarz's insights to explore the Canadian situation, the author shows that the same forces are at work in Canada. Though the crisis of a lack of an authentic Canadian culture has recently been surmounted as a result of the apparent international success of Canadian culture (especially literary fiction), that author cautions that this "success" story

hides the class basis of Canadian culture in both its belated and isochronic phases (the latter being the moment when cultural belatedness is overcome). Making use of Brazilian theory to examine problems in Canadian culture allows us to see that Canadian modernity, long thought to be simply a derivative of the UK and USA, has similarities with Brazilian modernity that are essential to understanding the space and place Canada occupies in globalization.

**Keywords:** Canadian Postcolonialism; Brazilian theory; Roberto Schwarz.

### Expanding Boundaries: Traveling Theories in the Americas

Sandra Regina Goulart Almeida

Este trabalho explora a metáfora da viagem como tema central na discussão sobre as teorias críticas nas Américas. Essa metáfora permeia não apenas a teoria desenvolvida tanto no Brasil como no Canadá, mas é também parte da literatura produzida nesses países. Caren Kaplan vê o viajante como agente e emblema da modernidade, literal e figurativamente atravessando fronteiras, mas também participando na criação dessas mesmas fronteiras. De maneira similar, o crítico brasileiro Silviano Santiago demonstra como a metáfora da viagem torna-se um elemento importante na produção literária e cultural na América Latina. Esse trabalho discute como tal metáfora tem sido apropriada nos discursos críticos brasileiros e canadenses e como ela pode ser vista como um espaço produtivo a partir do qual os debates críticos contemporâneos podem ser abordados. O ensaio trata ainda da relevância desse diálogo transnacional ao criar espaços que exploram as possíveis formas de interseção crítica.

**Palavras chaves:** viagem, transculturalismo, antropofagia (traveling, transculturalism, anthropophagy)

## **Global Designs, Postcolonial Critique: Rethinking Canada in Dialogue**

Diana Brydon

This paper approaches the comparative examination of Brazil and Canada in the context of engagements with postcolonial theory obliquely, rather than directly, through reframing the comparison within the contexts posed by Paul Gilroy in *The Black Atlantic*, and by contemporary globalization theories and indigenous global activism, when considered through a postcolonial lens. Accepting John Tomlinson's idea (in *Globalization and Culture*) that the "complex connectivities" of globalizing practices and discourses "confound" conventional social science practices, this paper suggests that literary texts that engage these issues may enjoy an advantage in negotiating such complexities. But it also argues that new configurations of diaspora and globalization offer writers and readers the chance to shift literature away from its conventional constructions as both autonomous and transcendent, on the one hand, and nation-affirming, on the other. Through a close comparative reading of Okanagan writer Jeannette Armstrong's novel, *Whispering in Shadows*, and Caribbean-Canadian Nalo Hopkinson's utopian science fiction, *Brown Girl in the Ring*, I seek to model a postcolonial reading practice attentive to cultural difference and global challenges. Each story addresses colonial legacies and global designs through the reconstruction of a relational autonomy that redefines humanity and community through re-energizing beliefs and practices abandoned under colonial modernity. Each text challenges mainstream models for mapping Canadian identity and its place within the Americas. They work to break the illusion of Western progress that fuels contemporary globalization and to redefine global connectivities from within the perspectives of formerly subjugated knowledge systems and a local ground.

**Keywords:** Postcolonialism; Globalization; intercultural studies.

### **Cartografias da Migração na Literatura Quebequense Contemporânea**

Maria Bernadete Velloso Porto

Centrando-se na literatura quebequense, as reflexões aqui desenvolvidas pretendem mostrar que, representada no plano ficcional como categoria estética, a experiência das migrações oferece pistas interessantes para a compreensão de paisagens sociais da contemporaneidade onde se esboçam imaginários de pertencimentos plurais e a crise na ordem das filiações identitárias. Além de destacar vias privilegiadas de acesso à literatura migrante produzida no Quebec, reconhece-se que a vivência do exílio, do estranhamento e da extra-territorialidade – detectados nos planos cultural, geográfico e lingüístico – diz respeito ao próprio ato da escrita, vista como exercício maior da alteridade.

**Palavras-chave:** Quebec - Literatura Migrante - Mutações identitárias