

## BOOK REVIEW

### Madres Revolucionarias Transforming Chicana/Latina/Women of Color M(Other)Work

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*Chicana M(Other)Work Anthology: Porque sin Madres no hay Revolución.*  
Edited by Cecilia Caballero, Yvette Martínez-Vu, Judith Pérez-Torres,  
Michelle Téllez, and Christine Vega. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2019.  
Pp. 336. \$24.99 (paperback).

The editors of and contributors to this important anthology show the revolutionary and transformative power of Chicana/Latina/ women of color motherhood (broadly defined and recognizing trans, cis, nonbinary mothers). They do so by highlighting how gender, class, race, and sexuality informs mothers' struggles in higher education and in society at large. *Chicana M(Other)Work* provides an in-depth analysis of the structural conditions that constrain women of color mothering due to neoliberal policies in higher education and institutional violence resulting from police brutality, immigration policies, incarceration, and deportation. A significant contribution from this volume is its demonstration of how Chicanas/Latinas and women of color are rearticulating mothering as revolutionary and as a form of collective resistance.

The theory, methodology, and praxis framing the essays in this collection are built on the conceptualization and practice of m(other)work, borrowed from Patricia Hill Collins. Chicana M(other)work is both a concept and a project stemming from the collaborative process of mothering, agency, and collective

resistance. According to the editors, the term brings together five words—Chicana, mother, other, work, mother-work—which foreground an expansive understanding of mothering based on struggle, agency, and women of color’s multiple identities. The editors explain how they weave together their critique and struggles against institutional oppression, interpersonal change, and everyday forms of resistance by using the metaphors of a rebozo and trenza. The editors explain, “To weave, or *tejer*, calls attention to the fragmentation—similar to the fragmentation within the words Chicana, mother, other, works, and motherwork—that we weave into one to become our Chicana M(other) work framework” (11). The weaving results, in part, by applying intersectional methodologies of the self, such as testimonios. The testimonios are drawn from personal experiences that go beyond individualistic accounts. Testimonios are linked to larger institutional forms of structural oppression, such as those encountered in institutions of higher education, and political struggles for social change.

The chapters bring together intergenerational, raced, classed, queer, nonbinary voices that reimagine and expand mothering as revolutionary. Each essay is powerful on its own, but the volume in its totality is grounded in transformative praxis for social action and change, demonstrating the meaning and practice of Chicana M(other)work. The anthology is divided into four parts. In part one, “Separation, Migration, State Violence and Detention,” the five essays by Katherine Maldonado, Gabriela Corona Valencia, Gretel H. Vera-Rosas, Grace Gámez, and Nereida Oliva and Hortencia Jiménez respectively focus on the disproportionate impact that women of color mothers experience from state violence, such as police brutality, incarceration, deportation, and migration. The chapters in part two, “Chicana/Latina/Women of Color Mothers-Activists,” highlight Chicana/Latina/mothers of color organizing skills and praxis of revolutionary motherhood leading the way for future generation activists

through the powerful essays by Trina Green Brown; Monica Hernández-Johnson, Shahla Fayazpour, Sandra L. Candel and Ravijot Singh; Victoria Isabel Durán; Cristina Herrera and Larissa Mercado-López; and Verónica N. Vélez. In part three, “Intergenerational Mothering,” contributors such as Alma Itzé Flores, Andrea Garavito Martínez, Irene Lara, and Gabriela Spears-Rico center spirituality in all its complexities to show its significance to break forms of intergenerational trauma and violence. The essays in part four, “Reproductive Justice and Holistic Pregnancy,” by Corina Benavides López, Marta Chaves-Días, Rose G. Salseda and Nora Cisneros, LeighAnna Hidalgo, Christine Vega and Yvette Martínez-Vu present a complex understanding of motherhood that goes beyond the biological by focusing on loss, adoption, and remembrance.

This anthology is theoretically sophisticated in its use of Chicana feminist theory and testimonio grounded in praxis. The essays are powerfully written and accessible to a variety of audiences in academic and community settings. Written under a scholar-activist model, *Chicana M(other)Work* is groundbreaking in how it challenges patriarchal notions of motherhood and reimagines it as revolutionary, demonstrating that women of color motherhood (while recognizing that not all women want to be mothers) can and should be revolutionary. This collection could be adopted in a variety of courses in women’s, gender and sexuality studies, Chicana/o/x studies, education, social work, and ethnic studies.

