

Unsettling Experiences: Transnational Dialogues of Necessity in Journal, Nationalité: immigré(e) and Paletitas de guayaba

Tim Gerhard

Abstract

In this paper, I examine the transnational stories of two women --one born in France of Algerian descent and the other born in the United States of Mexican descent-- whose lives are interrupted by the inability to understand their status as ethnic women in the country of their birth. By analyzing their works in the proper socio-historical context and by defining how they fit into a relatively new mode of expression --the autoethnography-- I establish a transnational dialogue between the works of these two women. Transnational stories such as these challenge the superiority of the transnational identities established by the colonial powers and the literary, political and scientific works which have supported the exclusion and isolation of ethnic minority women. By analyzing and connecting these stories, my study helps to move forward the field of transnational feminist studies.