

Building Translational Bridges in Search of Transnational Connectivities and Transgressive Solidarities

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In her foreword to 2nd edition of *This Bridge Called My Back*, Chicana feminist Gloria Anzaldúa wrote, “Women, let’s not let the danger of the journey and the vastness of the territory scare us – let’s look forward and open paths in these woods. Voyager, there are no bridges, one builds them as one walks” (1983, v). Her metaphoric use of “bridge” was an invitation for readers to move to connect across differences and engage in subversive dialogues, no matter how difficult and unpredictable they were. In my paper, I will use Anzaldúa’s bridge metaphor to rethink translation as a transnational praxis of feminist resistance- and solidarity-building against systems of domination and translators as key agents of such transgressive bridge-building. Similar to Anzaldúa’s notion of bridge, I conceive “translational bridges” as potential connectors as well as dividers across borders; as geopolitically and historically contingent discursive spaces; and as fluid (always in the making), yet substantial, relational formations that are anchored in power structures. Bridges invite (sometimes lure) us to cross over onto the other side, whatever that is, and move into a territory that is (often alarmingly) marked as other by the very existence of the bridge. They bring us together without promising easy goings or coalitions. So bridges give us hope of connecting but, due to the operations of corporate globalization that simultaneously increase cross-border proximity and antagonism, they are also precarious and risky for they are surrounded by the separatist, oppositional forces of nationalism, imperialism, colonialism, orientalism, etc. My paper will explore how translation can help us activate that liberatory and transgressive potential of bridges as liminal dialogic spaces, despite the sociopolitical forces that pit us all against each other.