

BROADENING THE DISCOURSE ON

IN A CONTINUED EFFORT TO SHARE SCHOLARLY works by Latin American authors with a wider audience, the University of Texas Press published 32 Latin America–related titles in 2005–2006, including LILAS’s translation of Fernando Escalante’s *La mirada de Dios, In the Eyes of God*. These works, ranging from history to anthropology to philosophy, offer unique perspective and insight into the perennial themes of suffering, work, politics, and hope.

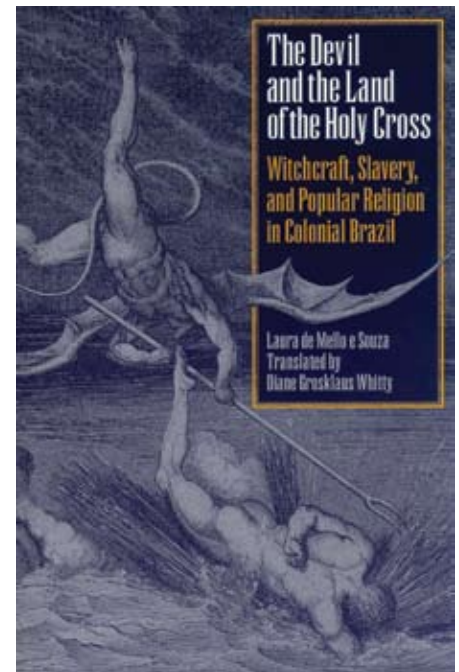
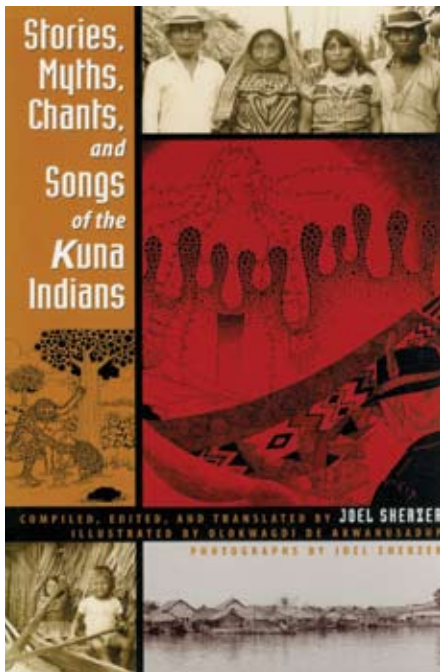
In conjunction with UT Press, LILAS publishes several award-winning book series, the most prominent of which is Translations from Latin America. The focus here is on first-time translation into English of important works from Latin America. These texts are widely read in both graduate and undergraduate classes and also appeal to a general audience

by providing access in English to the work of prominent Latin American writers. This series has received its share of kudos: *In the Shadow of the Mexican Revolution*, the translation of a major work by two of Mexico’s leading intellectuals, Héctor Aguilar Camín and Lorenzo Meyer, was adopted by the History Book Club as an alternate selection. *Torture in Brazil*, a report by the Archdiocese of São Paulo on abuses by the military government, was selected by *Choice* magazine as an Outstanding Academic Title of 1999.

“We began the Translations Series in 1988,” say LILAS Managing Editor Virginia Hagerty. “At the time, we saw a niche that needed to be filled—several presses were doing literary translation, but we were the first to make major Latin American works in history and the social sciences widely available in Eng-

lish. This series affords us the opportunity to cover a wide range of topics and disciplines. We’ve published translations of major works on Maya identity in Guatemala, witchcraft and popular religion in colonial Brazil, Latin American politics, and, most recently, an intellectual examination of the idea of suffering in the Latin American consciousness. There’s a breadth of knowledge and insight that can be shared through the instrument of translation.”

Also well respected is the LILAS Critical Reflections from Latin America Series, which comprises short edited volumes by three or four authors who focus on a single theme. The most successful of these has been *The Idea of Race in Latin America*, edited by Richard Graham and still in print after 16 years. The book addresses race issues from



LATIN AMERICA THROUGH BOOKS

the perspective of three well-regarded historians: Thomas Skidmore on race in Brazil, Aline Helg on race in Argentina and Cuba, and Alan Knight on racial ideas in Mexico during and after the Revolution.

“We are always on the lookout for another *Idea of Race*,” says Hagerty. “Although these volumes are shorter and more focused than conference proceedings, conferences can provide fertile ground for this series. An interesting topic, a careful selection of the best papers, and the addition of a strong introduction by the volume editor can result in the ideal Critical Reflections volume.”

All the work prior to actual printing is done at LLILAS: Manuscript acquisition, copyediting, and design and layout of the book. Final production is done in partnership with UT Press. The Press publishes about 100 books

a year, a third of which are Latin America-related, so this is a good fit for LLILAS. From cover design to distribution, LLILAS books benefit from the stature and skillful marketing of UT Press.

“We’re proud of our book series,” says Hagerty. “Through it we’re able to broaden the discourse on Latin America, so we’re helping LLILAS to make an important contribution not only to the mission of the University of Texas, but to the entire discipline of Latin American Studies.”

For a complete list of LLILAS’s current in-print titles, please visit our page on the UT Press Web site at <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/subjects/ilas.html>. Manuscript proposals or other queries about the series may be sent to Virginia Hagerty at <vhagerty@mail.utexas.edu>. ✨

THESE WORKS,
RANGING FROM
HISTORY TO
ANTHROPOLOGY
TO PHILOSOPHY,
OFFER UNIQUE
PERSPECTIVE AND
INSIGHT INTO THE
PERENNIAL THEMES
OF SUFFERING,
WORK, POLITICS,
AND HOPE.

In the Eyes of God: A Study on the Culture of Suffering

by Fernando Escalante. Translated by Jessica C. Locke

“Every culture needs to appropriate the universal truth of human suffering,” says Fernando Escalante, “. . . to give its own meaning to this suffering, so that human existence is bearable.” Originally published in Spanish as *La mirada de Dios: Estudios sobre la cultura del sufrimiento*, this book is a remarkable study of the evolution of the culture of suffering and the different elements that constitute it, beginning with a reading of Rousseau and ending with the appearance of the Shoah in the Western consciousness—“The memory endures, and this constitutes a fundamental transition for the Western conscience: we have witnessed.”

Drawing on writings from the Greeks to Cervantes, Voltaire to Nietzsche, and Freud to William James, Escalante combines his considerable knowledge of politics and political theory with a vast array of literary examples to arrive at an intellectual understanding of the history and meaning of suffering. His investigation encompasses the rise of popular politics, the role of messianism in modern nationalism, and the contemporary implications of the Shoah.

This book will appeal to a wide audience: students of political theory, humanism, and philosophy, as well as the general reader interested in a glimpse into the mind of a highly original Latin American thinker.

