

## NEW IN PAPER

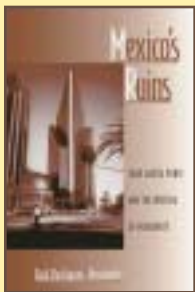
## READING BORGES AFTER BENJAMIN

Allegory, Afterlife,  
and the Writing of History  
KATE JENCKES

*Together with original readings of some of Benjamin's finest essays, this book examines a series of Borges's works as allegories of Argentine modernity.*

This book explores the relationship between time, life, and history in the work of Jorge Luis Borges and examines his work in relation to his contemporary, Walter Benjamin. By focusing on texts from the margins of the Borges canon—including the early poems on Buenos Aires, his biography of Argentina's minstrel poet Evaristo Carriego, the stories and translations from *A Universal History of Infamy*, as well as some of his renowned stories and essays—Kate Jenckes argues that Borges's writing performs an allegorical representation of history. Interspersed among the readings of Borges are careful and original readings of some of Benjamin's finest essays on the relationship between life, language, and history. Reading Borges in relationship to Benjamin draws out ethical and political implications from Borges's works that have been largely overlooked by his critics.

JANUARY • 165 pp.  
\$19.95 pb 978-0-7914-6990-3



## MEXICO'S RUINS

Juan García Ponce  
and the Writing of Modernity  
RAÚL RODRÍGUEZ-HERNÁNDEZ

*Explores the trope of modernity  
in García Ponce's writings.*

At face value, the concept of modernity seems to reference a stream of social and historical traffic headed down a utopian one-way street named "progress."

*Mexico's Ruins* examines modernity in twentieth-century Mexican culture as a much more ambiguous concept, arguing that such a single-minded notion is inadequate to comprehend the complexity of modern Mexico's national projects and their reception by the nation's citizenry. Instead, through the trope of modernity as ruin, author Raúl Rodríguez-Hernández explores the dilemma presented by the etymology of "ruins": a simultaneous falling down and rising up, a confluence of opposing forces at work on the skyline of the metropolis since 1968.

"...Rodríguez-Hernández offers an intriguing interpretation of [García Ponce's] writing ... This well-researched work incorporates historical and literary references, Freudian precepts, and the plastic arts (Mexican murals, photos, monuments)." — *CHOICE*

JANUARY • 217 pp.  
2 b/w photographs  
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RECASTING CULTURE  
AND SPACE  
IN IBERIAN CONTEXTS

SHARON R. ROSEMAN AND  
SHAWN S. PARKHURST,  
EDITORS

*Anthropological case  
studies of the interplay  
of space, culture, and power  
in Iberia since 1850.*

Focusing on the interplay of space, culture, and power in Iberia since 1850, this collection of case studies demonstrates how questions about social identities and power are also questions about mapping, texts, and concrete spaces. The late nineteenth and twentieth centuries are marked by a drive toward grandiose ideological conceptualizations that affected the production of ideas about modern geographical space. The contributors examine the links between this historical context and the emergence of specific intellectual traditions, as well as everyday discourses and practices. They also explore the making of conflicted spaces in Portugal and Spain, and in foreign sites impacted by Iberian-origin exile or colonial settlement. The essays compel readers to consider exactly how people's political identifications have been forged through cultural struggles over the uses and meanings of physical spaces, whether these are in Barcelona, Bilbao, villages in the Alto Douro of Portugal or in Galician Spain, Malacca, the countryside near Ávila (the "City of the Saints"), or Catalans' wartime London.

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A volume in the SUNY series in  
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Thomas M. Wilson, editor

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