Acts of Narrative Resistance

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著者:Beard, Laura J.

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This exploration of women's autobiographical writings in the Americas focuses on three specific genres: testimonio, metafiction, and the family saga as the story of a nation. What makes Laura J. Beard's work distinctive is her pairing of readings of life narratives by women from different countries and traditions. Her section on metafiction focuses on works by Helena Parente Cunha, of Brazil, and Luisa Futoranksy, of Argentina; the family sagas explored are by She examines the work of Ana Maria Shua and NLuisa Futoransky, as Argentine Jews writing, respectively, from Buenos Aires and from exile in China, Japan, and France; of Nelida Pinon, of Argentina and Brazil, respectively; and the section on testimonio highlights narratives by and Helena Parente Cunha from Brazil; and of Lee Maracle and Shirley Sterling, as indigenous writers from different Indigenous nations in British Columbia. In these texts Beard terms "genres of resistance," women resist the cultural definitions imposed upon them in an effort to speak and name their own experiences. The author situates her work in the context of not only other feminist studies of women's autobiographies but also the continuing study of inter-American literature that is demanding more comparative and cross-cultural approaches. Acts of Narrative Resistance addresses prominent issues in the fields of autobiography, comparative literature, and women's studies, and in inter-American, Latin American, and Native American studies.

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