

María Jesús Lorenzo Modia and Roy C. Boland Osegueda, eds. 2008: *Australia and Galicia: Defeating the Tyranny of Distance*. Jannali: Antipodas Monographs. i-xiv + 728 pp. ISBN 0-9775868-1-2

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The book under consideration addresses the relationship between Australia and Galicia from three different points of view: retrospective, contemporary and literary. Each section includes six or seven articles which explore the cultural relationship between two, at first sight, disparate geo-political regions such as Galicia and Australia. The volume includes a total of nineteen articles by twenty-two authors and is dedicated to the memory of Barry McGuinley.

This monograph is prefaced by Manuel Luís Rodríguez González, Secretario Xeral de Emigración, and introduced by the editors, María Jesús Lorenzo Modia and Roy C. Boland Osegueda, who emphasize aspects of the long-standing relations between Australia and Galicia. In the introduction, Lorenzo and Boland explain the reasons behind devoting a monograph to the relations between both cultures; hence the subtitle chosen, which makes reference to Geoffrey Blainey's classic *The Tyranny of Distance* (1966). The editors introduce the different sections and articles included together with the objectives of this volume. Moreover, they explain the choice of the photographs which appear on the cover of the book, a eucalyptus tree for the English version and countryside for the Galician. Both "are emblematic of the symbiosis between Australia and Galicia" (2) as the picture of the eucalyptus was taken in Galicia and that of the landscape in Australia, each being characteristic of the other country. However, the introduction fails to explain whether the authors were invited to contribute to this volume or if this monograph is the result of a conference. Similarly, there is no explanation of the dedication to Barry McGuinley, why it is a bilingual edition, the reasons behind its internal divisions ('Retrospective Views', 'Contemporary Views' and 'Literary Views'), the meanings of *retrospective* and *contemporary* or the order of the articles in each section.

'Retrospective Views' offers extensive studies of the historical relations between Galicia and Australia. Boland's article 'The Search for Paradise. Reflections on Historical and Cultural Relations between Spain, Galicia and Australia' works as an introduction to the ties between Galicia and Australia by explaining how the distance between both is being defeated by the general migratory intake in Australia, the languages spoken, media, journalism and films as well as by the spread of the historical links between Spain and Australia, legends about the 'discovery' of Australia and relevant men such as Pedro Fernández de Quirós, who is compared to *Don Quixote*, and bishop Rosendo Salvado, to Crocodile Dundee.

The three articles that follow deal with the figure of bishop Salvado, founder of the New Norcia Benedictine mission. David Barry gives a detailed explanation of Salvado's

correspondence with Spain in his 'Circulating Correspondence: Rosendo Salvado's Letters in Galicia and Andalusia', thus familiarizing the reader with Rosendo's profile. The following article, Avelino Bouzón's 'Bishop Salvado, Founder of New Norcia: between Acculturation and Colonization', casts further light on his life and work by means of correspondence, official documents and the transcription of many letters. Finally, Roberto Esposto details the Bishop's work with relation to the New Norcia mission in his 'The Diaries of the Galician Rosendo Salvado. Chronicle of a Spanish Mission in Western Australia'.

The last two articles in this section deal with economy and labour. On the one hand, Vitor Manuel Migués, in 'Early Links between Galicia and the Pacific: The House of the Maluccas in Corunna', explores the creation of the Spice Trading House in Coruña as well as its international repercussions and final fall into disuse. On the other hand, María Xosé Rodríguez and Abel Losada's 'A Contribution to the Study of the Historical Relations between Galicia and Australia. Migration and Labour Market' provides a complete introduction to the migratory relations between Australia and Spain from 1788 onwards by means of a historical overview of the main events, migratory policies and political relations between the two countries and the number of Spaniards in Australia from the 1800s to 2007. The tables and graphs of the census included supply a very useful source of information organised according to year, location, expatriates, returnees and absent residents.

This section leaves the reader with a feeling of uncertainty regarding its internal organisation as three contributions deal with bishop Salvado in his times and the extent of his works, but they do not explain life in the mission after 1900, whereas other articles explore the ties between Australia and Galicia until 2007. There is no explanation of the changes New Norcia underwent when Salvado died and the White Australia Policy was introduced, when the mission Christianised thousands of children who had been forcibly removed from their parents and who were traumatised for life, as Susan Ballyn's interview with a member of the Stolen Generations describes in the following section.

'Contemporary Views' analyses the current relations between Australia and Galicia from different disciplinary approaches. Elena Alfaya's 'Australia in *La Voz de Galicia*: A Bibliometric Analysis of Frequency and Productivity' opens the section with a study of the frequency of articles on 'Australia' which appeared in the newspaper *La Voz de Galicia* during the year 2005 as well as the sections they were included in. The methodology, data collection and conclusions are detailed and provide a useful amount of graphs and tables. Alfaya's article is part of a larger project and arouses the reader's interest to the extent that one would want to follow up on her work.

The following article, Susan Ballyn's 'Voices from the Past. An Interview with Alf Taylor', provides a deep insight into the life experiences in New Norcia of one of its forced inmates: the Indigenous writer Alf Taylor. The title of this article is "a version of the title of the Spanish translation" (147) of one of Taylor's novels: *Long Time Now* (2001) translated into Spanish as *Voz del Pasado* (2006). After the articles on the figure of Rosendo Salvado in the previous section, this interview forces the reader to face the consequences of Christianising and colonisation.

The third article in 'Contemporary Views' is 'From the Local to the Global: Feminist and Postcolonial Approaches to the Relationship between the Antipodes (Galicia and Australia)', by Olga Castro. As the title suggests, the author first establishes parallelisms between the two cultures, provides historical information to support them and analyses the relationship from local to global. Castro then undertakes a feminist analysis which focuses on vocabulary as representative of the society which uses it and examines linguistic sexism and the mechanisms by which it can be avoided.

The article that follows focuses on the internet and the possibilities of the domain *.gal* becoming a reality. In his text 'The Potential to Win a *.gal* Domain to Support Worldwide Galician Culture. A View from the Antipodes', Peter Gerrand provides a detailed explanation of the Internet domain name system, the Top Level Domains and the precedent of the *.cat* domain as an example to be followed by other minority languages who long to see their culture on the net unified under the same domain. This detailed article also provides tables and appendixes where information is more exhaustive. One third of this article explains the experience of *.cat* rather than *.gal*, which makes the reader wonder whether the monograph should relate Australia with Spain rather than with Galicia.

Media is also dealt with in 'How close or far are Australia and Galicia? *Neighbours* and *Mareas Vivas*: A case study'. Paula Lojo and Lidia Montero explore two TV series, the Australian *Neighbours* and the Galician *Mareas Vivas*, and compare some of their linguistic and cultural traits as well as the influence of each TV series on their audiences. The definitions of some terms (*serials*, *sitcoms*, *soap operas* and *series*) prove useful in the introduction as well as some specific moments of each series, which are analysed as examples. The authors do not explain the plot of the selected scenes but do provide their exact date and minutes to guide the curious reader to find and watch the episodes mentioned.

The final article in this section studies a cultural value which is at the core of Australian identity: mateship, as well as the figure of the 'battler' and the Australian sense of humour. Elizabeth Woodward Smith's article 'Mateship and Understanding Cultural Values' provides an invaluable insight into the Australian culture as she effectively explains the concept of 'mateship', not to be confused with solidarity, by using press notes and news about the rescue of two miners, which was of great national interest as it was followed by most of the population in Australia. Moreover, the Australian sense of humour played an important role in this rescue and the two miners embodied the figure of the typical Aussie 'battler'.

The third section of this multidisciplinary monograph focuses on literature by means of seven articles, although only a few deal with the relations between Australia and Galicia; as happens in the previous sections, this fact makes the reader wonder about the criteria behind the internal organisation of the book and the choice of title. Elisa Armellino opens the 'Literary Views' with her 'Many Spaces and Many Worlds. The Quest for a Place Which Is Home in David Malouf's *Fly Away Peter* (1982)'. Armellino analyses the relation among the three main characters in Malouf's novel as well as their relation with land, nature and time, life and death, and a sense of belonging and rootedness.

María Jesús Cabarcos continues an analysis of Australian literature and relates it to Galicia by means of her 'Heroes and Mirrors: the Presence of Corunna in Murray Bail's *Eucalyptus* and Sally Morgan's *My Place*', in which the presence and meaning of Corunna/Coruña is developed and analysed in these texts.

David Clark Mitchell changes topics in his article "Teenage Wasteland": Adolescents and Adolescence in M. J. Hyland's Novels'. The author analyses the relations between adults and adolescents in two novels, *How the Light Gets In* (2003), set in the USA, and *Carry Me Down* (2006), in Northern Ireland. Both are used by the author to point out that adolescence in Western societies is a traumatic period of changes rather than a training period with rites of passage, as happens with Indigenous Australians, for example.

The following article takes the reader back to Murray Bail's novel *Eucalyptus* and would therefore have been better placed after Cabarco's text. Cristina Fernández examines women and land in her article "Stories That Take Root Become Like Things, Misshapen Things." Murray Bail's *Eucalyptus*: Contesting Traditional Narratives about the Land and Women in Australia?' In this text, Fernández studies the imaginary representation of pre-European contact with Australia as well as the imperial and nationalistic representation of land, which form part of the Australian collective imagination and which is analysed in Murray Bail's novel.

The following contribution can be linked to Castro's text in 'Contemporary Views', dealing as it does with women and colonisation but, again, not with Australia and Galicia. The text is Carmen María Fernández's 'From Ireland to Australia: Gendered Illustrations of the Nation in Maria Edgeworth's *Ennui* and Rosa Praed's *Lady Bridget in the Never-Never Land*'.

The sixth article in this section is María Jesús Lorenzo and José Miguel Alonso's 'Misfits in the Hands of Destiny: Peter Carey's Antipodean Conquest in *Oscar and Lucinda*'. The authors begin by relating Carey's novel to *Don Quixote*, effectively drawing attention to the link between Australia and Spain in literature and connecting their text to the first article written by the co-editor, Roy Boland. This article then develops an analysis of certain topics in Carey's novel and explores its film adaptation.

The final article is M. P. Socorro Suárez's 'The Vital Cartography of Jennifer Strauss's Poetry', where an insight into her biography and works is provided. Suárez explains the relation between the personal and the political in Strauss's poetry and quotes the poet to explain "the chronology of Everywoman's life" (339) and her relation with "time, place, myth and tale" (340).

The contributions of *Australia and Galicia* are broad and generous with regard to the areas explored. The monograph as a whole provides information for a general audience (Boland, Bouzón, Rodríguez and Losada, Ballyn, Lojo and Montero and Woodward Smith's articles) as well as for scholars of very specific areas of study (all the other contributions). However, regarding the information given about the mission in New Norcia, it is unbalanced as three articles deal with the life of Bishop Salvado and give an almost chivalrous image of his deeds, while only one article deals with some of the consequences of the genocidal White Australian Policy, as experienced by a member of the Stolen Generations, Alf Taylor, who was forcibly moved to this mission.

Certain articles included in *Australia and Galicia* can be used as introductory readings at university level as they include a theoretical framework but also as illustrations of Australia, while others can be useful for specific courses in the areas of Australian Studies, Galician Studies, Irish Studies, Migration Studies, Cultural Studies, New Technologies, Media, Journalism, etc The edition of this monograph as a bilingual English-Galician volume with two covers which pun each other and a subtitle with a meta-reference provides a wonderful asset to introduce different topics if used in class and to prove that, as the editors rightly state, “Australia and Galicia have more in common than meets the eye” (3).

The articles in the sections are organized in alphabetical order, which does not provide cohesion. The organisation especially fails in ‘Literary Views’, where many topics are repeated, ideas scattered and certain novels analysed in more than one article, though not consecutively, which can confuse the reader. Moreover, the fact that many of the articles do not focus on Galicia, but on Spain, indicates that maybe the relation between Galicia and Australia was stronger in the past and that globalisation plays its role in making cultures similar rather than making them closer.

There exists a substantial corpus on Australian-Spanish relationships into which this volume can and should be incorporated, despite the weaknesses of the third section. Four of the main publications which deal with migration and the experience of Spanish migrants in Australia are *The Spaniards in Australia*, published in 1983 by the former Australian Minister of Immigration of Spanish origin, Al Grassby; *The Spanish in Australia*, edited by Carmen Castelo in 1999; Carlos Fernández-Shaw’s *España y Australia. Quinientos años de relaciones*, published in 2001; and Ignacio García’s *Operación Canguro. The Spanish Migration Scheme, 1958-1963*, published in 2002. Most of these publications were possible due to the work of the Spanish Heritage Foundation and thanks to the Spanish Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, which also helped with the publication of historical books, such as P. Fray Joaquín Martí’s *Las misiones católicas de Nueva Holanda* (1987), Brett Hilder’s *El viaje de Torres* (1990) or Antonio García Abásolo’s *España y el Pacífico* (1997), for example. Finally, most publications related to literature are published by *Antípodas. Journal of Hispanic and Galician Studies*.

Antípodas Monographs is one of the publications of *Antípodas. Journal of Hispanic and Galician Studies*, “an international refereed journal of Hispanic and Galician Studies founded in Auckland University in 1988” (Antípodas) and now sited in Jannali, New South Wales (Australia). Since its foundation, it has published nineteen issues and six monographs: four on Mario Vargas Llosa, one on women’s writing, one on César Vallejo and the volume under review. The latter is the only multidisciplinary monograph among them that deals with the relations between Australia and Galicia.

All in all, *Australia and Galicia: Defeating the Tyranny of Distance* makes a useful contribution to the publications in this area as it complements the research done in Australia, which is mainly focused on migration and literature.

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