

This book, the second developed by LACASA Chicago, joins contemporary debates over the application of given postmodern and globalization theories to Latin American and Latino political and artistic developments. The essays and art works presented explore some of the possible routes revealed through "cognitive mapping" in Latin America's supposed peripheral geographical space and place in the post-Cold War "New World Order" of controlled democratization and neo-liberal economic policies.

The contributors seek to show how given Latin American societies and groups have dealt with particular, uneven and contradictory modes and strains of modernization and hybridization, integration and fragmentation in an age dominated by transnational processes. Critiquing old methods and assumptions, the essays and art works explore new approaches to questions of "third world" and specifically Latin American cultural trends and developments.

The result is a text which points to emergent political articulations able to "pierce through" current predicaments affecting Latin Americans, U.S. Latinos and our hemispheric future.