Contents

GIVING THANKS  xiii

Introduction. Post-Oppositional Resistance? 1
Threshold Theories Defined and Enacted

But what’s so bad about oppositional consciousness? 5
Threshold theorizing . . . defined and enacted 10
Becoming nepantleras: forging complex commonalities, making new connections 18
Tying up a few loose ends: chapter overviews and text selection 20
Postscript and invitation: A few words about my writing style, methods, and aspirations 25

1. Beyond Intersectionality: Theorizing Interconnectivity with/in This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color 29

This Bridge Called My Back’s challenge to status-quo stories 31
Intersectionality and status-quo thinking 37
Bridge Lesson 1: Making connections through differences, seeking commonalities 38
Bridge Lesson 2: Positing our radical interrelatedness 46
Bridge Lesson 3: The importance of listening with raw openness 52
Listening with raw openness, diving into nepantla? 56

2. “American” Individualism, Variations on a Theme; or, Self-Reliance, Transformed! 60
   Multiculturalisms (re)defined 63
   Individualism (re)defined 67
   Dialogic readings, LUXOCRATIC visions 71
   Transformed thresholds 87

3. “I am your other I”: Transformational Identity Politics 89
   Conventional identity politics: definitions and limitations 92
   Tactical (re)naming, creating commonalities 98
   Differential subject formation . . . becoming you, becoming myself 106

4. “There is no arcane place for return”: Revisionist Mythmaking with a Difference 111
   Back to the mother? Post-structuralist critiques of revisionist mythmaking 113
   Language matters, poet-shaman aesthetics 118
   Mythic women and redefined selves 128
   Transcultural universals 136
   A redemptive myth 142
5. From Self-Help to Womanist Self-Recovery; or, How Paula Gunn Allen Changed My Mind 145
   Womanist self-recovery, defined 150
   Six attributes of womanist self-recovery texts 152
   Womanist self-recovery and (as) visionary pragmatism 165

6. Pedagogies of Invitation: From Status-Quo Stories to Cosmic Connections 167
   Self-enclosed individualism and the status quo 171
   New stories for transformation: planetary citizenship 175
   Pedagogies of invitation . . . three premises 182
   Open invitation to readers 187

APPENDIXES
1. Abridged Syllabus for a U.S. Women of Colors Course, by Reanae McNeal 189
2. Guidelines for a Workshop on Our Spoken Word: Poetry for Self and Community, by Erica Granados De La Rosa 203

NOTES 207
WORKS CITED AND CONSULTED 233
INDEX 253