

# Contents

GIVING THANKS xiii

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

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