
GLORIA E. ANZALDÚA, CRITICAL TRANS POLITICS, AND DECOLONIAL STRATEGIES

ABSTRACT

This presentation explores the relevance of Gloria E. Anzaldúa’s work in the context of critical transgender studies. Notably, Anzaldúa’s writings have been cited and utilized by transgender scholars as early as 1987, and her work continues to remain significant within contemporary research in the interdisciplinary field of transgender studies. Many transgender studies theorists focus on her work on mestizaje to analyze the constraints of the gender binary, however, few of these theorists have explored the implications of her articulation of mestizaje for questions of indigenous sovereignty, a topic on which she has received significant criticism. In this vein, this paper examines how critical transgender studies can build coalitional decolonial strategies and whether Anzaldúa’s theoretical contributions offer resources to aid in those endeavors.

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