

About the Series

Latin America Otherwise: Languages, Empires, Nations is a critical series. It aims to explore the emergence and consequences of concepts used to define “Latin America” while at the same time exploring the broad interplay of political, economic, and cultural practices that have shaped Latin American worlds. Latin America, at the crossroads of competing imperial designs and local responses, has been construed as a geocultural and geopolitical entity since the nineteenth century. This series provides a starting point to redefine Latin America as a configuration of political, linguistic, cultural, and economic intersections that demand a continuous reappraisal of the role of the Americas in history, and of the ongoing process of globalization and the relocation of people and cultures that have characterized Latin America’s experience. *Latin America Otherwise: Languages, Empires, Nations* is a forum that confronts established geocultural constructions, that rethinks area studies and disciplinary boundaries, that assesses convictions of the academy and of public policy, and that, correspondingly, demands that the practices through which we produce knowledge and understanding about and from Latin America be subject to rigorous and critical scrutiny.

The Latin American Subaltern Studies Reader, edited by Ileana Rodríguez, collects several significant papers emerging from almost ten years of work and debates generated by the Latin American Subaltern Studies Group. This volume brings a new perspective to intellectual and political work that indirectly refashions area studies as well as cultural studies paradigms. It also introduces new problems within the agenda shaped in the past thirty-five years by the Latin American Studies Association.

The volume is at the same time a landmark in the intellectual and institutional relations between North and South, a signal invitation to think Latin American Otherwise and to imagine different possible futures. Within our series, *The Latin American Subaltern Studies Reader* introduces a theoretical

dimension that we hope to pursue. At the very moment at which global reorganization is forcing regional reordering (NAFTA, MERCOSUR), and that thirty-three million “Hispanics” live in the United States, the necessity of imagining and theorizing Latin American Otherwise is more than a scholarly imperative. It is mainly an intellectual, ethical, and political necessity.