

Narrating a psychology of resistance: voices of the companeras in Nicaragua

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Abstrak

The Movimiento Autónomo de Mujeres (Womens Autonomous Movement) in Nicaragua emerged, like many other Latin American social movements in the 1970s and 1980s in the context of dictatorial regimes, as a marginalized and restricted movement. It is now characterized as expansive and diverse, with feminist agendas being found in multiple sectors (e.g., civil society, legal, nongovernmental, agricultural). Although much has been written about social movements from a sociological perspective, this book examines the psychology of resistance: the psychological mechanisms and methodologies that emerge from the margins that determine the kind of social action that leads to justice. Psychology, in particular, is positioned to engage in a systematic exploration of the links between social and political conditions that determine how, why, and under what circumstances resistance leads to the development of subjectivity that is necessary for enacting political activity required for social transformation. This book documents voices within the womens Movimiento in Nicaragua—a coordinated mobilization of women that has weathered unremitting power differentials characterized by patriarchy and capitalism—to examine how psychological processes that emerge in response to sociopolitical oppression can lead to gendered justice. Nine testimonios of leaders within the Movimiento are used to analyze the relation of personal narratives to methodologies that lead individuals from positions of marginalization to greater subjectivity. Psychological theories and transnational feminisms are drawn on to examine how citizen subjects—people who can and do use their social locations to create transformative change—engage individual and collective efforts in transformative praxis.