

## LITERARY DUALITY IN AMERICA: IMMIGRANTS, OUTSIDERS, SLAVES

In my analysis, I stress the 'duality of America', i.e. historically, land of the free, but also of slavery. Many examples of literary duality exist in America, particularly in the context of immigrants, outsiders, and slaves. It is out of this sense of duality that I have chosen to highlight in this volume the authors who display acute awareness of this issue. Therefore, my explorations of 'duality' (dual consciousness, dual marginalization, dual colonization, dual minority, 'the dual Other', dual identity, dual prejudice, dual existence, dual cultural background, etc.) are critically important in understanding the shaping of migrant identity. (The Author)

Immigrant America has been examined by historians, sociologists, political scientists, and legal theorists. However, additional perspectives – in the fields of literature, gender studies, and film studies – can also make a significant contribution. This Professor Smaranda Ștefanovici has achieved in her incisive volume of essays which interrogates the malleability of identity, as negotiated by immigrants, minorities, outsiders and the marginalised. In the process of examining these complex issues of identity, Professor Ștefanovici has developed an important investigative procedure: 'literary doubleness'. (Paulette Dellios, Australia)

These papers are a penetrating analysis of the challenges faced by migrants to America, and of the different ways in which they face up to them. The female migrant is especially vulnerable to 'culture shock', coming as she probably does from a tradition-ridden milieu. The writer is insightful where the resulting disjunction is concerned. There is a fastening on particular stories that gives the reader the impression of sharing the migrant's bewilderment, to the extent of sympathizing with her, and willing a happy outcome for her. One is obliged to reflect on just how many migrants from constraining backgrounds are confronted, in 21st Century America (and, indeed, in today's Europe), by circumstances for which they may be ill-prepared, and which they may receive little help in negotiating. The writer is alert to nuance, and she alerts the reader likewise. (Colin Swatridge, England)

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