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BOOK REVIEW

A Review of: "Isabel Molina-Guzmán. *Dangerous Curves: Latina Bodies in the Media.*

Angharad N. Valdivia. *Latina/os and the
Media.*"

New York, NY: New York University Press, 2010, 256 pp., ISBN No. 0814757367
(paperback). Malden, MA: Polity, 2010, 216 pp., ISBN No. 0745640079 (hardcover).

Zachary Ingle

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CONCERNING J.LO'S BOOTY AND "UGLY" AMERICA

In the burgeoning field of Latin@ media studies, these two books—Isabel Molina-Guzmán's *Dangerous Curves: Latina Bodies in the Media* and Angharad N. Valdivia's *Latina/os and the Media*—are both positioned as key texts, despite covering similar territory. Molina-Guzmán and Valdivia are colleagues in the Latina/o Studies program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and have also coauthored at least one article before. Building off of works such as Rosa Linda Fregoso's *The Bronze Screen* and Charles Ramírez Berg's *Latino Images in Film: Stereotypes, Subversion, Resistance*, Valdivia and Molina-Guzmán expand the scope of these earlier works by examining not only film but also television, popular music, magazines, newspapers, the Internet, and other mass media. Both argue that Latinidad is situated in mass media as a hybrid identity space and that these signifiers of Latinidad shape the national conscious about Latin@s but also help build the “imagined community” (per Benedict Anderson) of Latin@s.

The title *Dangerous Curves* alludes to how Latina bodies are portrayed in the media and how they require a Foucauldian “disciplining of the body” (whether it be Jennifer Lopez's booty or America Ferrera as “Ugly Betty,” a model for plus-sized young women) and thus “controlled and patrolled.” The five chapters center around case studies. Although the author's choice

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