



Mass Communication and Society >

Volume 15, 2012 - [Issue 1](#)

357 | 0

Views | CrossRef citations to date | Altmetric

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

Pages 160-164 | Published online: 05 Jan 2012

🗨️ Cite this article   🔗 <https://doi.org/10.1080/15205436.2011.634537>

Sample our  
Humanities  
Journals



>> **Sign in here** to start your access  
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

📄 Full Article

🖼️ Figures & data

📖 References

🗨️ Citations

📊 Metrics

🖨️ Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

🔗 Share



---

## BOOK REVIEW

---

Isabel Molina-Guzmán. *Dangerous Curves: Latina Bodies in the Media*. New York, NY: New York University Press, 2010, 256 pp., ISBN No. 0814757367 (paperback).

Angharad N. Valdivia. *Latina/os and the Media*. Malden, MA: Polity, 2010, 216 pp., ISBN No. 0745640079 (hardcover).

Reviewed by Zachary Ingle  
*University of Kansas*

### 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



> Log in

Restore content access

> Restore content access for purchases made as guest

Purchase options \*

Save for later

PDF download + Online access

- 48 hours access to article PDF & online version
- Article PDF can be downloaded
- Article PDF can be printed

EUR 48.00

Add to cart

Issue Purchase

- 30 days online access to complete issue
- Article PDFs can be downloaded
- Article PDFs can be printed

EUR 223.00

Add to cart

\* Local tax will be added as applicable

Related Research ⓘ

- People also read
- Recommended articles
- Cited by



## Information for

[Authors](#)

[R&D professionals](#)

[Editors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Societies](#)

## Opportunities

[Reprints and e-prints](#)

[Advertising solutions](#)

[Accelerated publication](#)

[Corporate access solutions](#)

## Open access

[Overview](#)

[Open journals](#)

[Open Select](#)

[Dove Medical Press](#)

[F1000Research](#)

## Help and information

[Help and contact](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[All journals](#)

[Books](#)

## Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up



Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited [Privacy policy](#) [Cookies](#) [Terms & conditions](#)

[Accessibility](#)

 Taylor and Francis Group

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954  
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG