

Marysa Navarro Aranguren

Winner of the Kalman Silvert Award for 2017

Marysa Navarro Aranguren was born in Pamplona, Spain, in 1934, two years before the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. Her life was profoundly affected by the war. She and her family were exiled to France, where they lived until 1948. Realizing by then that the Franco dictatorship was firmly in power and not likely to fall, her parents decided to move the family to Uruguay.

Navarro Aranguren completed her undergraduate degree in 1955 at the Instituto José Batlle y Ordóñez, in Montevideo, Uruguay, and studied for two years at the Instituto de Profesores Artigas. In 1958 she entered the graduate program in history at Columbia University, receiving her MA degree in 1960 and her PhD in 1964. After teaching at Rutgers University, Yeshiva University, Kean College, and Long Island University, she accepted a position in the History Department at Dartmouth College in 1968. She immediately took a leading role in the discussions that led to the college's decision (in 1970) to become coeducational (i.e., to start admitting women). During her 42-year career at Dartmouth, she served as Chair of the History Department, founded and chaired the Women's Studies Program and the Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Studies Program, and served as Associate Dean of Faculty for the Social Sciences. In 1992 the college named her the Charles A. and Elfriede A. Collis Professor of History. At the time of her retirement, in 2010, she was awarded the Elizabeth Howland Hand-Otis Norton Pierce Award for outstanding undergraduate teaching.

While teaching at Dartmouth, Navarro Aranguren also held visiting positions at the University of Barcelona; University of California, Santa Cruz; University College London, Universidad de la República (Montevideo); Universidad de Andalucía; Universidad del País Vasco;

Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Unidad Xochimilco (Mexico); and Brandeis University. Her research has been supported by grants and fellowships from the Institute of International Education, the Organization of American States, the Social Science Research Council, the American Philosophical Society, the Rockefeller Foundation, and Harvard University. In 1978, she became an Honorary Member of Phi Beta Kappa (Dartmouth College); in 1981, she was named Distinguished Woman Scholar by the University of New Hampshire; and in 2003, she was declared "Visitante Ilustre de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires" by the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Navarro Aranguren began her academic career in the field of political history, writing a dissertation and book on right-wing political movements in Argentina. Deeply affected by the feminist movements of the 1960s and 1970s, she soon joined the newly forming field of Latin American women's studies, becoming, along with Silvert Award winners June Nash (2004) and Helen Safa (2007), part of that field's founding generation. From the 1970s to the present, her professional mission has been twofold: to integrate scholarship on women and gender into mainstream disciplinary debates, and to promote cross-national and cross-cultural discussions and networks among scholars working on those issues.

On both fronts she has had major impacts on American (in the hemispheric sense) scholarly life. Her widely read articles on Latin American feminism and her biography of Eva Perón, released in multiple editions in Argentina, the United States, and Europe, remain obligatory references in the scholarly literature to the present day. But her role in the promotion and development of women's studies as a field go well beyond her own individual



research. Through her 20-year service (1976–1996) on the Editorial Board of the pioneering feminist journal *Signs*, Navarro Aranguren helped introduce North American readers to scholarly debates in and on Latin America. She did the same through her participation in the Organization of American Historians "Restoring Women to History" project, in which she and Virginia Sánchez-Korrol surveyed the historical scholarship on women in Latin America. First made available to the public by OAH in 1988, the papers and other resources resulting from that project were eventually published in book form in 1999. She helped disseminate the history of Latin American feminism to nonacademic audiences through the path-breaking PBS *Americas* project, for which she served on the Advisory Board and contributed to the project volume.

While introducing Latin American scholarship to North American readers, Navarro Aranguren felt that it was equally important that Latin American readers have access to debates going on in the United States and Europe. Together with Catharine Stimpson, founding editor of *Signs*, she coordinated the preparation of a four-volume anthology, *Un nuevo saber: Los estudios de mujeres*, that presented Spanish translations of major essays in American and European feminism and women's studies. Published by the Fondo de Cultura Económica between 1998 and 2002, those volumes remain an important resource for students and activists seeking an introduction to the field of women's studies.

The *Nuevo saber* volumes were undertaken as part of Navarro Aranguren's work as chair of the LASA/Ford Foundation Committee on Women's Studies in the Americas. Her chairmanship of that committee (1989–2003) was just one aspect of her deep and sustained involvement with scholarly organizations that promote Latin American studies, and above all with LASA. That involvement began with her joining the LASA Task Force on Women in 1976, co-chairing the group from 1983 to 1988, and serving as president of the New England Council for Latin American Studies (1981–1982). During the 1980s and 1990s she served on numerous LASA committees, including the Committee on Constitutional Revisions (1985–1986), the LASA Commission on Compliance with the Central American Peace Accords (1988), the Bryce Wood Award Committee (1991–1994), the Executive Council (1992–1995), the Development Committee (1995–), and the Program Committee (1999–2000). As one of the most visible and dedicated members of LASA, she was elected vice president of the Association in 2001 and served as president in 2003–2004. During her term as president she devoted herself in particular to broadening LASA's circle of institutional funders, obtaining support from the Inter-American Foundation, the Tinker Foundation, and the Open Society Foundation. Since concluding her term as president, Navarro Aranguren has maintained a high level of commitment to the organization. She chaired the search for LASA's executive director, oversaw the *Latin American Research Review's* move from the University of Texas to its current home at LASA headquarters in Pittsburgh, and served on the LASA Fact-Finding Delegation to Oaxaca in 2007.

In addition to her service to LASA, Navarro Aranguren has served on or

chaired academic, philanthropic, and feminist boards, including the Advisory Board of the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame; the Global Fund for Women; the Ms. Foundation for Women, *Ms Magazine*; the editorial boards of *Revista de Estudios de la Mujer* (Mexico), *Revista Estudos Feministas* (Brazil), *Debate Feminista* (Mexico), *Política y Cultura* (Mexico), and *Cadernos Pagu* (Brazil); Catholics for Choice; the Advisory Council of the International Women's Rights Project of Human Rights Watch; and the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region.

In 1980, she was invited to join NEASC (the New England Association of Schools and Colleges) as a member of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. She served two terms (1980–1987) and participated in the institutional evaluation of Wellesley College, Harvard University, Boston University, Bates College, Bentley College, and the College of the Holy Cross.

Since her retirement, Navarro Aranguren has been a resident scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University. Her current research examines the founding and early history of the Inter-American Commission of Women, a unit of the Organization of American States that was established in 1928. She is also writing a book on the civil war in Navarra and her family exile.

Selected Publications

Books

Los nacionalistas. Buenos Aires: Jorge Alvarez, 1969.

Eva Perón, with Nicholas Fraser. London: Andre Deutsch, 1981; New York: Norton, 1981, 1996.

Un nuevo saber: Los estudios de mujeres, ed. with Catharine R. Stimpson. Vol. 1, *¿Qué son los estudios de mujeres?* Buenos Aires: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1998.

Un nuevo saber: Los estudios de mujeres, ed. with Catharine R. Stimpson. Vol. 2, *Sexualidad, género y roles sexuales*. Buenos Aires: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1999.

Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: Restoring Women to History, with Virginia Sánchez Korrol. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999. Spanish edition: *Mujeres en América Latina y el Caribe*. Madrid: Narcea, 2004.

Un nuevo saber: Los estudios de mujeres, ed. with Catharine R. Stimpson. Vol. 3, *Cambios sociales, económicos y culturales*. Buenos Aires: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2000.

Evita: Mitos y representaciones, comp. Buenos Aires: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2002.

Un nuevo saber: Los estudios de mujeres, ed. with Catharine R. Stimpson. Vol. 4, *Nuevas direcciones*. Buenos Aires: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2002.

Evita. Buenos Aires: Corregidor, 1982; Planeta, 1997, 1998; Edhasa, 2005.

Essays

“The Case of Eva Perón,” *Signs* 3, 1 (1977).

“Research on Latin American Women,” *Signs* 5, 1 (1979).

“Evita and the Crisis of 17 October 1945: A Case Study of Peronist and Anti-Peronist Mythology,” *Journal of Latin American Studies* 12, 1 (1980).

“Evita’s Charismatic Leadership,” in Michael L. Conniff, ed., *Latin American Populism in Comparative Perspective*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1982.

“Hidden, Silent, and Anonymous: Women Workers in the Argentine Trade Union Movement,” in Norbert C. Saldon, ed., *The World of Women’s Trade Unionism*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1985.

“The Personal Is Political: Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo,” in Susan Eckstein, ed., *Power and Popular Protest: Latin American Social Movements*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989, 2001.

“The Construction of a Latin American Feminist Identity,” in Alfred Stepan, ed., *Americas: New Interpretive Essays*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

“Feminisms in Latin America: From Bogotá to San Bernardo,” with Nancy Saporta Sternbach, Patricia Chuchryk, Sonia Alvarez, *Signs* 17, 2 (1992). Reprinted in Magdalena León, ed., *Mujeres y participación política: Avances y desafíos en América Latina*, Bogotá: TM Editores, 1994; Barbara Laslett, Johanna Brenner, and Yesim Arat, eds., *Rethinking the Political: Gender, Resistance, and the State*,

Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.

“Algunas reflexiones sobre el VII Encuentro Feminista Latinoamericano y del Caribe,” in Cecilia Olea Mauleón, ed., *Encuentros, (des)encuentros y búsquedas: El movimiento feminista en América Latina*. Lima: Flora Tristan, 1998.

“Against Marianismo,” in Rosario Montoya, Lessie Jo Frazier, and Janise Hurtig, eds., *Gender’s Place: Feminist Anthropologies of Latin America*. New York: Palgrave, 2002.

“Encountering Latin American and Caribbean Feminisms,” with seven coauthors, *Signs*, 28, 2 (2003). Reprinted in *Revista Estudios Feministas* 11, 2 (2003).

“Evita, historia y mitología,” *Caravelle: Cahiers du monde hispanique et lusobrasílien*, N. 98, “Icônes d’Amérique latine,” Juin 2012. ■