

Acknowledgments

All projects are team efforts, drinking and drawing strength from the fountains of wisdom that others have created and bequeathed. I am indebted to an entire intellectual “family” whose scholarship has inspired and nurtured my own. Two are particularly present as I write these words: José Manuel Bolado García, friend, mentor, and indisputable scholar of all things Rosario de Acuña, and who passed away in May 2021; and Maryellen Bieder, the star by whom I set my course as a young academic and who generously gave me time and guidance until her unexpected passing in early 2018. Working in the nineteenth century and *fin de siècle* has brought me into contact with a host of extraordinary scholars, among whom I especially acknowledge Roberta Johnson, Akiko Tsuchiya, Alda Blanco, Lou Charnon-Deutsch, Aurélie Vialette, and Jennifer Smith. The sister academics with whom I share a passion for Acuña, in Spain, France, and the US, hold a singular place in my heart. Above all else, my Aotearoa New Zealand, Asturian, and Spanish families and friends have sustained, with their love and support, my health, sanity, and perspective on life. I cannot thank them enough!

I am most grateful to Carme Planas i Viladoms and Alicia Torres Déniz at Barcelona’s Arxiu Històric de la Ciutat and to the personnel at the National Library of Spain (Biblioteca Nacional de España) in Madrid for their patience and timely facilitation of periodical images. Indeed, over the years the BNE librarians have met with endless courtesy and expertise my innumerable requests for essential documents and texts. I also greatly value the judicious advice of Professor Vicent Martines at the University of Alicante regarding the translation of [figure 5.1](#).

I thank the University of Auckland for the material support and sabbatical leaves that have been vital for the progression, completion, and publication of this manuscript, as well as my academic colleagues for

their support. I thank the splendid Tim Page (digital media support specialist) for his expert assistance regarding the images. I owe a debt of gratitude to the students with whom I have had the privilege to work, notably to Azariah Alfante, similarly captivated by Spain's nineteenth century, and Justine Pillay, whose research on war served to rekindle mine when spirits flagged. I deeply appreciate the invaluable insights of the three anonymous readers of the manuscript. A real highlight has been the opportunity to work again with the superb editorial, production, and marketing teams at the University of Toronto Press, especially Mark Thompson, who shepherded the book through its early stages; Mary Lui, who has guided it through managing editorial; and Simon D. Coll, who has been a brilliant copy editor.

Earlier versions of material from the book appeared as follows: Approximately half of [chapter 1](#) was first published as "Writing Nineteenth-Century Spain: Rosario de Acuña and the Liberal Nation," *Modern Language Notes* 120, no. 2 (March 2005): 294–313, and is reprinted by copyright permission of the Johns Hopkins University Press; that same material was also subsequently published in *Histories, Cultures, and National Identities: Women Writing Spain, 1877–1984* (Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell University Press, 2009) and is reprinted with kind permission of Rutgers University Press. [Chapter 2](#) was first published as "Gender, *Casticismo* and Imperial Nations in Spain's Fin de Siècle: Blanca de los Ríos's *Sangre española* (1899)," *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos* 54, no. 2 (June 2020): 583–609, and is reprinted by permission of the editors and Washington University in St. Louis. A very small amount of wording first appeared in *Spanish Female Writers and the Freethinking Press, 1879–1926* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014) and is reprinted with the publisher's permission. I am most grateful to the journals and publishing houses for permission to reprint here.