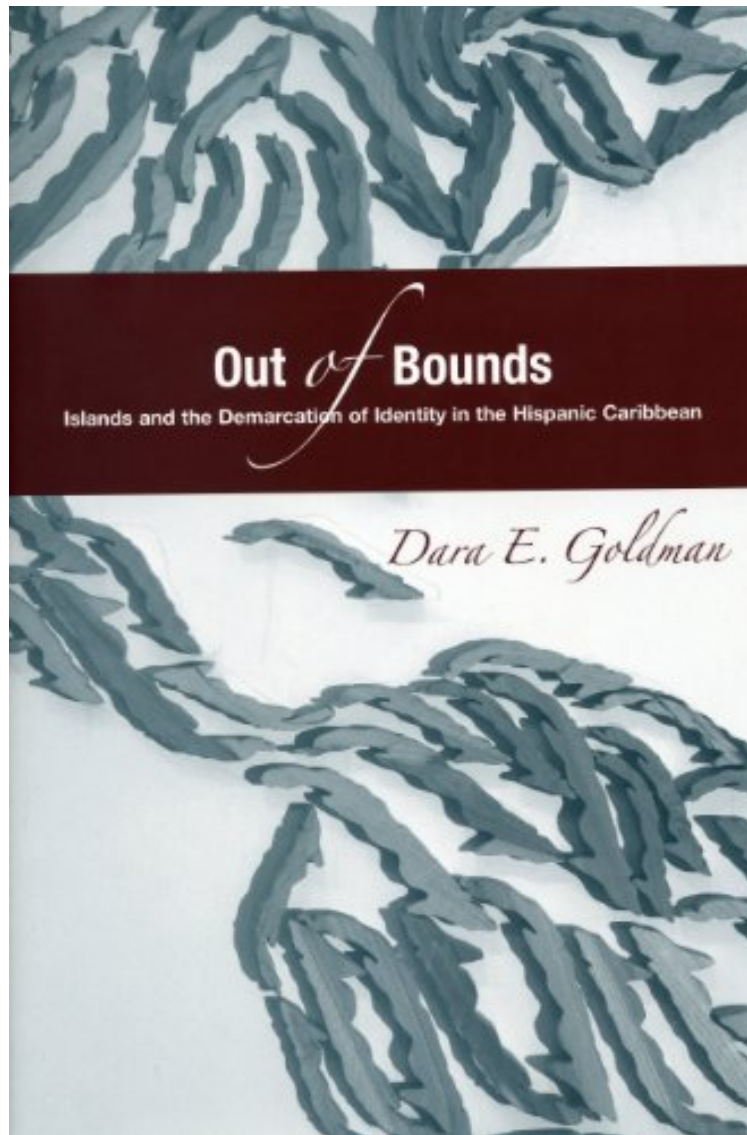


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Out of Bounds: Islands and the Demarcation of Identity in the Hispanic Caribbean (Bucknell Studies in Latin American Literature and Theory)

Dara E. Goldman

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Caribbean (Bucknell Studies in Latin American Literature and Theory):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. preserving identities
By W Boudville
The question of cultural or national identity has arisen in many contexts. But what if the nations in question are small, like various Caribbean islands? Goldman looks at those with Hispanic background. We see how they have, so far anyway, managed to preserve their identities in the face of trends like globalisation, which is the ethos of a massive consumerist capitalism. Much of the book is an analysis of regional literature. The fiction works are cited as symptomatic placemarkers of cultural identity, through the descriptions of their characters and attitudes. Other sections of the book go into the history of some regions, like Hispaniola, divided between Haiti and Dominican Republic. The most prominent example has to be Cuba, whose present government has defined itself largely by being able to resist the political and economic blandishments of American capitalism. It appears that the islands will be able to preserve indefinitely some unique aspects that add up to cultural identities.

In *Out of Bounds*, Dara E. Goldman teases out the intricacies of a territorial conception of nationhood in the context of a global reorganization that ostensibly renders historical boundaries irrelevant. Hispanic Caribbean writers have traditionally pointed toward the supposed purpose equivalence of island and nation and have explained local culture as a direct consequence of that equation. The major social, political, and demographic shifts of the twentieth century increasingly call this equation into question, yet authors continue to assert its existence and its centrality in the evolution of Caribbean identity. Goldman contends that traditional forms of identification have not been eviscerated by globalization; instead, they have persisted and, in some cases, have been intensified by recent geopolitical shifts. *Out of Bounds* underscores the ongoing role of the nation as the site of identity formation.

About the Author
Dara E. Goldman is Associate Professor of Spanish at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.