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## Knowing Fictions

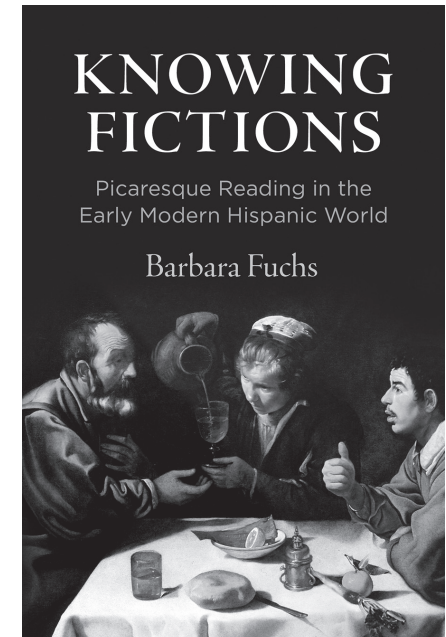
*Picaresque Reading in the  
Early Modern Hispanic  
World*

Barbara Fuchs

*“Knowing Fictions* makes an original, sophisticated and timely contribution to the fields of *siglo de oro* and early modern studies. Barbara Fuchs builds on exquisitely contextualized close readings of a series of canonical and non-canonical first-person biographical and pseudo-biographical narratives and witness accounts to advance a new theory of the picaresque as a self-conscious or ‘knowing’ narrative form that educates readers in the art of critical media consumption.”—David Castillo, University at Buffalo

In *Knowing Fictions*, Barbara Fuchs seeks to rethink the category of the picaresque while firmly centering it once more in the early modern Hispanic world from which it emerged. Venturing beyond the traditional picaresque canon, Fuchs traces Mediterranean itineraries of diaspora, captivity, and imperial rivalry in a corpus of texts that employ picaresque conventions to contest narrative authority. By engaging the picaresque not just as a genre with more or less strictly defined boundaries, but as a set of literary strategies that interrogate the mechanisms of truth-telling itself, Fuchs shows how self-consciously fictional picaresque texts effectively encouraged readers to adopt a critical stance toward the truth claims implicit in the forms of authoritative discourse proliferating in Imperial Spain.

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