
Networks of Care:

An Autoethnography on these Innovative Products of the
Migrant Journey as Outlets for One's Development of
Citizenship

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Research Question

- ★ What are the factors that influence a migrant's understanding and development of citizenship as a sentiment in relation to the government and place in a community?
- ★ The concept of citizenship extends beyond the application of the law and rather relies on what lies outside the law, on what remains "illegal"
 - Understanding citizenship as a multi-dimensional state
 - Identifying influences beyond the law
- ★ Why autoethnography? To incorporate bias

Themes:

- Borrowed time
- Violence
- Voice
- Networks of Care **

Networks of Migrant Care

**“My tongue is divided into two
A border patrol runs through the middle
frisking words
asking for proper identification
checking for pronunciation**

**My tongue is divided into two
My tongue is divided into two**

**I like my tongue
it says what feels right
I like my tongue
it says what feels right”**

“My tongue is divided in two”, Quique Aviles (2004)

Networks of Migrant Care

“Migrants came through Mexico, denouncing their countries of origin throughout their journey and they started to make the system shake. And the system responded as it always does – with repressive measures...”

Ruben Figueroa, Coordinator of the Mesoamerican Migrant Movement

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“Your body is the first territory you must defend”

Mayra Leticia Belmares - The House of the Woman Ixim Ansetic

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“And they showed us a lot: that there is a movement in this exodus – that they are forced, but that there exists a movement, a collective consciousness there, ... they were teaching us that they are protagonists of their own struggles and also their own acts of resistance”

Figueroa continued

Conclusion

- Changed perception of concepts **beyond** the law
- Pride in other outlets of citizenship
- Uplifting and amplifying voices
- Continued autoethnography

Thank you!

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Borrowed Time

- **The sentiment of a cloud of unsolicited debt over your head when labeled a foreigner**
- Juan Felipe Herrera's *Everyday We Get More Illegal* (2020)
 - "Good Moral Character" - must be proven to be considered for a legal status
- Responsibilities that come with being an immigrant in the US - children
 - Everything is to **"repay"** your opportunity to be here
- Unsolicited opportunity - Ecologies of Migrant Care Project
 - Proving themselves to be deserving of their humanity
- Violent forces that inflict and demand the state of borrowed time

Violence

➤ 2 forms of violence:

1. Verbal - microaggressions - Rankine's *Citizen* (2014)

- a. Absence of translators in medical settings
- b. Ignorance - obstacle

➤ Microaggressions conversion into injuries

1. Physical - injury - Vogt's *Lives in Transit* (2018)

- a. "Accidents" - train amputations
- b. Physical and metaphorical fragmentation of migrant identities**

➤ Structural vulnerability

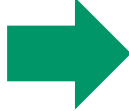
- "Economy of fear" - invisibility to the state

➤ Who has taken the responsibility to see these people, and how?

Voice

- **The product reaction of the forces of violence and borrowed time**
- Duality:
 - a. Quieting of the voice
 - b. Reclaiming of power through voice
- Whispering: quiet form of reclaiming
- Vogt's amplification of whispers (Jessenia)
- Power of one's name - **pride**
- **Voices build up communities**

Current Literature: Theories of Citizenship

- 2 Processes of citizenship:
 - Rights attained
 - The need to contribute to the community
 - Current disagreement on the **role of law**: (Skinner, 1993)
 - Contractarians - law establishes rights
 - Republicans - law tells citizens their obligations
 - Lerman & Weaver (2014) - law-abiding behavior + community = key, but law enforcement reduces belonging and distorts citizenship.
 - Malleability and contested aspects in older theories:
 - Citizenship extends beyond political representation or the political and social implications that come from this [Sommers (1994), Fourcade (2021), Bloemraad (2014)]
 - **Gap**: Emphasis on quantitative methods - disregard/downplay the humanity in the rawness as someone develops their own identity
-  Law as the **mediator** (L&W)

Autoethnography as the Method

- Collecting data by acknowledging all biases and past experiences that will influence the researcher's perception of the findings
- Student versus Researcher - separating these two entities to treat how the student processes the material as data
 - Footnotes
- **Researcher as the learner**
- Material: raw and refined pieces of writing, recordings, and performances
- Student interacts - researcher conducts a narrative inquiry
- Allows me to consider my own development of citizenship
 - Uplifting the raw voices that produce the material