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"Queerness is something that I still don't have a full grasp of and neither is migration so there's that for starters. Within India, my family comes from a ethnic group that has an extensive diaspora and diasporic history that I've only recently started learning about... "How do we decolonize our bodies and sexualities" - For me, that's been delving into the history of my people but also understanding the limitations of Western academia. My paternal great grandfather was a forest healer of sorts—it's something that's a source of pride in my family but also shrouded in a lot of confusion. Sometimes, I like to think about him. How what he was doing was very much in direct tension with British supremacy and rule. I also like to think about the regular, ordinary women in my family whose names I don't know whose histories were not "worth" recording. There's a deep pain there, in that separation and lack of knowledge. But it's amazing to me that I am the result of the hopes of all of those people. The ways they lived their lives, their journeys, their wants and desires – not considered extraordinary by the British were actually sources of resistance and rejection. In the face of erasure, they lived their lives and created families and homes and here I am. I am empowered in the identity of migrant. I am a child of the diaspora—a living testament of my ancestors prayers and dreams." -Anonymous, 20, USA

"Queerness is not widely accepted in Greece especially from the older generations. There is definitely a divide in the opinions that younger people hold but still, I would not say that it is a welcoming environment where one can feel okay with their queerness. Even though all my friends and people I associate with know I'm gay and are okay with it, my family has no idea. I have noticed that no matter how obvious one's queerness is, the family is still going to be in denial and keep believing that their kid is straight. However, since I came to the US I have felt completely comfortable with my sexuality because, at least in my experience, people are more okay with queerness. Also I no longer feel like I need to conform to heteronormative rules, which is something that I feel obligated to do whenever I go back to Greece." -Anon, 20, USA,

"Within my family, my queer expression is extremely limited as I've been struggling on finding a common ground where both my religious values and sexuality can coexist. I've always questioned Christianity and its position as a religion that my ancestors were introduced to by British colonizers whilst being enslaved and in bondage. Why do we continue to practice a religion that is foreign to our soil? What did my free ancestors practice? I've realized that the reason it's been difficult to find common ground is because I do not see myself reflected in Christianity." - Bryn Mawr's Black Unicorn, 19, USA



Odera, Queer Nigerian (USA)



Alicia: Trans Burundian Woman (Canada)



Em: Trans Nigerian (USA)



Kaamila: Queer Somali (USA)

Limit(less) by Mikael Owunna

Other artists/activists:

***Katy Jalili**
***Alok Vaid-Menon**
***Yalini Dream**
***Feí Hernandez**

***@brownmilf**
(instagram)
***@queerxicanochisme**
(instagram)
***Kemi Bello** (poet)

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"My family makes it easier to be myself, but the distance from...my uncle and his husband, who are still in New Zealand, is hard...I don't know what it is, but talking about the gay couple who owned the bakery by my bus stop and used to have my coffee ready in advance so I could just grab it and pay them and go, and would be waiting outside with it if I was running late, or the collection of drag queens who used to give me love advice while I studied for exams in my favorite cafe at nine in the morning on a Sunday, or the huge queer lit section in the public library branch, or finding out that one of the visiting American Academics who talked to me about gender and American Girl dolls whenever I was at history department functions with my dad starting at six was George Chauncey - but Americans often don't seem to believe me. I grew up queer, always comfortable and assured of my own identity, never hiding it, never ashamed of using queer as my own." Cleo, 21, USA

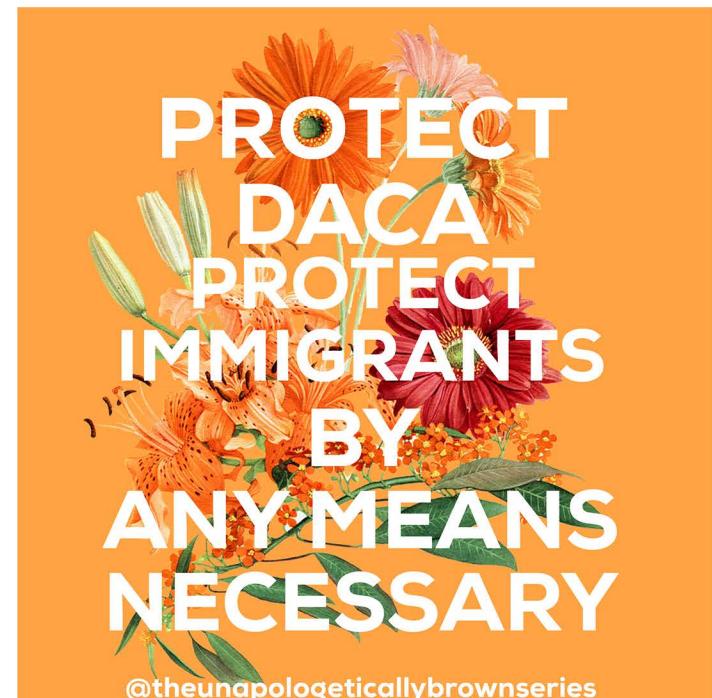
art

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“I’m comforted by the idea that my ancestors held a more non-binary imagination of gender and tend to feel closer to them than I do to the Philippines’ colonized history of language, culture, and Catholicism...Because I’m also mixed and black I tend to have a lot of weird feelings about having never learned my native language growing up. I think my migrant-diasporic histories help me find comfort in a more ambiguous and ungrounded version of myself, as well as my body.” -Maria Britt, 19, USA

“Living in Nigeria, there wasn’t (and still isn’t) freedom in expressing any sexuality rather than heterosexuality. In a space where I struggled to discover what gender I was attracted to, my inability to explore made me question everything I was told to believe. The way to dress, the way to talk, the way to shut up and listen, the way I could be the heterosexual woman they wanted me to be; after college, find a man, get married, have babies. That was what society wanted to shape me as. Moving to Switzerland when I was 15 was probably the best thing to ever happen to me. I was at an age where I was confused as to why I was attracted to women, but everything I was told growing up held me back from accepting who I am. Everything from what Catholicism told me to how I was conditioned to learn a woman must marry a man. So to step away from Nigeria, and come to a liberal space where I interacted with people in the LGBT+ community, allowed me to accept that the person I choose to love happens to be a woman.”

-Anonymous, 19. USA



Johanna Toruño



Jess X Snow

work

*La Diaspora (Nitty Scott)
*Make Me Feel (Janelle Monáe)
*Wish You Would (Mykki Blanco)
*Brujas (Princess Nokia)
*Mine (Princess Nokia)
*Tuesday ft. Drake (iLoveMakonnen)
*Provider (Frank Ocean)
*YOU'RE THE ONE ft. Syd
(KAYTRANDA)
*TOGETHER ft. AlunaGeorge &
GoldLink
*Ooouuu (Young M.A.)
*Broad Shoulders ft. Chance the Rapper
(Taylor Bennett)
*Minimum Wage (Taylor Bennett)
*Honey (Kehlani)
*See You Again ft Kali Uchis (Tyler, the
Creator)

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*Code Switch: "Picturing Queer
Africans in the Diaspora" (podcast)
*Brown Girls (webseries)
*Undocumented Tales (webseries)
*Tune Your Ears (short film)
*El Canto del Colibrí (documentary)
*Brujos (webseries)
*Moonlight (film)
*Coming Out Coming Home (film)
*Black/Womyn: Conversations with
Lesbians of African Descent (film)
*Juchitan, Queer Paradise (film)
*Khush (film)
*Paradise Bent: Boys will be Girls
in Samoa (film)
*Pariah (film)

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A lot of my diaspora
emotions bleed together
with how I imagine my
own queerness, and
particularly how I
imagine my gender &
body. - Maria Britt

quotes

Since I've been here, I've had to
hide, and frequently felt policed for
the language I use to describe
myself. It's complicated. Outside
Newtown, where I grew up, Sydney
was accepting but you still had to
be careful. It wasn't a paradise. I
don't think anywhere is. But in
Sydney - both at High School and in
my life outside it - I never had to
hide, or lie. In Virginia, I did."
-Cleo

I was no longer ashamed of who I truly am, and despite my
sexuality God will still love me. I learned, and am still
learning about myself in the skin that I finally own and love. -
Anonymous

" I don't fit into the image of
what a "good" diasporic
Indian looks like or acts like.
My family doesn't fit into the
model minority and I spent a
long time trying to wrestle my
identity into that mold. It was
painful and I'm still healing
from that and gently teaching
myself that the way I exist
now is whole and right. "
-Anonymous

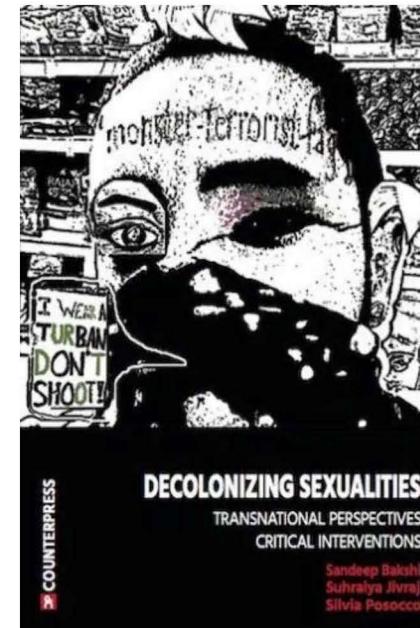
Reimagining my God as a
black, fluid woman has
allowed me to begin loving
and accepting myself as I
am. The act of simply
imagining God as a person
who mirrors me has been
affirming. It's an act that
pushes me to believe that I
have power and am capable
of being loved because of
my queerness—not in spite
of it." -Bryn Mawr's Black
Unicorn

about

Queer migration is not simply the task of layering a queer identity onto to migratory processes. To speak of queer migrants is to speak of citizenship, legality, transnational communities, global peacekeeping policies, and to problematize the binary of deviant versus acceptable migration. Queer migrants are also not pawns to be used in nation-building rhetoric centered in assumptions of a liberal, benevolent West and a backwards, oppressive East. Queer migration brings into contestation ideas of gender and sexuality but also how those identities are reshaped in multiple social spaces i.e. private, public, or domestic. Finally, we would like to highlight the UndocQueer movement which seeks to reclaim the narratives of and brings visibility to undocumented migrants in the United States.



by Arpita Joyce, Yabundu Conteh & Elizabeth Chan
Sociology of Migration Spring 2018 Final



books

- ***Borderlands: La Frontera (Gloria Anzaldua) - Maria Britt**
- ***Speak No Evil (Uzodinma Iweala) - Anonymous**
- ***Valmiki's Daughter (Shani Mootoo)**
- ***Coolie Woman: An Odyssey of Indenture (Gaiutra Bahadur)**
- ***If They Come For Us (Fatima Asghar)**
- ***Dirty River: A Queer Femme of Color Dreaming Her Way Home (Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha)**
- ***Nostalgia and Borders (Sonia Guiñansaca)**

resources

***DeQH: LGBTQIA+ Hotline for South Asians (USA)**

**Available Thu/Sun Nights 8-10PM (they will call back if you leave a message at another time)
(908)-367-3374**

***Organization for Refuge, Asylum, and Migration (ORAM) <http://oramrefugee.org/>**

***The Attic Youth Center (Philly)**

"The Attic Youth Center is the only organization in Philadelphia exclusively serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth."

**255 South 16th Street Philadelphia, PA 19102
(215) 545-4331 | info@atticyouthcenter.org**

***The Door (NYC)**

"The Door's mission is to empower young people to reach their potential by providing comprehensive youth development services in a diverse and caring environment."

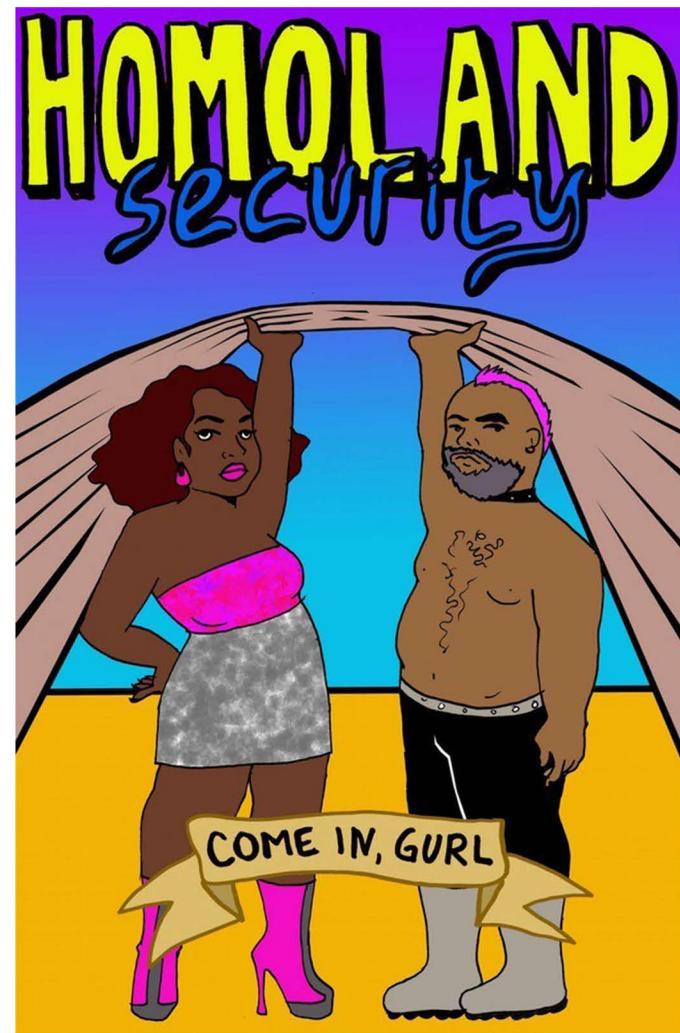
<https://www.door.org/contact>

***Sadie Nash Leadership Project (NYC)**

"Sadie Nash Leadership Project was founded in 2001 to promote leadership and activism among young women*. The program is designed to strengthen, empower, and equip young women* as agents for change in their lives and in the world."

***Although the website description states 'young women' we are confident that Sadie Nash accepts and celebrates self-identified womxn and femme-identifying folx.**

Celebrate Queer Migration



artwork by Julio Salgado