**Notes for an introduction for my public chapter if I need it**

**“I consider it a good rule for letter-writing to leave unmentioned what the recipient already knows, and instead tell him something new.” ― Sigmund Freud**

Intro for it if I ever needed it:

In my effort to develop a chapter that might appease any reader, I initially found myself struggling to hear my inner voice. I wrote snippets of my time in graduate school, but in returning to read them I found them lacking joy. My writing felt restrictive, …, opaque. I was unable to adhere to the traditional narrative technique “Show, don’t tell”. But after multiple failed drafts, I’ve begun hearing my inner voice again, allowing me to write transparent, deeply personal insights. All that was left was to decide on a medium, some format that felt appropriate for me to communicate these thoughts and reflections.

A few years before I was born, in a time of the early internet, two individuals separated by 8400 miles corresponded as pen pals, sharing their feelings and emotions through writing before ever meeting in person.

I’ve always been a fan of writing letters.

And when reading letters from others, I can hear their voice as if they’re personally telling me about their lives.

I’ve decided that writing letters to my future self will be the best way for me to convey my time in graduate school: recounting experiences alongside lessons I learned along the way. In pulling myself back into memories of the times that I felt were most personally impactful, I’ll be able to reflect on my PhD journey. Together with each of these letters, I’m including a song that embodies my emotions either through the lyrics or the … that I feel exudes from the sound.

Gilbert

P.S. Years ago, I never knew what P.S. stood for. I simply thought it was something you put at the end of a letter, signifying that there’s a smidge more to say, not knowing that it was an abbreviation for “postscriptum”, Latin for “written after”. In the future post scripts, I’ll be using this space as kind of a tl;dr (too long, didn’t read) for each letter, having a short summary of the story and reflection. If interested with less time to read than you would like, feel free to look at the P.S.’s to have a shortened version of each letter.