



MONICA, WHAT'S UP WITH YOU? WHAT'S YOUR 2026 PLAN? I, TOO, AM ASKING THESE QUESTIONS. I HAVE TOLD MANY PEOPLE (FRIENDS, FAMILY, POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS) THAT I PLAN TO DEFEND MY DISSERTATION IN EARLY JUNE, AND I WOULD DEARLY LOVE FOR THAT TO COME TRUE. SO FOR NOW THAT'S WHAT I AM UP TO: WRITING A THESIS. I SUBMITTED A BUNCH OF ACADEMIC JOB APPS, BUT HAVE YET TO HEAR BACK, BEYOND TWO REJECTIONS AND ONE FIRST-ROUND ZOOM INTERVIEW.

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NEITHER THE THESIS NOR THE JOB LIMBO STOPPED MY LIFE FROM BEING FULL OF OTHER EVENTS, ESPECIALLY SINCE MOVING TO THE BAY IN AUGUST, AND DECEMBER WAS ESPECIALLY EVENTFUL.

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