



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.

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.

