Vanessa Gonzales

Writing Process: Creative Writing

**Draft Creative Writing Process: Podcast Format**

**Vanessa:**: It is November 20, 1954 and it is summertime in Guatemala. It is the best time of the year to walk down the cobblestone passing the churches and vendors and looking out the distance. The smell of the flowers, the sea and land combined. Feeling the dry weather upon the skin not too humid but just the right temperature. The perfect time to pass by the water and look out at the volcanoes while being near the highlands..

**Vanessa:** My grandfather has always been fond of his country. Be proud of where you are from mija he would say. As a young boy he would be wild and free a trouble maker for sure venturing off and riding his bike.

**Grandpa**: My home was beautiful (need to interview grandfather)

**Vanessa:**  Ernesto Castillo is the name of my grandfather. He came to this country for a better life. The years my grandfather lived in was different from when he got married and had his three children. It was a time where people sought for political asylum for good reason they left however it took to get his life established her in the United States

**Vanessa:** This is Vanessa Gonzales, the host of this new podcasts called First Gen: Immigrant Stories, where you’ll hear exclusive interviews with first generation young adults telling their families stories and their homeland

Theme MUSIC:

**Karim (mom)**: So my name is Karim Treistman. I'm a teacher at a charter school in Houston, Texas and I am from Guatemala. I came here when I was 15 years old.

**Vanessa**: Karim is my mom. She is smart, loving, and fun. She has many memories of when she was a child and lots of things her brother and sister would do when they were children. I am a part of my mother and I am my mothers daughter.

**Vanessa**: Where is home for you? Where would you say you are from and tell me about it. What did you love about it?

**Karim (Mom)** : Text here

**Vanessa**: There was lots of conflict going on in Guatemala… Post- conflict in Guatemala has undoubtedly affected many people. These social and violent conflicts are evident in the study conducted by Dinesen et. al. The current level of violence threatens the country's economic and social development (3, 4), and the current level of violence-related morbidity, mortality, and disability represents a large public health burden. Dinesen, Cecilie, et al. "Violence and social capital in post-conflict Guatemala/Violencia y capital social en la Guatemala posterior al conflicto." *Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública*, vol. 34, no. 3, 2013, p. 162. *Gale OneFile: Health and Medicine*, https://link-gale-com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/apps/doc/A356267720/HRCA?u=txshracd2598&sid=HRCA&xid=1404c2be. Accessed 26 Mar. 2020.

**Vanessa**: Would you ever go back abuelo ?

**Grandpa**: Yes, but grandma does not want to.

**Vanessa:** …post war conflict was one of the reasons that pushed my family away from “home”. This was a country where violence has always been an issue. In the 1980’s a civil war was going on, and that is when my grandfather decided to take the family out. However, this shows how post war there is still conflict which is why my grandmother fears of going back. My grandfather would love to go back.

**Vanessa:** Abuelo, always brings up history about the Mayans. You know when your grandpa wants to share stories with you when you were little well he would tell me a alot.

**Grandpa:** Mija we are part of the Mayans. It is important to know from who and where you come from. You have that in your blood.

**Vanessa:**  Mayan culture has fought to stay and continue their practices in Guatemala despite the increase of organized religion such as Catholicism and Protestant practices, military, and education system of today. The Mayan culture such as the Rajawala practice has been a part of Mayan practices and it shows the importance the land is to their culture. This is one of many relationships that people such as the Mayans have with the environment. The ritual practices are in a certain community within the highlands which is important in their ritual practices, “the influence of spirit-owners reaches into every corner of Maya life, but nowhere is it more deeply felt than among Mayas who live in rural, farming-dependent communities like Comalapa. This Community's need for a healthy relationship with the spiritual beings of its hinterlands is expressed in how the people of Comalapa, as do those of many highland Maya communities, periodically go to places in the countryside and make ritual offerings”.Traditions are being broken by the urban society and this includes the military, organized religions, and the education system and this paper takes a deeper dive into the conflict between the traditional Mayans vs globalization.Hinojosa, Servando. "Mayas, spirituality, and the unfinished history of conflict in Guatemala.." *Revista Cultura y Religión* [Online], vol. 5no. 2, 2011. pp. 173-187. Accessed 27 Mar. 2020

**Grandpa:** The land back in my day was so beautiful times have changed. The environment should be respected. I used to love being with my siblings and enjoying the land now because of forestry and corporations Guatemala slowly has changed.

**Vanessa:** the government of Guatemala had in the forestry management and the lack of policy or action taken to prevent destruction. The government's role was crucial and important and at least in Guatemala there was not enough action taken. “Rigorous and comprehensive regulatory forest management directives were intended to decrease the negative operational, ecological, economic, and social impacts and outcomes of tropical forest management and increase overall forest sustainability. However, insufficient or inadequate organizational structures, means, and processes for policy implementation diminished the potentially positive outcomes of regulatory rigor and comprehensiveness”. Sustainability in Latin America has been challenging which is why in this case they used three different countries and saw the challenges and choices that the government had to make. Many contributions led to poor choices to make forests sustainable and now there is a need for policy and management changes to be made and challenged. McGinley, KathleenA., and FrederickW. Cubbage. “Governmental Forest Policy for Sustainable Forest Management in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Nicaragua: Regulation, Implementation, and Impact.” *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, vol. 31, no. 4/5, 2012, pp. 355–375. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1080/10549811.2011.588467. Accessed on 25 Mar 2020

**Vanessa**: Latin American countries are starting to change their ways. Tourism is a big part of their economy, BUT how does this affect indigneous people? Are they not getting pushed out and practices being forgotten?

**Vanessa:** Guatemalans prominent regions and divides it to show the importance of each and the resources they hold. In the country of Guatemala we find two sides where people may fall under the pendulum. Those who will lose their land as well as their cultural practices, those who do not fall into tourists category, and those who will integrate in tourism and make territory into profit.The context of the territorial structure of tourism in Guatemala suggests that all countries in the region are competing to get access to the international tourism market and that this competition will be decided in favour of those nations that mastermind the administration of their natural and cultural resources.Sánchez Crispín, Álvaro, Gerardo Mollinedo Beltrán, & Enrique Propin Frejomil. "Estructura territorial del turismo en Guatemala." *Investigaciones Geográficas*, vol. 0.78 no. 104, 2011. Accessed on 28 Mar. 2020

**Grandpa:** I miss my country. It is the best.

**Vanessa:** Even though I was not born there Guatemala is a part of me and my roots are there. I think this has really helped me dive deep into what it means to really be first gen. Thanks for listening . Stay tuned for more First Gen: Immigrant Stories... a new podcast where you should be proud of where you are from and learn to understand different people and cultures.

1. Dinesen, Cecilie, et al. "Violence and social capital in post-conflict Guatemala/Violencia y capital social en la Guatemala posterior al conflicto." *Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública*, vol. 34, no. 3, 2013, p. 162. *Gale OneFile: Health and Medicine*, https://link-gale-com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/apps/doc/A356267720/HRCA?u=txshracd2598&sid=HRCA&xid=1404c2be. Accessed 26 Mar. 2020.
2. Hinojosa, Servando. "Mayas, spirituality, and the unfinished history of conflict in Guatemala.." *Revista Cultura y Religión* [Online], vol. 5no. 2, 2011. pp. 173-187.
3. McGinley, KathleenA., and FrederickW. Cubbage. “Governmental Forest Policy for Sustainable Forest Management in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Nicaragua: Regulation, Implementation, and Impact.” *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, vol. 31, no. 4/5, 2012, pp. 355–375. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1080/10549811.2011.588467. Accessed on 25 Mar 2020d 27 Mar. 2020
4. Sánchez Crispín, Álvaro, Gerardo Mollinedo Beltrán, & Enrique Propin Frejomil. "Estructura territorial del turismo en Guatemala." *Investigaciones Geográficas*, vol. 0.78 no. 104, 2011. Accessed on 28 Mar. 2020