the resistant how we challenge, unlearn, and push back norms

Dedications

Jeweliet Fuller

For my younger siblings, my family who supported me and the ones who didn't. And to the girl I once was, I hope everything is okay.

Soha Ashraf

To The Women and The Earth and The Marginalized who all must carry many worlds on their backs.

Alexis Stanley

To my parents who for their love and support and for teaching me resilience. To my brother who taught me the importance of empathy and to my sister for being my voice or reason and for being my best friend. Lastly to women I was when I started WGS and now the women I am now leaving WGS

Belén Del Rio-Ramirez

I would like to thank my sister Alma and my partner Nick for listening to me and encouraging me to continue my school work during this uncertain time. I would also like to thank Professor Ray for all of your help during the last two semesters. Thank you for your understanding and compassion.

Jasmin Flores

To all the women that came before me and all the women that will come after me. To my friends and family that have supported me throughout the years. To my sisters that I have always looked up to. To my parents who came to a foreign country, not knowing the language so that their future daughters could have a better life. Because of all of you soy la chingona que soy ahora. Los quiero mucho!

Ashley Cruz

i would first like to give a big shout out to my parents. thank you pops for never giving up on creating a better life for yourself and starting a family with mommy. And mother - thank you for always giving an ear to

listen to as i procrastinated throughout my college years and being a shoulder to lean on when things got overwhelming for me. Shout out to my brother, sister and brother in law for letting me rant about injustices done to us as human beings in amerika and how we deserve so much better and for also making me laugh. as for my friends - yall know how i feel for you - nothing but love, always! and FINALLY, shout out to those who are still learning about themselves- whether it be new interests, unlearning old habits/beliefs, setting boundaries, putting yourself first and so on. may peace be with you and love guide you ashley

Ana Moran

Para mis padres que vinieron sin nada y sin embargo me han podido dar todo y mucho más I love you, mom and dad. To my family, who's seen me struggle to get to this point, thank you for never giving up on me and always pushing me to be the best version of myself. To my nieces and nephews who motivate me every day to reach my finish line, I dedicate this to you all for inspiring me. Lastly, to my friends back home, thank you for always being there for me despite the distance between us.

Gabby Jajeh

For my supportive family, my mother, father, and sister. My friends whom I met along the way, both lost and gained. For my teammates. For my classmates. For my professors. For myself, for sticking it through. Through all the blood, sweat and tears, that come along the education journey. I did it! We did it!

S. Lil

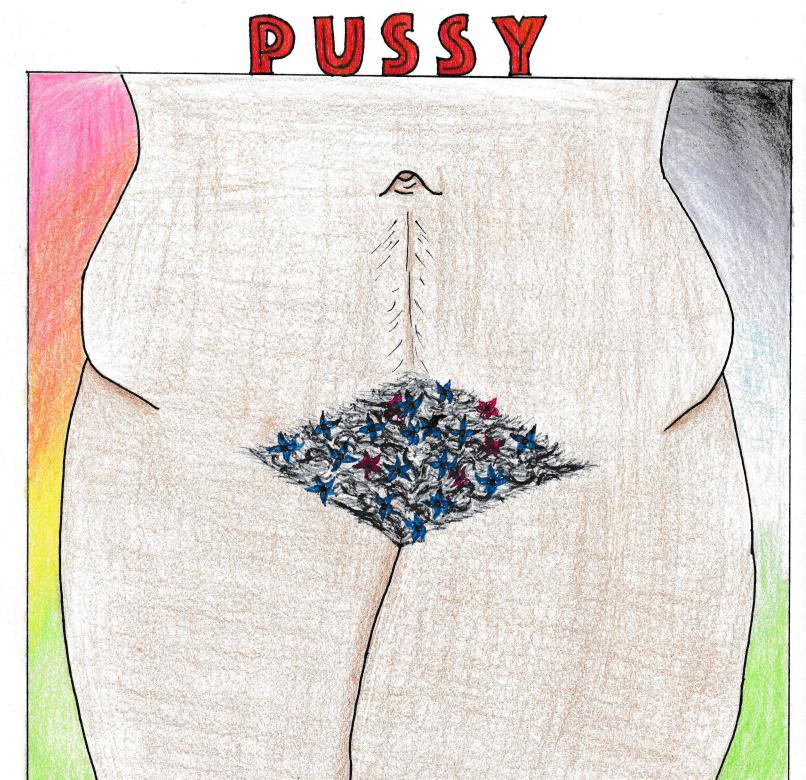
For my family, my friends, and the friends that became family. I couldn't do this without your love and support. We finally got our degree yall!

Lorenn Martinez

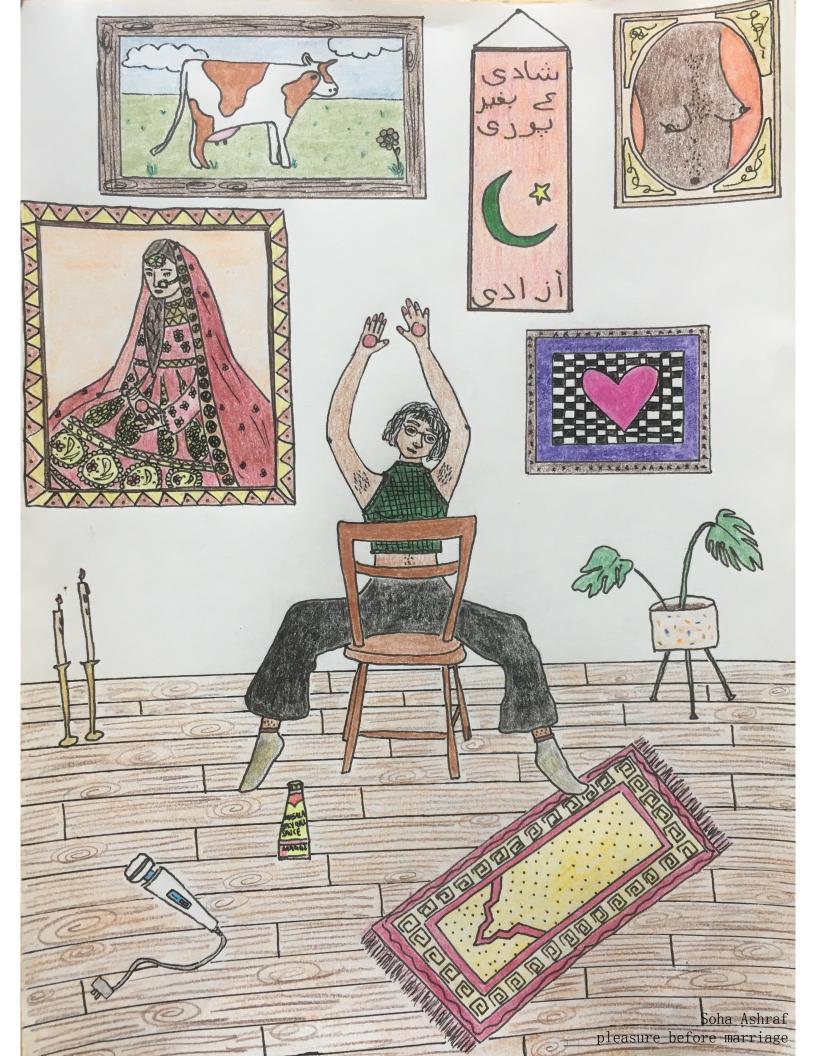
Gracias gorgeous por tu ayuda y apoyo. ¡Estoy agradecida por tus consejos y por darme la fuerza que tengo hoy! Mis padres gracias por darme la oportunidad de ir a la universidad y apoyarme! Los amo \circ Also, I want to thank Professor Kasturi Ray for giving great advice and support!

Vianka Aguilar Ramirez

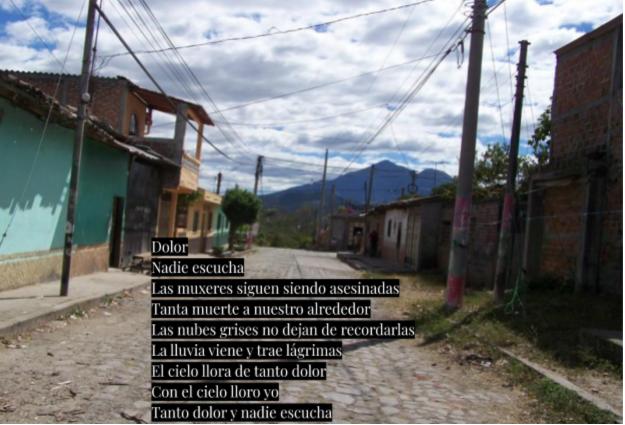
DECOLONIZE YOUR













Artist Statement:

I write about my mom a lot because I've seen many sides of her that make me want to put it all down on paper. Growing up, I never had this bond many daughters experience with their mothers. She was never the affectionate type to hug us or give us kisses. As I grew up, things changed between my mother and I. I feel closer to her now as an adult. My mother was born in Usulutan, El Salvador. She experienced the Civil war there that lasted 12 years. In 1991 my mother came to the U.S. seeking a better life for herself and her family. Since she arrived here, she's been working and providing for her family. For 23 years, I experienced the fear many children face when their parents have immigrated here. The fear of knowing your parents can get detained/deported at any time, the anxiety you get when your parents are late to pick you up in grade school, having to stay silent many times because you can't trust people, etc. June 3, 2019, two years after I petitioned for my mother to become a resident of this country, her day finally came that Monday afternoon. After 23 years of not going back home, my mother finally went back to El Salvador on November 2, 2019. My mother's experiences motivate me to write poetry. These images are all representations of El Salvador. This country holds a special place in my heart.

TO HAND TO THE WAY THE CONTRACT OF THE WAY TO THE WAY TO THE WAY THE W Low new to move on Sound TKE STATES Every hain's & sound is a threat STATION OF THE STATE OF THE STA THE STANDER STANDS STAN FUCH NOW I'M late to WOTE. I my bass. COOL THE STAND TO BETH YOUR The beath but is op may A CALL TOOM CASEAN SON THOSE TATOSSES the police. AND PHILIPPINE

Fluid

Living in a world where there is only two binary gender expressions and you find yourself being fluid in gender expression...



To the feminine woman:

Express yourself exactly how you want to Despite what anyone thinks You're pretty exactly the way you are Love your hair, your body, your smile



Look yourself in the mirror And love who's reflecting back at you Love the feminine you Despite all the rules

To be fluid in gender expression can be a blessing and a curse. One is able to move along gender expression smoothly. But each gender binary comes with it's rules. Act like this. Dress like this. But it is not you. So you don't know where you belong. You're in the inbetween. They want you to label yourself. They want to put you in a box. But my whole life, they told me to think outside the box. What if I just want to be known as me. Shouldn't I just be enough, despite how I decide to express myself? I'm here, I showed up. What more is left for me to give?

STOP THE UNFAIR PRACTICE OF INSTITUTIONALIZING UNWAGED LABOR IN THE SFSU WGS DEPARTMENT

The Women's and Gender Studies Department at SFSU requires that all majors take WGS 698, known as the internship class, in order to graduate with a WGS degree. Just to name a few universities, UC Berkeley, Truman State University, SJSU, and UC Santa Cruz <u>DO NOT</u> require their WGS students to complete an internship course in order to graduate with a WGS degree.

While the formation of this course was part of a revolutarty fight in the 70's to create course content that was relevant to the lives of students, it is important that we question how this legacy works for students now. In a moment in history where getting your basic needs met in the Bay Area is a fight in itself, our school is expecting us to perform additional free labor in order for us to obtain a degree that we also pay for. Once a radical demand on the university, we now find that in this current period of history that this requirement is administered *to* students *from* the university and it is no longer in our hands as it once was in the 70's. The, now, politics of free and exploitative labor that underlies the premise of the course is one that is deeply problematic.

We have noticed that the politics of free labor that the SFSU WGS department insists on in the internship class is not confined to just the internship class but is an ethic that some of our WGS classes rely on. Black and Brown students are expected to perform free labor in taking on the task of dismantling racist systems in real-time while also educating not only our peers but oftentimes our professors about these racist systems too. We expect to be in classrooms where racist language and tokenization are not present. We expect our professors to cultivate a learning space conducive to the learning and well-being of Black and Brown students. We expect our professors to be the educators and not the students and for our professors to only bring what they can handle into the classroom. Students are paying for a course that requires them to perform free labor in an institute with a history of exploiting communities of color. In addition, WGS students have received poor advising on many fronts that has resulted in severe consequences.

We call on all SFSU students, faculty, staff, and community members to join us in the collective struggle for

liberation and justice for black and brown people and femmes. Let us show our collective power and take back our education.

DEMANDS

Sign the petition below to support the demands!

- We demand that WGS 698 offers two
 pathways for the completion of the class.
 Pathway A would allow students who choose
 to take the course as a traditional course.
 Pathway B would allow students who choose
 to take the course with an internship. We
 demand that these options will be sustained at
 the beginning of each semester until WGS 698
 is no longer a requirement.
- We demand that the department creates a master list of paid internships for students to choose from.
- We demand that WGS 698 must be removed from the core classes required for the WGS major and instead become an elective.
- We demand to have a classroom environment where students of color are not bullied, interrogated, embarrassed and tokenized.
- We demand professors attend a mandatory cultural competency training facilitated by an outside cultural consultant.
- We demand a full-time, paid new hire advisor whose sole purpose is to advise students diligently and correctly.

THE XGS STUDENT COLLECTIVE supported by students



It's the middle of Summer and the air is dry. I'm in the car with my mom, my younger sister Gina and my younger brother Ulises. I'm sitting in the passenger seat. My mom has her phone plugged into the stereo and is playing one of Yuri's songs, "Maldita Primavera." She is a Mexican diva from the 80s and early 90s and one of my mom's favorites. We have all grown to love her as well, so my mom, sister and I are singing at the top of our lungs. My mom turns to me and says, "Mija, tu no sabes cantar, la que sí canta vien es tu hermanita, tiene una voz de ángel."

I am in 10th grade and have managed to get into an honors English class, the same one my smarter older sister took last year. The class is on mythology and is paired with a history class that's about Greece and Rome. I love my history class but I'm having a hard time in my Erglish class. The teacher is strict and takes herself very seriously. At the end of the semester she makes us all memorize and recite 50 lines from Hamlet in front of the class.I'm horrendously shy but I recite my lines. Afterwards I have to leave the room, go into the bathroom and cry for 10 minutes. At the end of the class the teacher calls me to her desk. She tells me I'm not doing well in the class and in her cold, pompous voice she adds, "You and I both know you don't belong in this class. I don't want you in my class next semester." I drop her class and the history class

I'm in fourth grade. Our class is working on a project, I think it's for president's day. We're making cut outs of our profiles on black paper. I guess these head silhouettes were also made of U.S. presidents. I stand in front of the white board as the projector light beams on one side of my face. My teacher outlines my shadow on a black piece of paper then hands it to me to cut out. I take the paper back to my desk and look at it. And what I see horrifies me. My hair is so huge and nimbus like. My nose is pointy and I have a bump that makes my nose look like the top of a slide. My lips are full and protruding. All the things that the kids have said to me come rushing to my mind. "Your hair is too big," "you have monkey lips," "witch nose." I begin to cut on the line and then past the line. I cut into my lips, nose and hair. I think, "Just a little bit," but I keep cutting and realize that I have cut too far and all I have left is a disfigured mess. My teacher walks behind me and sighs when she sees what I've done. She makes me stand in front of the protector again. I wish we didn't have to put these up on the wall.

I'm nine. It's Sunday afternoon and we are just getting out of Church service. A lot of my family is there including aunts, uncles and cousins. We're all congregating in the parking lot. The adults are talking and us kids are playing. I go up to my dad and uncles. They're all talking in a circle about diet and exercise. I don't remember how it got to this point but my father decided to use me as an example of bad health. He pulls up my shirt, uncovers my stomach, grabs it and says, "Look at this, it's disgusting." He seems angry and everyone is uncomfortable but say nothing. I run to a place where I am alone, where I can cry.

ENOUGH

Pay no attention to what the kids say at school, they are just kids and they'll learn that words can be hurtful. As for your parents, they too have not grasps that the things they said to you will always be in the corners of your mind. What you should know is that you are special, just because you don't hear it doesn't mean it's not true. You're not slow or stupid you learn differently. You're not ugly, it is your uniquely Mexicana features that make you beautiful. Just because you are fat does not mean you're unhealthy, and you're just a child, eat whatever you want. I know it's hard right now but KNOW THAT YOU ARE ENOUGH.

yields 2 servings

Ingredients:

½ tsp dried lavender

2 lemons peeled and sliced, divided

1 ½ cup blueberries (frozen preferred), divided

½ cup coconut sugar or sweetener of choice (feel free to add more or less to taste)

3 cups water

Strainer

2 serving glasses

Ice (optional)

Directions

- 1. In a saucepan combine lavender, sugar, water, 1 lemon, and 1 cup blueberries on low heat.
- 2. Continue to stir mixture, slightly mashing the blueberries with the back of your spoon.
- 3. As you stir, repeat the following affirmations:
 - a. I am a bad bitch.
 - b. I can do anything I set my mind to.
 - c. I am well rested.
 - d. My body and mind are healthy.
 - e. I am smart.
 - f. I have a network of people rooting for my success.
- 4. When the mixture begins to gently boil and the sugar has dissolved completely, remove from heat and allow to cool completely.
- 5. In two separate glasses add the remaining sliced lemon, ½ cup blueberries, and preferred amount of ice.
- 6. Strain the lemonade between the two glasses.
- 7. Enjoy!

Other ways to enjoy:

- Fill a glass halfway with plain tonic water or seltzer, strain the lemonade in a glass.
 - Garnish remaining lemon and blueberries
- For those 21+ feel free to add a splash of your preferred liquor of choice and stir well.

<u>LORENN</u> (Mother of the Goddess)



ARTIST STATEMENT:

Growing up in a Hispanic religious household. It was avoided to talk about any subject on sexuality. Mostly towards women should not speak about this subject in any matter, only to follow the church Catholicism ideal views. If brought up the subject, it will cost you to feel shame and guilt even to ask. It was challenging to able to get my answers; gladly, I was able to get my answers from my friends in high school, no shame or guilt. Visiting my family in Mexico was a challenging experience, as my hometown had the same ideal point as my parents. I was glad that my younger cousins were able to have the confidence to able to ask me questions about the subject of sexuality. I think it is important to talk openly about Latinx sexualities to the new generation & everyone without any shame/ guilt. Even the ancestors of Aztec and Mayan Xochiquetzal, Tetedinnan, and more others were able to express their sexuality freely, love, and beautifully. Latinx sexualities subject should be talked about more rather than being avoided without feeling any humiliation and embarrassment.



Artist statement:

While I'm appreciative of the plus size models I see in social media, some of them still have boobs and a booty and more toned stomach. My body doesn't fit that new standard of body, as I have a bigger pansa, pero that doesn't make me any less beautiful. Haha, I hope this helps others find ways to accept their own bodies because you really only have yourself for the rest of your life, so stop criticizing and start loving! ~ashley

Self-affirmations:

- My energy is irreplaceable
- I am love and I am light
- Happiness is a choice and I choose to be happy
- I will create and adapt healthy habits



artist statement:

this quote is only partial to a saying i choose to live by, "may peace be with you and love guide you." growing up i used to attend church with my aunt and her family and el padre used to make us greet one another with "may peace be with you." i found this to be comforting because although i don't consider myself a religious person and the fact that this was said in a religious setting, i feel like this could be said to anyone despite your beliefs. i chose this phrase to create as an actual art piece because many people in society seem to have believe that love doesn't exist or that love hurts. i believe nothing bad comes out of genuine love. love is nurturing, love is kind, and love leads you to all things divine. and love can come in many forms whether it be self-love, love for friends, love for family, and love for a romantic partner or even activities. it's a message of hope.



Pink polka dots dancing at my knees

with each step I can see the flowers breathe.

But how is nothing bringing me peace?

Tyears old - 7 years of tangled curis, mismatch

socks and made up songs. Freckles growing with every whip of the brush.

Like a paint flick - or Grandma Says an angels kiss. White gown.

white pretty socks with straight red hair. Biessed be the Father.

But mine wasn't there. Placing of the hands.

Blessings today

for another young girl Was "saved today"

Jeweliet Fuller

Artist Statement:

Growing up I was criticized for the smallest things. I always heard people say "you would look cuter if you lost some weight" and "if you got braces you would have the perfect smile" to me. I was even criticized for not being able to roll my r's when speaking Spanish. Hearing those comments over and over again made me start to believe the words that people said about me. Due to this I became very self-conscious. I stopped speaking Spanish, except when extremely necessary. I even tried not to show my teeth as much, which was difficult for me, and I even tried working out. But all of those things seemed to be making even more unhappy. It wasn't until I moved away for college that I started to realize that other people's opinions about me didn't matter. Instead of pointing out my flaws I started embracing them. Afterall, the only thing that mattered was that I was happy with myself.



No Soy Perfecta

i don't have a pearly white, perfectly aligned smile, I have gaps here and there.

> i don't have a perfectly toned body, I have stretch marks everywhere.

i can't roll my r's, But that doesn't stop me from speaking *mi querido* español.

i can't cook, But I sure as hell can make some *mouth watering* desserts.

> No soy perfecta, No one is.

-Jasmin Flores







These past four years at San Francisco State have been memorable and life changing to say the least. I have learned so much about myself, my community, and the world. I have gained so much self-awareness about how I navigate through the world and the space I occupy. I have learned how to question authority while also being a good listener and understanding other points of view. I have experienced trauma, hardship, and the loss of life in these past four years, and through that I have grown stronger and realized how far I can push myself, as well as realizing how far society will push me. I am proud of my identities such as being Mexican-American and a woman, but my time at SFSU has shown me I am so much more than that. I am a sister and member of the LGBTQ community, I am a daughter and a proud hardcore liberal. I

believe in equality and equity for all, for a system that no longer relies on capitalism or racism, a foundation that isn't built on the backs of immigrants, I believe in paying respect for the land we occupy and for the communities of people we as a nation have displaced. I hope to be a leader and a model one day, and that I am so much more than the harsh words that have been directed at me. I am strong and powerful, and I'm proud of how far I have gotten and look forward to what is yet to come. I hope to have inspired thought in my piece, and allowed you to question the very system we live under.

Reflections on the Coronavirus Pandemic from WGS Seniors

"sometimes i don't know if i'm overreacting to this pandemic or if others are not taking it as seriously. It bugs me how people are still going out with their friends, but also i think that's me being jealous? i wish that i didn't care like them, is the virus really deadly as it seems to be? it's just so unknown that i see it reasonable to be "overly cautious", so i just stay inside. it's frightening, this pandemic also shows how the working class is still being exploited like having to work because you're deemed an essential worker, like in my county the drive-ins are open... how is that essential? or how other states have essential workers being paid the federal minimum wage \$7.25...and some states don't even have overtime pay! It's frustrating that my coworkers and i are putting our health at risk because people can't stay home to watch a movie...like there's no new movies coming out because most of them got pushed back or put onto streaming services! it's even more disheartening when people are defending companies like it's their right to run a business, like what the fuck...and like people are trying to sue gavin newsom for allocating funds for undocumented folks like holy shit, it breaks my heart that people are so evil.. just because they're not a citizen of the united states doesn't mean they should be left with nothing, especially when they are helping the coutntry run like daca students who became part of the medical field, or for undocumented folks with work visas that work at essential businesses, or even farmworkers, documented or not, they're not even being paid minimum wage because the law exempts them from it...it's just hard to be positive when looking at multiple situations in ways that the government, or rather our nation, THE WEALTHIEST, is failing us...and it's even more hard when people defend their actions...however, i am trying to remain hopeful with discovering new interests..."

"With the current situation around coronavirus, I've felt a lot of mixed feelings that include sadness, anger, fear, etc. I've cried many days during this time, thinking about all the people affected, which involves many different situations. I've had problems dealing with the words "safer at home" or "stay home" because not everyone who has a home is safe, not every home looks the same. People who are currently trapped living in places that involve domestic violence. I've been thinking about children who depend on the meals they receive from schools and now face a situation where they might not be eating the same amount. I've been thinking of those detained by ICE and Carlos Ernesto Escobar Mejia, a 57-year-old man from El Salvador who died today May 6, 2020, making him the first to die due to coronavirus in ICE custody. Those currently incarcerated who are disproportionately POC they are also heavily within my thoughts. I'm thinking about Indigenous communities who are being impacted hard because of this virus and all those living in reservations that might not have the adequate resources provided to them. I hope that by the time you're reading this, things have improved.

"The Coronavirus started approximately 6,458 miles away from San Francisco and yet in a short amount of time it has made its way across the ocean. When people in the U.S. first started getting diagnosed with it, I didn't think much of it. Then shortly after stores started closing, many people were filing for unemployment and schools transitioned to online classes. I never imagined my last semester at SFSU to be like this. I always imagined my last semester to be full of laughter, joy, excitement, friends and stress knowing that after graduation I'd have to get a "big girl job". But in reality this last semester has consisted of the occasional zoom call with friends, tears over the fact that I won't get to experience the full graduation experience with my friends and family, tears about the uncertainty of finding a good

enough job after graduation and leaving the city I love so much because it's too expensive to live in. Not only am I scared and worried about my own future but I am also worried about the future of those people who are less fortunate than I. We live in the "land of the free" and yet there are people all over this country that do not have enough money, food, housing, or even medical insurance to survive prior to this pandemic and now more than ever they need help. And yet the most that this country seems to be doing is sending out stimulus checks that barely cover some people's rent. Those stimulus checks aren't even being given to undocumented people, who are some of the most impacted by all these company closures. One thing that WGS has taught me is that if we all join together we can create a difference. For now the things we must all do to make a difference is practice social distancing, self quarantine and try to remain in our homes until this pandemic is under control. Until then, stay safe everyone."

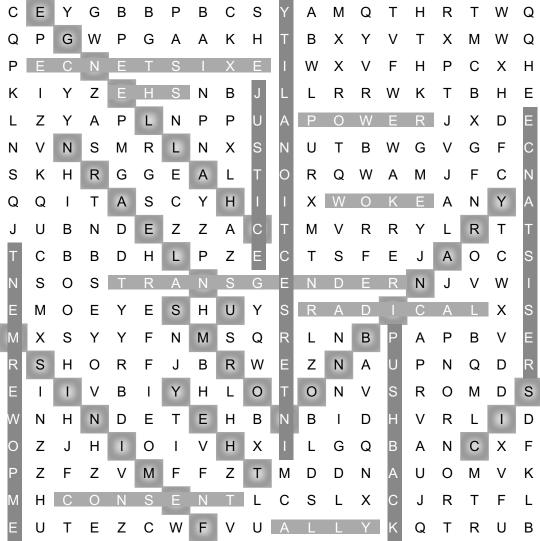
Feminism

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Biographies

Ana Moran (she/her)

My name is Ana, and my pronouns are she/her. I was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. I am a proud transfer student who just moved to San Francisco. I'm currently in my second semester at SFSU. I am the first in my household to attend a college/university. I'm majoring in Women and Gender Studies and minoring in Women's Health Issues. In my free time, I enjoy going out to dance, play soccer, read poetry, photography, eat my favorite Salvadoran plates, etc.

Ashley Cruz (she/they)

My name is ashley and my pronouns are she/her and they/them. being a WGS major i've gotten used to unlearning what i thought was true and for that im forever grateful. i plan to share this newly attained knowledge with those i surround myself with. this publication has rekindled my love for the creation of the arts which i found to be therapeutic. I enjoy going to concerts (or did until the virus happened - who knows what the future holds - ahh!!). I also enjoy being near the ocean - never in because i cant swim, haha. And lastly, i like to be in good company with those i know who love me, whether it be family, friends, and/or a romantic partner:-)



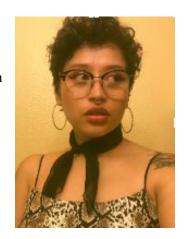
Jasmin Flores (she/her)

My name is Jasmin Flores. I'm a first generation Mexican-American that was born and raised in the Bay Area. I'm also the youngest of three daughters. Becoming a Women and Gender Studies major was a hard decision to make but I continue to stand by it proudly. Not only has the major helped me realize just how important social justice, reproductive justice, gender equality and advocacy is, especially in the world that we are currently living in, but it's helped me become the person I am today. In my free time I enjoy baking, going to the beach, listening to music, sleeping and astrology.



Belén Del Rio-Ramirez (she/they)

My name is Ana Belén Del Rio-Ramirez, but I go by Belén. My pronouns are she/her they. I was born in Mexico and came to the U.S. when I was 8. I grew up in Reno, NV but my heart called me to the Bay Area. I have lived in Oakland most of my adult life and am proud to call it home. In my spare time I like to create, whether it be drawing, embroidering, sewing, etc. I have enjoyed my time in the Women and Gender program and I'm excited to finally be graduating this semester, even if it is in the middle of a pandemic. Graduating means a lot to me because I will be the first person in my family to graduate from a four year institution.



Alexis Stanley (she/her)

I am a sixth year college student who was born and raised in the East Bay. I am graduating with a major in Women and Gender studies and minor Health Education. I recently had the chance to intern for Sweet Beginnings, a nonprofit diaper bank that also hands out period packs. Interning for Sweet Beginnings opened my eyes to the correlations between social justice and health. My hobbies are working out, cooking and going on trips to beach towns throughout



California. After graduation and when the pandemic is over my goal is to do more internships in the Bay Area and then eventually move down to southern California. My go-to mantra is: "How you do anything is how you will do everything".

Soha Ashraf (they/she)

South Asian, Brown, Femme. Hairy, Outdoor, Muslim, Organizer, Tender. Maker of Things (poetics, textiles, pastry, relationships). Training for the Revolution that will end fascist white-supremacist capitalist/imperialist hetero-patriarchy and bring bountiful justice. Above all else militantly dedicated to the Movement.



Gabby Jajeh (she/her)

Hello! My name is Gabby Jajeh. I was born and raised in San Francisco. I transferred to SFSU from College of San Mateo. I am a student athlete playing women's basketball. For highschool, I attended Mercy High School San Francisco. I am the first of my family to attend college and finish, majoring in Women and Gender Studies. When I'm not on the court or in the classroom, I like to style, model and take pictures for Instagram and Twitter. Also, when life allows me, I like to travel, try new foods and be in great company. Follow me on all social media platforms: GJLivin



S. Lil (she/they)

S. Lil is a diasporadical Black baddie and budding herbalist with a penchant for cacti and basil varieties, caffeine-free tea blends, and natural hair tutorials.

Lorenn Martinez (she/her)

My name is Lorenn Martinez, and my pronouns are she/her. I was born and raised in Oakland, Ca. I am the first generation to be able to go to University and to able to pursue my education. Majoring Women and Gender Studies & Political Science, both majors have been a beautiful journey, as for Women and Gender studies major have been an eye-opening experience & learning the knowledge on immigration, human rights, laws, and politics. I had a chance to intern



for Social Justice Collaborative; interning SJC was an amazing opportunity to able to help cases as for immigration & Latinx/LBGTQIA communities to able to be heard in their cases. My hobbies are painting, hiking and enjoying nature.

Jeweliet Fuller (she/her)

Is graduating this semester and lives with her 2 cats in the Bay Area. She is the first to graduate college in her family.

