

Brilliance in Borderlands: Centering the Power of Intersectional Advocacy

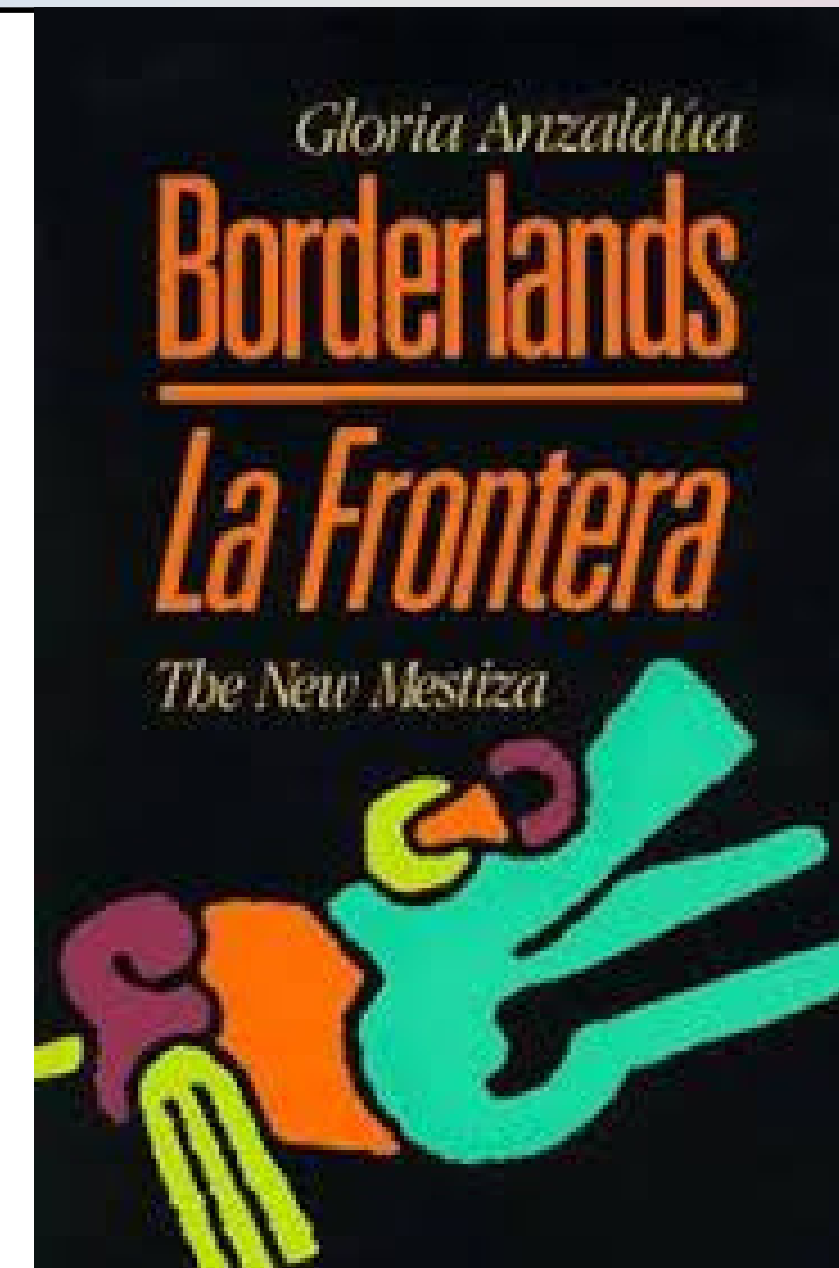
In today's session we will:

- Articulate how the borderlands framework can be utilized to inform approaches to intersectional advocacy and challenge exclusionary systems.

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Borderlands Framework

Ni de aquí, ni de allá | Neither from here nor there

"Borders are setup to define the places that are safe and unsafe, to distinguish us from them"

"The Borderlands are present whenever two or more cultures edge each other"

"Living in more than one culture, we get opposing messages.....and causes un choque, a cultural collision"

"Todas las partes de nosotros valen...."

|All of parts of ourselves are valid

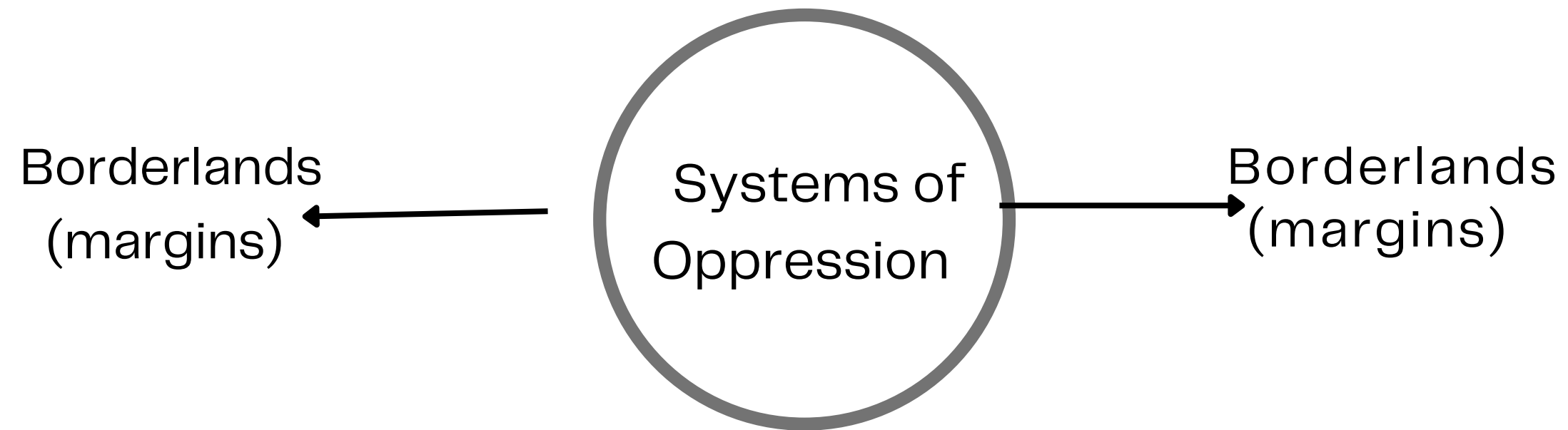
(Anzaldúa, 1987)

Una Lucha De Fronteras| Struggle of Borders

Because I, a mestiza,
continually walk out of one culture
and into another,
because I am in all cultures at the same time,
alma entre dos mundos, tres, cuarto,
me zumba la cabeza con lo contradictorio.
Estoy norteada por todas las voces que me hablan
simultáneamente.

Brilliance in the Borderlands

MARGINALIZATION



"I will not be shamed again. Nor will I shame myself. I am possessed by a vision: that wehave taken back or uncovered our true faces, our dignity and self-respect" (Anzaldúa, 1987)

LA FACULTAD

" La facultad (**innate consciousness**) is the capacity to see... deeper realities [and] structure[s] below the surface..."

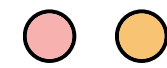
I am a woman, and I am a Latina. Those are the things that make my writing distinctive. Those are the things that give my writing power.

-Sandra Cisneros

Reflection Prompts

New Mestiza Consciousness

“By creating a new mythos – a change in the way we perceive reality, the way we see ourselves, and the ways we behave – la mestiza creates a new consciousness....A massive uprooting of dualistic thinking in the individual and collective consciousness is the beginning of a long struggle, but one that could, in our best hopes, bring us to the end...of violence”



Choose 1 prompt-draw and/or write:

Prompt 1: How can reflecting on borderlands and your own lived experiences shape how you might approach self/community advocacy?

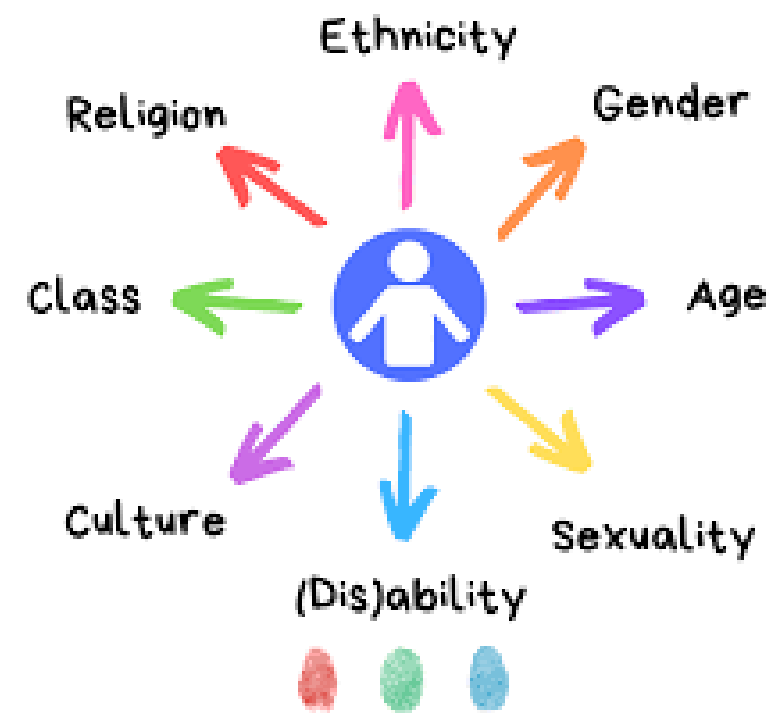
Prompt 2: “Borders are setup to define the places that are safe and unsafe, to distinguish us from them” (Anzaldúa, 1987).

How do you experience borders? If you could write a letter to your brilliant younger or present self, in particular around your identities, what would you say?

Prompt 3: What life experiences have shaped your approach to advocacy?

Prompt 4: Reflect on a time when you experienced or witnessed othering or marginalization. how did you respond? Would you do anything differently by centering the brilliance of the borderlands?

Power of Intersectional Advocacy



Reflection (self)

- How am I being impacted/showing up?
 - How can my lived experiences and identities shape my advocacy?

INTERSECTIONAL OPPRESSION



Graphic by @streec

Analysis (system)

- How are systems of oppression impacting communities or causing barriers?

You will have to say no because the systems will continue to say yes.



Intersectional Advocacy (practice, policy, procedure)

- How am I going to address these systems and who do I need to build with?
 - Are there communities doing this work already?
 - Am I uplifting, contributing to, or coopting their work?
 - What are the consequences/benefits to communities? Am I centering those who are at the margins?

Intersectionality: Lens to explore the impacts of interconnected/interrelated systems of oppression.

Mitigating Othering in Advocacy

The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house" -Audre Lorde



Honoree Fanonne Jeffers
@BlkLibraryGirl

Feminism is at a crossroads once again.

Back then, it was White suffragists excluding Black women.

Now, it's cis feminists excluding transwomen.

Meanwhile, abortion rights are disappearing in the US—and here we're bullying within our ranks when we need all hands on deck.

Feminist Movement



Farm Workers Movement



-Micah Bazant

Queer Liberation Movement

Othering is the practice of excluding or marginalizing those not part of dominant social identity group(s).

Dreaming to Doing Brilliance in the Borderlands

"I want to talk about [dreaming] the activity you are always warned against as being wasteful, impractical, hopeless...By dreaming, the self permits intimacy with the other without the risk of being the other. And this intimacy that comes from pointed imagining, it should precede all of our decision making...and action. We are in a mess and we have to get out"

(Tony Morrison, 1988)



Draw and/or write:

In your dream of dreams what would diversity, equity, inclusion, and/or social justice look like and/or feel like in your professional/personal life?

Examples can include:

- Meetings
- Practice(s), procedure(s), or policy(s)
- Relationships (personal, communal, professional)

Self and Community Advocacy

Dreaming and Centering Care

Identifying problems and interconnectedness to multiple systems of oppression

Start with dreaming and values

- In our dreams what would the outcome look like?
- Communicate the benefits and the why.
- What are 1-3 value(s) that are guiding your advocacy?
- How am I sustaining myself and others in the movement?
 - **Social justice is not a moment it is a movement .**

Identifying Barriers and Opportunities

Awareness of our realities: What laws, policies, politics, resources are in relation and may serve as barriers/opportunities?

- When the "no's" come in-- strategize and be comfortable moving in alternative route(s).

Emails are receipts - (Document, document, document!) "To summarize, we agreed to (insert). Would you like to follow up by (date)"

Be intentional with actions and words

Building Collective Movement

Leveraging our network: What access to people, positional power, knowledge, and skills do we have?

- Who is in your corner? Who do you build with to make the dream(s) a reality?
 - Are you leverage leadership support?
- Strategize and prepare Meeting before the meeting
- Power of the Pass
 - (3+ advocates in the room)

**repeat after me:
i will not run
myself ragged, to
fit into raggedy
systems.**

S. Brown

Let's Connect

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History isn't something you look back at and say it was inevitable, it happens because people make decisions that are sometimes very impulsive and of the moment, but those moments are cululative realities. -Marsha P. Johnson

