

Autoethnographic Exploration of First-Generation Mexican-American College

Experience Through Visual Arts: A Personal Journey

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Purpose

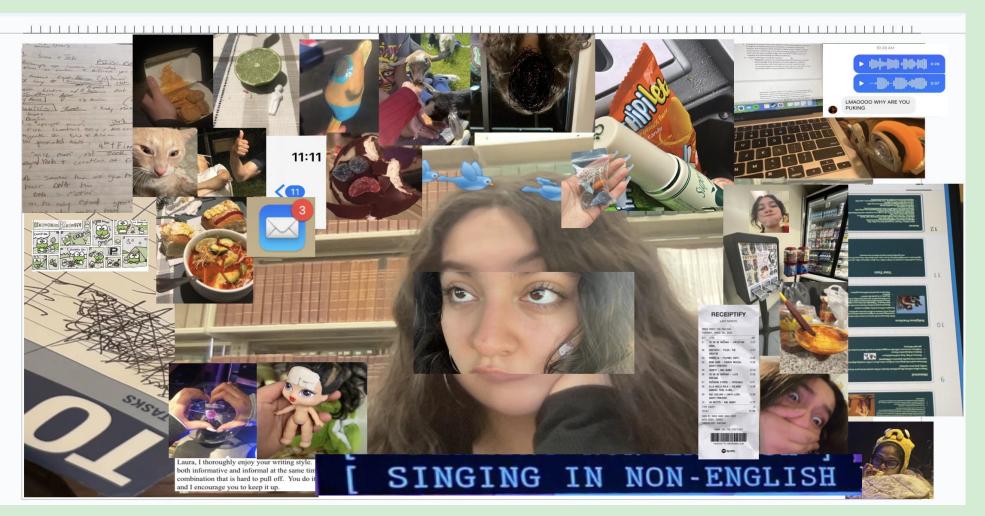
My research aims to explore my experiences as a first-generation Mexican American college student using visual arts, employing the autoethnographic research method. By using visual arts as a means of expression, I aim to convey my experiences and perceptions uniquely and creatively while also providing valuable insights into the cultural and social practices that shape the experiences of first-generation Mexican American college students.

Research Questions

- What are my experiences as a first-generation Mexican-American college student in visual arts?
- How can autoethnographic research and creative expression be used to provide unique insights into my experiences of firstgeneration Mexican American college students?

Literature Review

According to the text, an autoethnography is meant to delve wholly into another's perspective on life and Culture. They're meant to capture and bring adequate representation to the table rather than the typical 3rd person's point of view, which tends to be ostracizing and unrelatable, especially considering factors such as race, gender, and ethnicity. Regarding the arts, especially visual, it also aids in making content more digestible for the masses (Tony E. Adams, Stacy Holman Jones, & Carolyn Ellis, 2015). Because an autoethnography is typically about the self, one could consider it a form of portraiture, and like Helmick and Greene state: Helmick (2022) mentioned from Greene "This invitation for the participant, reader or whoever else engages with the research to offer their perspective is the reason



One popular ABR method of many that aid in presenting auto ethnographies is collages. Like Culshaw states, "Such a combination of methods – loosely-structured interviews and collage – led to the collection of very rich verbal and visual data." (Culshaw, 2019). A way to make these pieces more widely accessible is through digital means; de Jager, A., Fogarty, A., Tewson, A., Lenette, C., & Boydell, K. M. said: "Digital stories as a sensory research method: facilitates conceptualization of sexuality through sensory experience (stories made "visceral"); co-creative process; emotion and subjectivity as enriching analysis." (de Jager, A., Fogarty, A., Tewson, A., Lenette, C., & Boydell, K. M, 2017).

Resources

Adams, T. E., Jones, S. H., & Ellis, C. (2015). *Autoethnography: Understanding qualitative research*. Oxford University Press.

Culshaw, S. (2019). The unspoken power of collage? Using an innovative arts-based research method to explore the experience of struggling as a teacher. *London Review of Education*, 17(3), 268–283.

De Jager, A., Fogarty, A., Tewson, A., Lenette, C., & Boydell, K. M. (2017). Digital Storytelling in Research: A Systematic Review. *The Qualitative Report, 22*(10), 2548-2582. Helmick, L. (2022). Expressive portraiture as research: Exploration, ideation, and discovery. *International Journal of Education through Art, 18*(3), 395–410.

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Autoethnography / Methodology

According to Adams, Jones, and Ellis (2015), autoethnography is a research method that explores another individual's perspective on life and culture. It seeks to provide an accurate and comprehensive representation of an individual's experiences, rather than the typical third-person point of view that can be isolating and unrelatable, particularly concerning issues such as race, gender, and

Findings

- Using a creative and autoethnographic approach, the research provides a visually striking depiction of my journey, which aims to convey the jumbled and chaotic nature of the experience.
 Despite the challenges encountered throughout this journey, the research also reveals the existence of beauty and meaning within the chaos.
- The autoethnographic approach provides a unique insight into my experiences that cannot be fully conveyed through traditional research methods. Through creative means, the research has showcased a raw and emotive display of my findings, which provides a deep and meaningful understanding of the subject matter.

Conclusion

 The creative and autoethnographic approach utilized in this study has provided a powerful and evocative representation of my personal journey.
Using visual imagery and creative means to convey my

experiences provides a unique insight into the subject matter that traditional research methods may have yet to be able to achieve. Additionally, the

The autoethnographic approach offers a unique perspective on the subject matter that can help me appreciate my experiences' complexity and richness.