

GSST 154, Feminist Oral History: Insecurity Winter 2022

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Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies

CHASS INTS 1121, Tues + Thurs, 12:30-1:50 PM



Photo by Cinthya Santos-Briones for Brewing Memories workshop, October 24, 2020
(Carolina Saavedra in orange shirt and patterned pants and Ángeles Donoso Macaya in black leather jacket and blue jeans)

In GSST 154, students will explore feminist oral history and the resonance of listening, feeling, and being heard. What does it mean to center deep care, relationship-building, and embodiment in our listening and interviewing work, especially during times of prolonged crisis? By attuning to the different ways we listen to one another, how might we cultivate a mutual sense of responsibility that acknowledges and honors, rather than erases and assimilates, difference?

Given the ongoing effects of COVID-19, students will have the opportunity to interview a friend, classmate, family member, and/or activist they know about the ways the pandemic has amplified insecurity and violence in their everyday lives. Throughout the quarter, we will hear from local activists and feminist cultural organizers supporting mutual aid efforts on campus and beyond, as well as feminist memory workers who struggle against carceral violence and police brutality in their work. As part of the course, all participants (students, interviewees, guest speakers) will have the opportunity to partake in *Recipes of Resistance*, an effort to document recipes – of healing foods, drinks, rituals, and practices – that counter insecurity and support embodied, communal, and collective grounding. As a form of reciprocity, all submitted recipes will be collected and offered as a token of appreciation to participants.

About this course: The materials created in this course become a part of the ongoing project, *Inland Empire (IE) Activisms: A Participatory Memory Archive*. Initiated in 2019 just before the pandemic, *IE Activisms* focuses on histories of insecurity, violence, and activism across Riverside and the Inland Empire (IE). The course focuses on activists, peoples, and communities disproportionately impacted by racial and environmental justice; anti-Black violence; carceral violence and police brutality; immigrant detention and deportation; gender and sexual violence; and HIV/AIDS.