

# *INTERSECTIONS*

SISTER SLC



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# in·ter·sec·tion

The concept of intersectionality describes the ways in which systems of inequality based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, class and other forms of discrimination “intersect” to create unique dynamics and effects.

“Understanding the interconnected nature of oppression will help us realize the interconnected nature of liberation.”

– Aditi Mayer





My name is Aimee Contreras Ocanico, I am a proud daughter of Mexican immigrants and I was born in Utah. I am Bisexual. I've known this for a long time. I don't consider it a phase as I've been told before. I really feel like when people say, oh, it's just a phase, It's actually not a phase at all, sexual orientation is fluid sometimes.

**Interview: Aimee Contreras Ocanico**

### **How has your queerness affected your culture?:**

In my culture at least growing up. I've been told "clean up after like your father, your brother" And that's something I really revolt against just because if I make a mess I have to clean it up after myself. If they make a mess they have to clean it up after themselves. But as for like My bisexuality, it's something that you don't necessarily see in In my culture. Because at least from the earliest person I could consider, who is queer in, in my culture is Frida Kahlo. And she was, she was queer and I was like, wow, I really look up to her queerness but not other things though. And that's something like, I've never really noticed either how much it has affected my culture.

### **What does family mean to you?**

Means a lot. I can't really put it into words because my family has always been there for me. I've always been there for my family. And I just feel like their thoughts and feelings or their judgment is something that I value as well

### **How was your culture affected your queerness?**

I wouldn't really say that it's affected me in a bad way. I would say it's affected me in a good way because I acknowledge my culture, I celebrate it with todo mi corazon, with all my heart, whether it be like, baile folklórico. I used to kind of loved it because of other things but that's one way I embrace it acknowledging where I dance or what it dance as well, but types of regions that I dance and just knowing that I can be myself when I am dancing or when I my whenever I'm with someone else, I know that I Shouldn't fear. Judgment, it's hard. I know I said this one time when people tell you like, oh don't worry about what others say just do you be happy and sometimes I'm just like, how can I be happy without the support of My parents is something, but I would just say that my culture has been has been such a big impact on Me has a person on my bisexuality.

### **What is the biggest issue in the Latinx community about queerness?**

Not being informed is one for sure. When someone comes out, say, thank you. that's something, our parents have to say, that's something our aunts, our uncle's have to say here in the Latinx Community, because the first you could think of when you tell someone who isn't informed or Who just may not know is they could be like, and they can be like, how could you do this? What are people you're going to have to hide, like, who you really are sometimes. I'm just like, we just have to be informed. We have to know I as well, how they feel that when someone comes out to you, you're finding so much bravery and so much eagerness to tell you, like, they want to tell you and it's sometimes, we're like, I can't talk about it anymore. I have to tell you about how I feel about who I am and just being informed in general about who, what LGBTQ+ pronouns mean as well, how significant they are and then having those difficult conversations.

latinx



Nick Arteaga

**What message would you like to tell the Latinx and queer community?**

I Want people to know that, you know, they're not alone and it's okay sometimes too. I mean, for me, this is what I thought of to, you know, say learn to say no and set boundaries because I know for me family and things that I've grown up with have been a huge influence, but not necessarily the most healthy thing for me. I would tell folks, like, it's okay to say, no, you know, it's okay to cut off ties or, you know, say yes to you more often. feel like I strive to be the person that I wish that I had as a youth. And so being able to work with the youth and some capacity and being able to work with the community, and Just learning all these new things at the same time. I feel kind of responsible but not and like an intrusive way but just like fortunate to be that person for somebody else and so I'm always open to feedback.

Yeah, so I was born in California, Southern California. I am the second oldest of 10 kids. So a pretty big family, which, you know, a lot of Latin X families are usually pretty, pretty large in size and yeah, I lived out there until I was about 14. You have to have these hard and uncomfortable conversations to feel validated and that was part of it for me, I think. Now a lot of my family members are some of my biggest advocates. In fact, I'm more scared about somebody misgendering me or [deadnaming me] around them than I am just myself because they're about to get it. So I think over time and it has taken a while. Yeah, I have the support that I need. I also have my chosen family either so huge, queer community.

**What is the most important part of being Latinx and queer?**

Oh, there are so many important things, it's so fun. I would say, the most important thing for me is visibility and representation, I think that even though there are so many people in the world, it's easy to fall into that mindset that we're alone that nobody will understand us where the only person like this, you know, we're the only ones during this kind of pain and this state of confusion and I think it's so Great when people are reminded that, oh my gosh. Look, I saw this article about this one person and oh my gosh, I didn't even know this was a thing, and oh my gosh, that's what transgender means. It's not a scary concept.

**What would you tell your younger self?**

[I would validate those scary feelings and Those emotions of helplessness and just say like those are real, those are very valid, but it doesn't always have to be this way, you know? I would say, you know, just keep going, the right people that need to be in your life that will support you will come along, you know, when you're ready to receive them.

latine / queer



on the 21st of July, 2022  
the monarch butterfly  
was listed as: ENDANGERED  
by the International Union for Conservation of  
Nature  
Danaus plexippus, an insect.  
whose range spans 4,000 kilometres of the  
North American Continent,  
México, Aztlán.

Now, what makes a species qualify for the  
endangered listing?

is it only when:  
it's almost too late  
already? wings  
gasping feeble;  
do you know how fraught it is  
to get a creature  
listed?

oil magnates, politicians, land  
developers will fight  
silver-toothed snarling  
to block a species  
from being  
Protected.

but what's new about colonizers  
refusing to acknowledge the  
steady  
linear

decimation

of monarch butterflies, arizona jaguars,  
the night-blooming cereus.  
what's new about the refusal  
to say anything has been wrong  
for  
centuries?

or they'll say:  
you simply don't belong here anyways.  
\*\*

Now, how long does it take a family to migrate?

two generations of movement, metamorphosis  
for my family to understand  
one corner of the world; hear  
promises  
about another.

all the knowledge ancestral  
we are given and  
meant to have, meant to know.  
and it is a fight, inside and out—  
a battle everyday to recall  
the word for  
Mariposa, to pull forth  
from silk strand memory  
the stories of how  
our mothers' wings once  
Flourished

swept aside earth and resisted  
the slow spread of golf course lawns over  
supposed vacant lots  
filled with flowering  
milkweed  
young, nascent caterpillars  
waiting  
to grow into their words.

Mariposas, mariposas,  
no matter when the white people decide to tell y  
We have always been in danger.

but remember,  
Mariposa, we are meant to inherit  
All the stories that make our names  
honeydew on our  
curled tongues  
legacy of myth, migration,  
it is the relearning of  
patterns, the reintroduction of  
ourselves  
it is the claiming of  
each new wingbeat  
in the company of thousands  
we were always meant to find.

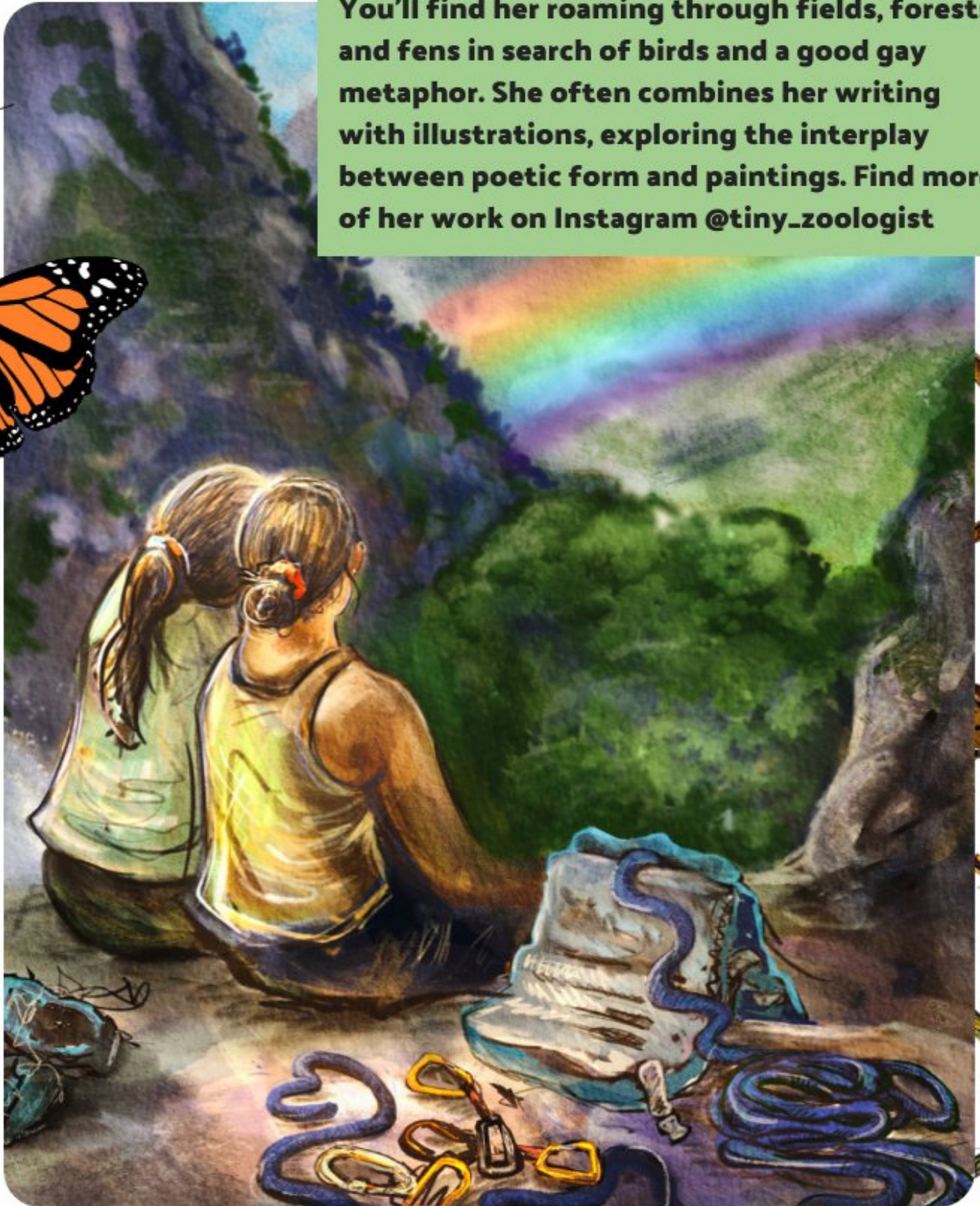
porque para nosotrxs, resistir es sobrevivir.





# Press Release on: Danaus Plexippus

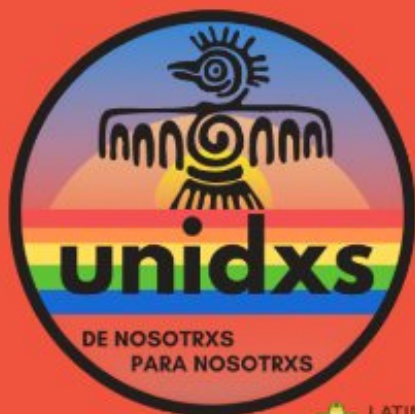
**Poet bio: Frances Ngo (she/her) is a multiracial Mexican-Chinese poet, artist, & zoologist. You'll find her roaming through fields, forests, and fens in search of birds and a good gay metaphor. She often combines her writing with illustrations, exploring the interplay between poetic form and paintings. Find more of her work on Instagram @tiny\_zoologist**



ou this,



# GET INVOLVED



## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Please email Nata (he/him) at [natanael.lbhs@gmail.com](mailto:natanael.lbhs@gmail.com)

## WHAT IS UNIDXS?

Unidxs is a community council of passionate Latinx/Xicanx individuals who are addressing the intersections between the LGBTQ+ and Latinx community of Utah through equitable access to behavioral health, community resources, and education that are both linguistically and culturally appropriate.



LATINO  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
SERVICES

SCAN ME



SCAN ME





# RESOURCES

## Family, Parent and Child Services

-Centro De La Familia:  
Main Phone: (801) 521-4473  
Toll Free Number :1(855)437-9227

-Comunidad Materna en Utah  
Phone: (801) 613-0034

-Family Support Center  
Main Phone: (801) 955-9110

-Teen Mother & Child Program  
Health Department  
Main Phone:(801)587-2525

-Women, Infants, & Children WIC  
Main Phone:(801) 273-2991

-UHPP (Utah Health Policy Project)  
Phone: (801) 433-2299

## Food and Clothing

-Catholic Community Services  
Phone:(801) 977-9119

-Utah Food Bank  
Phone:(801) 978-2452

## Additional Sercvies

-Latino Behavioral Health  
Phone: (801) 935-4447

-Planned Parterhood  
Phone:(801) 532-1586

24- Hours Crisis Line

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988

24 Hour Sexual Violence Crisis Line:  
1-888-421-1100

Emotional Health emergency : 1-  
800-273-8255







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