

MLK Design Seminar
17.922 IAP13
Assignment 3 – Autobiography
Wellesley College Student

As a child, living on the border between Texas and México meant going to school in Texas only to come back home to Ciudad Juárez, México—in other words, a lot of laughing and fighting with the other kids I carpooled with, along with an occasional nap here and there in the car. Crossing the bridge to go to school post-9/11 literally meant waiting in line in the car for maybe 30 minutes, quieting as we approached customs, saying “American”, and in 20 minutes I would get to school, ready to learn English phonetics in kindergarten. I continued to go to that same school, Immanuel Christian School, playing tennis and swimming in a local country club in Cd. Juárez.

Prompted by the increasing violence in Juárez, my parents saw it best to move across the border to El Paso, thus shattering my world at fifteen years old, right before I was able to drive, go to clubs or ‘antros’, and most importantly where my friends no longer lived at a close five or at most ten minutes away—all of which then seemed more important than my and my own family’s safety. Ironically enough, the commute between my west side home and my school, which was on the east side of town, was farther living in El Paso than crossing the border from Juárez to El Paso.

Eager to leave the school where I studied for fourteen years, I knew I desperately wanted to leave home and always secretly dreamed of attending a school in the Northeast. I was able to fulfill that dream by attending Wellesley College, where I have finally settled on studying political science, after wanting to major in women’s and gender studies much to my parents’ chagrin, and now hope to declare a second major in French.

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17.922 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. IAP Design Seminar
IAP 2013

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