

2017

My Story of Self: Social Movements and Cross Cultural Connections

Annelise Feliu

University of Miami, axf928@miami.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarlyrepository.miami.edu/collaborations>

Recommended Citation

Feliu, A. (2017). My Story of Self: Social Movements and Cross Cultural Connections. *Collaborations: A Journal of Community-Based Research and Practice*, 1 (1). Retrieved from <http://scholarlyrepository.miami.edu/collaborations/vol1/iss1/7>

This article is brought to you for free and open access by Scholarly Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Collaborations: A Journal of Community-Based Research and Practice by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Repository. For more information, please contact repository.library@miami.edu.

My Story of Self: Social Movements and Cross Cultural Connections

Abstract

At the beginning of my internship at the Center for Social Well Being in the Peruvian Andes, I was caught up in the belief that good scientists should be disconnected from the communities in which they work, unobtrusive observers. During my time there, I learned the value of using local, indigenous knowledge as a means of creating sustainable interventions and services. The song I share herein is the product of spending time with local women and musicians, coming to understand their perspective of music as a harmonizing force, and that in many ways, this community was not so different from my own.

Keywords

community psychology, Quechua, song, indigenous knowledge, local knowledge, community interventions

Cover Page Footnote

I humbly thank the people of Huaraz for opening their hearts and homes, the Center for Social Well Being, and Dr. Scot Evans and Elizabeth McInerney for encouraging to share my story of self.

While my time as a music major was short-lived, after taking a cultural anthropology course, my understanding of music as a force that existed globally and could do amazing things grew. I did not realize its therapeutic, unifying capabilities until I began interacting with different communities. Music can become a bridge, a mobilizer, a call, and as the Quechua taught me, a harmonizer of the spirit.

I submit this song, a praise to the great mountain Waskaran. It is the center of religious and folk traditions, as well as environmental conservation efforts, as the frozen mountain peaks provide fresh, cool water to the natives throughout the year. With the onset of climate change, the inhabitants of Huaraz find their livelihoods and traditions directly threatened. Many of us may not experience the effects of climate change directly in our lifetimes, but my experience in the Peruvian Andes demonstrated the imminent threat faced by communities throughout the world.