

She Embodied: A Materialized Collective

The Collective

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Abstract

This collaboratively written piece materializes the collective experiences of 14 students and an instructor in a graduate-level feminist research methods class in the United States. Instead of writing a traditional seminar paper, the class decided to continue our weekly discussions, during which we wrestled with both theory and practice, in text in a final paper. It just seemed like the best way to end our time together. In so doing, the she embodied collective furthers feminist writing practices that embrace uneasy collectives of varying viewpoints. This particular collective acknowledges our she, but recognizes, listens to, and celebrates all the powerful pronouns that create a collective. The collective offers a brief introduction and lengthy appendix to situate the piece. We do not adhere to a singular

feminism in the piece. Consequently, our collective is a way of doing unity differently, of attending to and residing with the frictional thought within feminisms and finding that frictional thought as generative. We invite readers to join our collective, to think together across differences without reducing those differences to similarities.

Keywords: Feminist Pedagogy, Collaborative Writing, Collectives

Introduction

The karmic female spirit lives on among women across the globe. *She* is reborn among the colorful faces and shapes of the femme. *She* is a constant voice that transmigrates throughout the eons of time; she has always been and always will be. *SHE* is SHE—returning to the physical realm anew. *She* completes the karmic cycle again and again, her mission to bring forth life, educating as she is learning; carrying on her back the load of her labors as she navigates the muddied terrain. Like a starfish, *She* moves through the ages reforming lost limbs as *She* adapts to the ever changing demands on her femininity. Her movements fluid, she traverses time and space; in borderlands *She* finds home. *She* is Black, *She* is Brown, *She* is White, *She* is spotted, *She* is aromatic, large-boned, petite, curvy, flat, red, yellow and creamy. *She* is hard and *She* is soft. *She* is nature and *She* is nurture, resilient and strong, *She* is scrappy and resourceful. *She* is imperfect, yet *She* is complete. *She* is not one, but all. And when *She* unites, *she* is power.

The students of the University of Memphis’s Feminist Research Methods class came together to create power, a moving experience of creative enterprise. Unorthodox in our innovative venture, the women or *She’s* of the collaborative experiment joined together to push back against institutional hegemonic prominence. Her work as *She*, voicing a multiplicity of identities, is inherently resistant and revolutionary. Our mission, led by a trailblazing anchor, is to collectively share in the feminist experience of life, struggle, and the search for home. Home-grown. Home-made. Home-spun. *She*, *We*, search for a space, a dwelling, a habitat to offer, *nay*, bestow our creation. Our poetic words, artistic expressions, our handiwork is rendered from the depths of our beings. We believe these creations—these voices, voyaged a journey beyond ourselves, an amalgamation of rebirthed words spoken by our mothers and theirs before them. The collective voices joining to become one, individual and united in their message to resist and reform. The following is our progeny--

She Embodied

This course has been an example of what education could be (*should be?*). Did we become a “happening?” Did we become “greater than the sum of our parts?” (Tsing, p. 23). Anticipation for the course. *Feminist. Research. Methods. Finally.* Our teacher asked us what we wanted to learn about (hmmm...what *did* we want to learn about?). She worked and responded. Our disciplinary identities of psychology, anthropology, communication, and education...disciplined-based understandings with the

individual histories, theories, and methods/methodologies. Unpacking these areas and how ideas manifest in our disciplines...helping us to form a more informed critique. We examined what motivated us...why *are* we here?? Unsure of certain labels at times...should I even *be* in this class?? Am I *this* kind of feminist? Queerness? Self-discovery. Sharing as valid research. Different ages. Different places in life. Different careers and goals. Different family scenarios. Different religions and ethnicities... "There's never this many Muslims in a class!" Making adjustments as needed...not sticking to the syllabus "just because." Flexibility. Safe space for risk taking...admitting when we "don't know" or have "messed up." Rearranging seats to form a type of circle (without asking) so we can better engage with each other. There was cooperation. We found real life examples and things happening and asked how can we learn from this? How can we help? We critically examined ourselves...how are we perpetuating racism, sexism, all the -isms? How do we benefit? Learning from each other. No egos. Profanity because there are horrible things happening and we don't have time for "politeness" and "respectability." Imaginary sign reminding us of the "reason." Laughter. Lots of laughter. Texting...where are you? Class is starting. Change of plans for Pride. We missed you in class! No, you *are* gonna graduate. Are you ok? I noticed you were quiet today. Oh, you have kids too? How old are yours? We can go to the museum together. Have you eaten today? I brought snacks. Giving rides and walking back across campus together. Safety.

If feminist theory posits that if women are taken care of, *all* things will be taken care of...then, if all courses were taught, planned, and run like this feminist methods course, might all our higher education issues be solved? Is this not the way to engage with and change educational spaces for the better? Is it possible to come *together* to think *differently* about gender, race, sexuality, religion, dis/ability, everything? This paper is a result of self-processing, both in-class and outside of class. Our process was not always smooth but felt natural. We present this collective to the reader as a way of considering writing and thinking *differently*. It is indeed something to sit and think with. We believe we need more explorations of what it means to think differently as a collective. "Thinking with" is provoking—a way to extend our conversation. We invite. You to think with us. Join our collective. Extend the conversation. This is where the work is.

hello you.
again
i thought i had lost you.
somewhere
in the time and space between dreams

yet here
you
are
always existing in some dimension
separate from where i thought you were
moving through a space that was never made for you
never made for us

a space seemingly created
for the rest of the world
a world opposite from you

a world that may be tangible
but only to the ghosts that surround you
the ghosts that seem to breathe
that seem to haunt us
seeping into fill the cracks
of what things could be
would be
will never be

you.
wary of the darkness
yet startled by the light
missing parts that you thought maybe
made you into who you are
were
will never
can never
be again

so let me go
let us go
please.
let's not blend back into the cracks
the cracks in the old walls
the cracks in the middle of the road
the cracks in my stone heart

you.
let me
helped me
finally woke me up
broken
cold
from the nightmare i've been living
that you
us
have been living

to see
that the monster can be sent back
to the ivory tower that now crumbles
broken and laid bare
to feel what you
us
have felt for so long
too long

so let's move together
now hopeful
yell our battle cries into the stars
lay together and drown in the flowers that surround us

reborn
renewed
redone

hello you.

thriving outside of ivory towers
mobilizing against misogyny
determined to change the narrative
not to be compared
unlike what you thought
dominant yet soft
intersectional and always shifting
hopeful and inclusive
Black and bold
a powerful force
from the seed of hip-hop culture
supportive of masculinity
comfortable with sexuality
relies on self-defining respectability
reflects a liberated activist

not to be policed by patriarchy
attracts and delivers comfort
slays traditional standards of beauty

Searching, dreaming, fear
Years of love have brought me near
My journey to here

Reclaiming
the Space that is ours
Forgetting
the Fragility of being alone

In this rose-colored existence
I am enchanted at the world's wondrousness
Yet, the flesh is tender to the touch
Thoughts linger long

The Syrian is a refugee
She has left the watan, the Land of Jasmine and Pistachio
The Land of Honking Taxis, and Salted Butter Corn on the Street
Cracked shells, Broken Windows, and Sarin Gas, drove her out.
She sits on the curb, staring at the stars
She Longs. For. Home

Staring at the stars, I am wondrous again
Memories of wrought iron balusters on an Aleppo veranda with a minty breeze
Where nana drinks hot chai with sugar cubes
Basking in her Warmth, in the Togetherness, in the Belongingness

of that Transient Immortal Place.

Oh scrolls, write down this prayer

Take me back, to the Land of Citadels, to Halab, to that Moat

But let me sit by the curb with those that yearn too.



Hyphenated

What is life like at the border, on the hyphen?

Arab-American

Bi-racial

Al-Zoubi

Al-Fatiha

The opening

My experience in this class has been an opening of sorts.

My first time in a class with other Muslim women, with other Arab women.

My first time in a class where Palestine is in the reading.

Maybe life has been hyphenated until now?

I have spent my life as the other and another

The stranger and the neighbor

The virgin and the whore

The child and the caretaker

I have been both old and young

Big and small

Consecrated and desecrated

Unattainable and too easily attained

My body has paid the price

It's been rented, leased, and sold

And if my body is my home, I have no home

For my body is inhabited by others, or so I am told

I've felt pull

Puncture

I've been

Whittled

???

Dash, stir,

Fast, slow,

Hands

Dash, stir,



and pressure

and fracture

ripped, shattered, broken into parts

down to only a fragment of who I was

dash, stir, it has to be just right?

fast, slow, this is enough right?

churn, butter burns, did I do this right?

dash, stir, it has to be just right?

what are you?

are you black or white?

mutt

half-breed

Chink

Maternalities

my mother

small, dark, boiling, woman

from pattaya, thailand

who writes journals of illustrated stories

in thai

สมุดบันทึกเรื่องราวภาพประกอบ

the clerk looks down at my small hand as I fumble with the pen

"my mother is illiterate"

I watched her grab a woman by her hair
for calling her the n word
and shake her head back and forth, back and forth, back and forth
like a chicken
my mother's lips were folded together
and this noise came from her throat
mmm mmm mmm
as she slapped, slapped, slapped
that woman's face
my mother's mother
from singapore
who left my mother when she was a baby
one night my mother asks my opinion on the matter
she is sitting in the dark, smoking a cigarette
tears stream down her face
boiling tears
maybe I was 7 or 8 or 10
"what kind of mother leaves her baby?"
and my mother's chinese grandmother
the mother of her father
who sent my mother out of the house
at age 12
and my father's mother
white, cherokee, "blackfoot indian"
married, widowed
widowed again
married again
beaten with a belt
and a frying pan
who raised one son and seven daughters
one son, my father
who grew up and went to thailand
and sent his mother his entire air force stipend
because she couldn't stand up for herself
not allowed

didn't know how
who makes her own rock candy
and taught me how to hang clothes on a clothesline
and tells me
"your mother looks like a colored woman"
my mother
small, dark, boiling, woman
from Pattaya, Thailand
my daughters
one tall
and silent
paints pictures of her emotions
internalizing her pain
like her palestinian father
masculinity
one small and screaming
a spoken word poet
who stood on a stage
and shamed a community
boiling in her own rage
she reminds me of my mother

But I am resurrected, recreated, reconstructed

I have stitched myself back together, with the help of my sisters

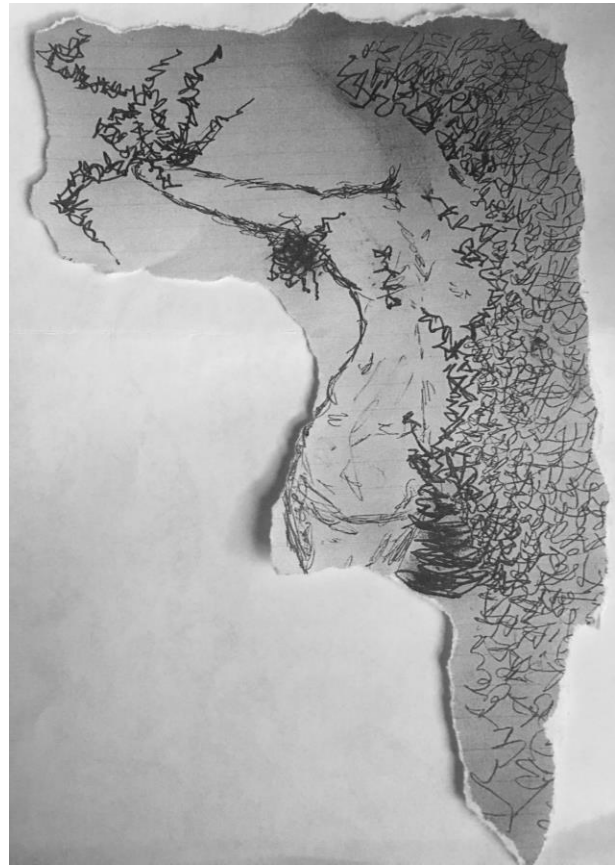
From the tattered and torn swatches that used to remain

*I've reexamined past, present, and future
To reproduce myself as a patchwork thing*

*And now I wear my patches with pride
As a badge of honor, a middle finger*

*I am not parts of self
But a self of parts*

Still, the scars from the stitches remain



Confusion

“One ever feels his (her) twoness, -- an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings

I'm a Barbie girl in a Barbie world

Girl, put your records on, tell me your favorite song

Life in plastic, it's fantastic

I hope you get your dreams

You can brush my hair

Don't you let those other boys fool you

Gotta love that Afro hairdo

Imagination, life is your creation

When you gonna realize that you don't even have to try any longer?

Tryna fix myself for society

Do what you want to

Tryna mix myself for society

Just go ahead, let your hair down

But can you tell me, where is love in anxiety?

Can you tell me, where is love in anxiety?

You're gonna find yourself somewhere, somehow

Brown skin, you know I love your brown skin

*I like my negro nose with Jackson Five
nostrils
With my deep brown eyes...I stand alone*

*Where are your people from? Maybe Mississippi or an Island
White girl wanna touch it*

I told her please don't touch me

*Apparently your skin has been kissed by the sun
Did you think this was a petting zoo?*

I am not this skin
I can't tell where yours begins, I can't tell where mine ends

I am not my hair
*Don't touch my hair
When it's the feelings I wear*
I am the soul that lives within

*Don't touch my soul
When it's the rhythm I know
This here is mine*

Sit down!

Righteous Indignation

Appreciates women's emotional flexibility
The truth will set you free
Say it Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud
But first, it'll piss you off

*Who the fuck do you think I is?
Tell the storm I'm new
Yo operator, or innovator
Motivate your ass call me Malcom X
I'ma riot,
Fuck you hater, you can't recreate her no
'Cause I need freedom, too
And you can't find the fighter
I break chains all by myself
It ain't my fault that I'm out here getting' loose*

*I'ma keep running
Blame it on my juice
Won't let my freedom rot in hell
I'll rise up
And move mountains
'Cause a winner don't quit on themselves*

Lost

Loves struggle

This world is new to me, I do not know it

When I left I thought I would be stronger

But in fact, it took away my energy

I try to cover up what I feel inside

Hard to tell you that I could not really see

Can you focus on me?

Strumming my pain with his fingers

Can you focus on me?

Singing my life with his words

Can you focus on me?

Killing me softly with his song

Telling my whole life with his words

Lately I've been a little fed up

Killing me softly with his song

But I don't wanna give up

Killing me softly with his song

Can you focus on me?

Faithful

Loves the Spirit

Her shroud is loneliness, her God was listening. Her heaven would be a love without betrayal.

In the corners of mind

I just can't seem to find a reason to believe

That I can break free

There is no pain, Jesus can't feel

Cause you see I have been down for so long

Feel like the hope is gone

There is no hurt, that He can't heal

But as I lift my hands, I understand

For all things work

That I should praise you through my circumstance

According to his Holy will

Take the shackles off my feet so I can dance

I just want to praise you

You broke the chains now I can lift my hands

Found?

Loves music. Loves dance.. Loves the Folk. Loves herself. Regardless

Don't You know that I've been looking for You?

Never felt, never held, never had no love like you

I realized nothing else will satisfy me

But this right here

I did not know it was love

Now that I'm changed

*Everybody, everybody wants to know
Where you're goin' to, 'cause they wanna come
Or so they think until they find the cost of it
'Til they find out, find out what you lost for it*

No one can keep me away from You

*And I'd do it all again
'Cause I found love*

[And] When it feels this good you better keep it

I can't resist this sweet surrender

Because in exchange you give me peace of mind

Willful

Wanting to know more and in greater depth than is considered "good" for one

Came into this world

Daddy's little girl

And daddy made a soldier out of me...

And you think of roses and daisies

And I think of passion and fire like Hades

Tough girl is what I had to be

You say all the time, peace and quiet

I need a riot

He said, "Take care of your mother"

My daddy said shoot

I'm guarding my gates

Watch her go wild

Missy in this bitch

Found her confidence

doin'shit you ain't never seen

So she a pro now

They say the glory's all mine

Don't test my mouth

Thought I couldn't breathe without you, I'm inhaling

They say the truth is my sound

Lost at sea

All this time I have been walking backwards into cold, salty waters, never able to predict when or how large the next wave would hit me, or which one would take me to drown at the bottom of blue emptiness. In these moments, between warring with an uncompromising, proverbial Poseidon, I find myself lost at sea. Will I go down fighting, fists clenched and screaming at a world that has always wanted to watch me fade to foam and debris? Will I be remembered as an angry siren or elusive sea witch that sought to lure man to its end? How will those who loved me tell my tale? Is it one of a feisty sailor who braved an unstoppable storm? Or will they draw from uncomfortable silence, unwilling to succumb to the same fate as mine?

I wonder to myself, quiet, meek, and beaten down, how long have the tides weathered me? To what extent? In all of my trials and tribulations, I have fought against an untouchable force, one that is invisible yet tangible. Years of battle have turned me into a shapeshifter. I have changed form. Yet this has been no metamorphosis. I'm no butterfly, beautified through a single struggle to escape one's cocooned coffin. From boulder to stone to pebble. From joy to sadness to broken. A gain through loss, from a chipping away piece by piece until all that is left is a grain of sand.

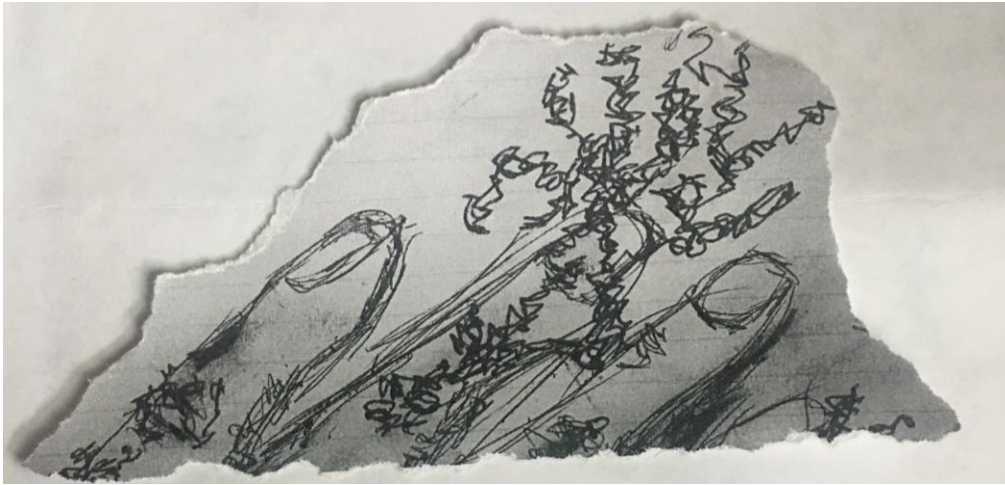
I look to the coast and gaze upon a tall, ivory tower. It's a tower that stands on many grains of sand, its foundation only made possible through those that lay broken-down beneath it. I was once promised a beacon of light to show me through the darkness. But this is no lighthouse, for it does not promise a warm, illuminating glow. I was sold a home away from home with a family I cannot break bread with. Those that reside inside the tower's walls want it to remain a dark, hopeless space. Yet I want to remain hopeful. I want to believe all the lies that are built within the walls. For when the walls whisper, we who wade the waters are told things will change.

"Have faith."

"We will have a home one day very soon."

"It's bad, but, for now, just float in the sea."

But when lost at sea, where does one find home?



Aimed, Willful Intent

Planned Predetermined

Purposeful knowing

Guarded, locked and loaded

Equipped with Microsoft word and google docs

Filled to the core with citations affirming positions of power where the very forms discussing this thing called feminism—serve as the gatekeepers.

Permeating literature with scholarly material

With skewed viewpoints

Not recognizing our own role in this misalignment of power

Privileged voices discussing the framework for which the disenfranchised will be made to conform to or rebel against

We stand.

Guarding the ivory tower we believe we should critique

Validating words of those who have access to the spaces we hold near and dear

Torn.

Ripped between the realities of living life but wanting to make it better

Expanding that small sliver of hope to be a gapping hole of radical change because for some it's life or death...

Or does it just sound good;
The sound of your keyboard typing about inequities
The sound of your voice on the megaphone at a march blanketing statements for ALL WOMEN
The sound of the printer, translating ink to paper to as you type out your theories
The sound of the affirming claps and snaps as others champion YOU as a warrior
As being someone who cares enough to
Publicly pronounce points of privilege using your platform

Hop on board the triggering train.

Tantalizing talks serve to teach
But who stands to be the person who is *taught*?
How does one reality triumph those who have been historically and continuously silenced?

Do your publications make you an expert on my realities?

Does your analysis serve to make the change necessary to create a victory that is worth risking
blood, sweat, tears and fears over?

Are we just hostages?
Created by the institution we continue to dwell in
And hope to do WELL in
Confined to the lines of which radical affiliations and frameworks are permitted as long as this
phantasmic idea of change stays within the parameters of upholding this eggshell colored
building

Who gets to have a seat at the table with a MEGAphone and a pot full of cash?
Who gets to make equitable changes?
Who gets to include the lives at stake?

Who gets to take part in the making of their own history?

Must we stand as intermediary sponges constantly absorbing the faults of society while the
major players whine and dine at the cost of our physical, mental, financial and emotional labor?

Is it possible to alleviate the massive disparities of this fantasy or idealistic premonition of the
future?

We must make change equitable and equally meaningful in all spaces without assimilating to
the cream colored fortress

Knowing that our position doesn't provide more to the movement, then those who
never dared
Never cared

Never could
Never would
Get the credentials in which we seek.

Disillusion ourselves with a new idea where it's not a matter of who gets to have a seat at the table but the factors in which this table is allowed to exist that is central to the problems we face

Have we lost sight of the cause?
Shall we just pause...

Reflexively reflecting on where we really stand in the grand scheme of things.
Allocating financial power to the same institution keeping change makers out to protect this fragile egotistical institution.
The same institution continuously oppressing women in vicarious ways using small tokens of appreciation and commemoration as a tool to keep us semi-satisfied and
Oddly quiet.

So that we--
continue to feed it.
Straddling the medians of riding for revolutionary changes and funneling funds to those in power who profit from our gestures
Riding this wave of bandwagon activism

To them—it's about marketing
It's about competing in a market where buzzwords like "diversity" "inclusion" "equitable" "equal" fuel trends for companies to hunt for talents which align with their strategic goals

Giving us hope that we can be a part of the change we seek
As we make our rounds through this cycle of trauma
Again
And again
...and again.

Make no mistake
The degrees before or after your name makes you no more valuable than any one else doing this work

Your ability to exist and have a voice of impact in spaces where feminist ideas are problematized and scrutinized—hold no greater weight than those feminists who rally in the streets, who organizes and strategizes in closed meetings minus hackable, buggable and traceable technology, who stirs up the pot risking life—not livelihood, to get their point across.

Yet we stand.

Guarded, locked and loaded
Ready....

Appendix

Dear Readers,

A collective she, a solidarity of difference, wrote this article. Rather than write a traditional graduate seminar paper, the she offered that we write together, something about our experiences in the class, Feminist Research Methods. We are unsure as to who suggested it or how it came to be. It just did and we all agreed that a collaboratively written piece would best reflect our experiences as a class. What better way to carry on the rich tradition of feminist scholarship that has disrupted so many existing practices? Surely, disrupting the traditional seminar paper into a collaboratively written piece would contribute to this tradition. In particular we aim to contribute to the practices of other feminist scholars writing together (Doane & Hodges, 1995; Handforth & Taylor, 2015; Harde, 2013). This piece, we hope suggests that 14 people can come together in a class, in a piece of writing, and how those 14 people can create an uneasy solidarity that is always in practice and grounded in listening to differences. We use the term “people” instead of feminists in this endnote to reflect our experiences with the term “feminism.” We recognize the term’s history and who it has welcomed and who it has excluded. We exist within its fraught and multiple definitions. We offer this endnote to situate our practices.

Much like Wyatt & Gale’s (2018) idea of writing to it, a process of writing toward something on a plane of immanence, we began with a simple question. What is your feminism? We knew that somehow the piece would come together, much like our class discussions in which varying viewpoints about the readings would somehow coalesce into new and different understandings. Somehow 14 people would come together to create something, we just had no idea what that something would be. With a handful of remaining weeks in the semester, we dedicated class time to writing together. Initially, we worked on our individual contributions away from class as we figured 14 people attempting to write together in situ would be difficult. Moreover, we sought to maintain individuals within the collective. We then listened to each other as we read our pieces. Following that, we identified connective lines between the pieces that we then merged on a Google doc. We use varied fonts, photographs, and art in the printed version so as to materialize how our voices come together in an ever-shifting she, a materialized collective.

The remaining writing sessions followed a predictable format. Each writing session began with showing the google doc on the classroom screen and a reading of the piece so that we could experience how the piece was reading that day. In addition, we wanted to hear each person read her contribution to hear how our voices mixed into the she that day. We then set to work, sometimes collectively other times in small groups, on the piece. We ended the session with another read aloud of the piece, each feminist voicing her she into the collective. Our last class, which took place at our professor’s home, ended with us reading aloud the piece together.

We do acknowledge the potentially problematic idea of using the term “she.” However, prior to the semester beginning, the instructor sent an email asked for our preferred pronouns and each of us said “she, her, hers.” This particular collective acknowledges our she, but recognizes, listens to, and celebrates all the powerful pronouns that create a collective.

The email that she sent served another purpose. Recognizing that the class consisted of students from a variety of disciplines and individual experiences with feminisms (some wonderful and enlightening, others less so), she asked the students which areas of feminism they wanted to cover. For, if feminist research is about disrupting the supposed binary of theory/practice, then each feminist methodological approach is different. She then created a rigorous reading list of contemporary feminist work that reflected student interests. These texts included: Ahmed’s (2017), *Living a Feminist Life*; Boyd & Ramirez (2012) *Bodies of Evidence: The Practice of Queer Oral History*; Nash’s (2019) *Black Feminism Reimagined after Intersectionality*; Smith, Tuck, & Yang (2019) *Indigenous and Decolonizing Studies in Education*; Tsing (2015) *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*; and Trinh (2011) *Elsewhere, Within Here: Immigration, Refugeeism and the Boundary Event*.

The course readings and our other individual readings reverberate across this text and materializes our commitment to engaging in the messy work of uniting theory and practice. While we offer few, if any, citations, we offer the following quotes that we think exemplify the work we do in this piece.

“Feminism is a sensible reaction to the injustices of the world, which we might register at first through our own experiences. We might work over, mull over, these experiences; we might keep coming back to them because they do not make sense. In other words we have to make sense of what does not make sense. There is agency and life in this making” (Ahmed, 2017, p. 21).

“Creating a new vision (and version) of history requires a leap of faith” (Ramirez & Boyd, 2012, p. 5).

“If vulnerability is a recognition that we are undone by each other, and an invitation to embrace rather than retreat from that fact, it is also a testament to how we are witnesses to moments when we are subjected to violence, particularly social structures that have been constructed to discipline and surveil” (Nash, 2019, p. 119).

“What, indeed, makes us endlessly return to the sources--those ancient, unknowable sources that keep inquiries alive and challenge every boundary set up for strategic or survival purposes? Where do we come from? Where do we go? What keeps us holding on to the thread of life, doing what we each do so earnestly in our daily existence? And what ear has suddenly caught on the whence and whither of life?” (Trinh, 2011, p. 13).

“Th[e] invocation of intersectional movements should not leave us intact with ally models but rather create new assemblages of accountability, with ally models but rather create assemblages of accountability, conspiratorial lines of flight, and seams of affinity” (Puar, 2017, p.xxi).

“Transformation through collaboration, ugly and otherwise, is the human condition” (Tsing, 2015, p. 31).

“This is because as Indigenous people and decolonizing educators, we have responsibilities that require/urge/direct/instruct us to be good ancestors to future generations of human and non-human entities, to the earth and sky, to land and water, to the stars and the molten crevices of the earth, to the past and the future” (Tuhiwai Smith, Tuck, & Yang, 2019, p. 23).

What we offer here is an invitation to think differently about feminisms, writing practices, and educative spaces. While collaboratively written pieces are not methodologically “new,” this piece offers a unique take on these pieces. As is noted earlier in this appendix, this piece is a product of an educational space and practice. In our educational space and practice, we considered frictional unity as a site for where the work gets done. Here, we disrupt higher education practices, by writing a final paper together as a group of people immersed in such thinking. Such an uneasy union is about listening to each other and attending to how what we read, what we discussed, and so on left us with questions about our own beliefs and practices. Such a site is one of collective growth in which the instructor does not lead the class, but instead joins in the fray of frictional thought, residing in the uncomfortable spaces of that thinking, and thinks-with, becomes with students. Still, we returned to each session with an eagerness to reside in friction, to see where it promoted growth of thought. Our materialized collective presented here is full of frictions.

These frictions are about the different feminisms and rejections of feminisms that exist in our collective. We do not believe that there is a single feminism or a single feminist collaborative writing practice. We certainly do not adhere to a singular line of feminist thought in this piece. We are all much too different to shove ourselves into the oppressive box of similarity. Our feminisms, our rejections of feminisms, and our questions of feminisms pulse throughout our collective piece. These differences are the frictions, the questions we ask, the questions we must wrestle with, the questions that may not have answers. Our collaborative piece, then, materializes friction.

We frequently read our piece aloud, with each person reading their contribution, to hear the frictions. These frictions took over the space and we dissolved into the collective. We hope that sharing this article with you will do the same. We hope that this invitation to friction invades your space and dissolves you into our collective, she. We invite you to our contribution to collaborative feminist writing practices. We invite you to consider how feminists can come together in uneasy practices of solidarity with each moment of solidarity materializing both the personal and the political.

In Solidarity,

The Collective

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