

Lupe Anguiano

From: "Maria E. Cotera" [REDACTED] >
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2010 10:51 PM
Attach: CPMR-AugustInterviewSchedule.doc; Anguiano_Questions.doc
Subject: interview questions
 Hola Lupe!

I wanted to send you these questions to get you thinking about the interview. We may not ask all of them, but they will give you a general sense of what we are interested in. I am also attaching our interview schedule so that you can see the other women that we will be interviewing. We are all so excited to be doing this! Saludos, y nos vemos pronto!

Maria

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 Maria E. Cotera
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For information on Native Speakers: Ella Deloria, Zora Neale Hurston, Jovita González and the Poetics of Culture (University of Texas Press, 2008) see <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/excerpts/excotnat.html>
 Winner of the 2009 Gloria Anzaldúa Book Prize

 "Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

- Martin Luther King, 1967

Lupe Anguiano interview

Saturday, August 21, 2010

To start off we will introduce the Chicana por mi Raza project and answer any questions about our project goals, parameters, and how the information you share with us will be used.

Since our project involves collecting both oral histories AND material culture, we would be enormously grateful if you could bring any photos, letters, posters, pamphlets, and even essays and other writing, that you still have from the period (1965-1985). We will have a digital scanner and project researchers on hand to scan your materials, so you can hold on to them after the interview. Digging up these materials might also help jog your memory about key events, dates, publications, etc.

Here are some possible questions...

On political development:

- When did you first become politically conscious, and what were the circumstances surrounding that event? How did influences in your early years, particularly your growth in the Christian faith and your experiences with family shape your decision to become a nun and an activist?
- Describe your early political development, what events, activities, people or books influenced or impacted you? Why?
- When did you first become aware of the Chicano Movement? What was your initial involvement in it? How did that involvement change through the years?
- When did you first become aware of the Women's Movement? What was your initial involvement in it? How did that involvement change through the years?
- When did you first become aware of gender differences in the movement and how did that impact your political development?
- Did your gender consciousness emerge as a result of involvement in the Chicano Movement or from other sources? If from other sources, can you recall when you first heard a feminist critique?

On specific activist mobilizations/organizations:

You were involved in some of the most influential intellectual and political efforts in the development of the civil rights movement, including the events listed below. Can you talk about these efforts and reflect on how they shaped your personal and political beliefs:

- 1964 Bilingual Ed Act passage and appointment by President Johnson to work on HEW
- 1965-70 Michigan Grape Boycott, working with Cesar Chavez, meeting Jane Gonzales
- 1971 HEW Women's conference, that Martha Cotera and Dr. Shapiro from U/Washington also attended (same year as first meeting of NWPC)
- 1971 - involvement with first steering committee meeting of NWPC (Garcia Merchant Interview: "they didn't know what a Chicana looked like")

- 1972 RUP Convention
- 1972 Adelante Mujeres at South Bend with Ruth Mojica Hammer, Martha, Jane Gonzales (who was a delegate at large of NWPC)
- 1975 IWY Mexico City and the statement made by the women of the RUP
- 1977 California IWY Caucus meeting (Margaret Cruz, Ruth Mojica Hammer Gracia Molina de Pic, Cecelia Burciaga were also at that meeting)
- 1977 IWY meeting and reading the Declaration with Jean Stapleton, and Coretta King.
- 1970-80s NWE, Welfare reform program

Development of Chicana Feminism more generally:

Scholars like Maylei Blackwell and Alma Garcia have pointed out the importance of "print culture" (books, newspapers, bibliographies, essays, etc) to the development of Chicana feminism. Other scholars (like Dionne Espinoza and Yolanda Alaniz) focus more on organizational politics.

- In your opinion, how important do you think it was to write about the status of Mexican American women?
- What did "print culture" do in terms of uniting women across geographic and ideological divides?
- Why motivated you to write the studies and reports that you produced during this period?
- What lead you to write your seminal report on the IWY in Mexico City? What social conditions were you responding to?
- How about conferences and regional meetings? What role did they play in terms of spreading a chicana feminist critique?
- Were you at all involved with the mainstream feminist movement?
If involved: why?
If not: Why not?

Current political profile:

How would you describe your political profile today? Are you still active in social movements? If so, what kind of political activities are most meaningful to you? If not? Why not?

Some things to think about:

- Women's economic empowerment and its connection to women's political empowerment
- "Right" and "Left" divides: How do you see yourself fitting in to this?
- Environmental activism: How is it related to women's wellbeing? Do you feel that the direction your activism has taken (toward Environmental Justice) is an outgrowth of the work you did in the women's movement and civil rights movement?

Central to this project is tracing the development of Chicana feminist thought, from its activist roots to its current manifestation as a largely academic enterprise. How would you describe Chicana feminism today? What is a Chicana feminist? Are you a chicana feminist? How does contemporary Chicana feminism differ from the Chicana Feminism of the 1960s and 1970s?