

Hannah Yonas

Field Journal #1

Location: Horsetooth Reservoir, Fort Collins, CO

Date: 4/12/2021

Time: 5:30AM - 6:45AM

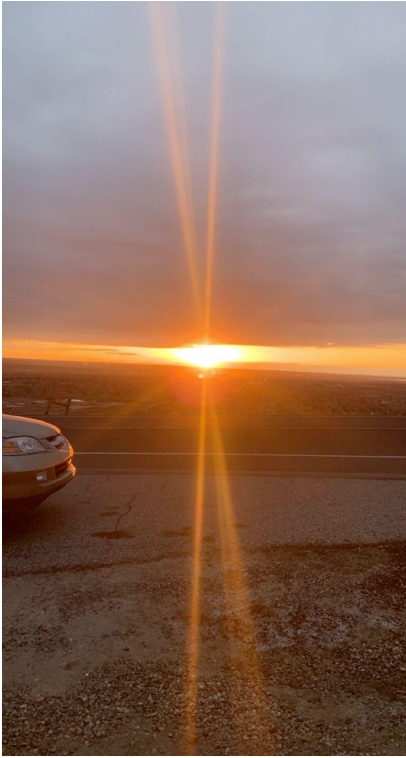
Weather: Chill 30 degrees

My first field journal location was completely unplanned, which I think made the experience all the more authentic. I was in Fort Collins visiting my boyfriend, and we decided to go watch the sunrise at this Fort Collins classic, Horsetooth Reservoir. The sun rose over our perfect view of the city, but the landscape itself was equally as enticing.

We sat on a small boulder. In front of us, the winding road dropped off a cliff where the view of the city is unmatched. I watched as thousands of lights began flickering and lighting up, cars started bustling, disrupting the quiet. But I only noticed this disruption in the quiet because the landscape behind and around me was completely silent. The reservoir is surrounded by rocky hills and trees, where one would assume insects and wilderness would have a natural slight hum. But I noticed that there was none of this. It was complete silence — something that is quite rare. When I turned around to face the reservoir below me, I noticed a mountain biker whipping through the hills like a professional. His bike had a small light on it, as it was still dark and I watched as the light flicked in and out of view. It was like watching a silent movie. When I began to walk a little bit more, I noticed in the blooming shrubbery a small clearing, which had a sign at its entrance indicating the start of a trail. There was more dust and dirt than there was green plants and bushes, but winter had only just ended. When I sat back on the boulder, I asked my boyfriend to be quiet for a minute, and that's when I noticed how purely deafening the silence actually was. It felt very serene, yet eerie as well.

One of Meinig's views on landscape stood out to me today: landscape as an artifact. The reservoir is man-made — therefore, manipulation of the landscape (for whatever reason; human leisure, habitat restoration). It is a place that was created, and is valued as a special part of Fort

Collins. Meinig talks about man conquering nature. Not only was the reservoir man made, but the way the roads have been built and trails etched in makes it feel like we have ownership.



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Field Journal #2

Location: Starbucks, University & Asbury

Date: 4/13/2021

Time: 11:00AM - 11:45AM

For my second field journal, I decided to sit outside on the Starbucks patio, drink some coffee, and people-watch. I masked up before walking into the coffee shop and ordered my favorite drink. As we are still in Covid times, I was only able to remove my mask while I sat outside (alone) to drink coffee. This informed a few of my observations while I was there and helped me decide to focus on this pattern.

The scenes that passed during my time there were nothing out of the ordinary. I sat facing the parking lot and the entrance of Starbucks so as to have a good view of the “people-scape.” And I noticed that people were the only interesting thing about this landscape. I watched as college age students, older adults, and people with children enter and leave the shop. The most obvious pattern I noticed was that people who were leaving their cars or walking up to the shop only put their masks on about 10 to 20 feet away from the entrance. They would pause to mask up, or put it on in a hurry if they saw other people approaching. The pattern continued when they left the shop; they would rip masks off when they stepped outside, and took sips of their drinks before they reached their cars or as they began walking away. Only some of the time did I notice someone who had their mask already on when I first noticed them appear. I think that this has to do with personal freedom intersecting with public duty — people cannot wait to be in the privacy of their own space where masks are not necessary, but they seem to care enough to put masks on if they run the risk of being within six feet of another person, even when outside. People kept their masks on if they were walking past me to leave, and I assume because I did not have a mask on — taking it upon themselves to protect the both of us. What seemed funny while I was there was the urgency of some of the customers to remove their mask to drink their coffee almost immediately after exiting the store, like they would not survive without it for another minute or two.

The Rojas piece weirdly made me connect his analysis of East Los Angeles to the analysis of this Starbucks location. People, props, front yards: all play a role in understanding the

dynamic of the landscape. There are norms that come with going to a coffee shop, especially during Covid times. The front yard, consisting of props like tables and chairs, invite people to sit but we all collectively know that nowadays, there is only room for one to two people at a table. It is no longer a place open to all to congregate. People move out of the space more quickly than before to avoid permeating someone's space. This is a huge indicator of how Covid has changed our landscapes.



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Field Journal #3

Location: Roof of Observatory Flats

Date: 4/14/2021

Time: 8:00PM - 9:30PM

Weather: Chilly

This roof has been a place that my friends and I have been spending more and more time. My friend Kaylee lives in this building, and so two other girls that I live with in the Gamma Phi Beta house spend a lot of time here. It is somewhat of a sanctuary; it's complete with chairs around a firepit, string lights, a grill, and an amazing view of the campus and Denver.

When I sit up here, I feel very at peace. Whether it's quiet and we're taking in the view or we're laughing to tears about something, it feels like a little getaway. This night, we had just cooked and eaten a meal on the roof together, and then moved over to sit by the firepit that we could not figure out how to light. It was freezing, but sitting there with my friends made me feel warm. Not only was I using this space for privacy, but for community. The string lights added a warm glow to the dark evening, and the atmosphere feels almost heavenly. It took me back to family dinners on the back porch when I was growing up. When I sat silent, listening to my friends, I noticed that it was the only sound I heard. Instead of the roar of the campus and urban city below us, I heard only laughter. It kind of makes the space feel "othered" to reality, to the rest of the landscape. But while taking in these observations for this journal, I also felt very lucky to have access to such a space. An expensive apartment building, on a private university campus, with such pristine amenities. A cityscape is no doubt a landscape conquered by man, and built for the leisure of man.

These observations made me think of landscapes as wealth. When you view a landscape in terms of human wealth, a large, beautiful apartment building in one of the most expensive towns in the country fits in somewhat unnoticeably. We look at this in terms of bedrooms and bathrooms for the price, or for the location, etc. And until this year when I began looking for

housing on my own, I had never thought of my landscape in such brash, adult terms. I cared more about how a place felt until recently, and spending time on this balcony has changed my view of the city as a home.



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Field Journal #4

Location: Roof of the Gamma Phi Beta house

Date: May 6, 2021

Time: 3:00 - 4:30PM

The purpose of choosing this location was to observe the interactions of people along Josephine Street, which houses many sororities and a few apartment buildings.

- It's a warm and sunny day after a cold and rainy week.
- There are a number of girls sitting on the front porch of the Delta Gamma house, on blankets or towels.
- A few people, older looking, were walking down the sidewalks, with dogs or baby strollers. Perhaps residents of the nearby neighborhood.
- I noticed some of my housemates also sitting on our front porch and in our backyard, laying in the sun or doing homework outside.
- I notice one girl walk over from the Delta Gamma house to speak to a girl on our Gamma Phi porch, perhaps friends saying hello. No masks were worn but distance was maintained.
- Some younger adults that looked like students were seen getting out of cars/entering their buildings, and one girl stopped to pick up some trash on the sidewalk by her building on the East side of the street.

Josephine is a somewhat busy street. I thought there would be more interaction between students and sorority girls, but I mostly noticed casual residents taking strolls. Only one interaction occurred between two sororities. Our Gamma Phi Beta house is known for its roof, as pre-COVID guests were allowed up there. Thus, a few Gamma Phis came up to the roof to sunbathe or do homework. It began to feel like summer; like a normal world was not so far away. We were all able to come together a little bit easier as vaccinations become more prominent. Connecting this to the Lucero piece seemed like a stretch but I noticed similarities between the

idea of beliefs vs. group/ritual participation, and it reminded me of my sorority. We are all part of this organization with rites and rituals, but we all are our own people with beliefs that we value sharing with people outside of our “sisterhood” and with other sororities.



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Field Journal #5

Location: The Crooked Cup, Old Town Fort Collins

Date: May 10, 2021

Time: 12:00 - 2:00PM

While visiting my partner in Fort Collins, I sat and attended my class via Zoom outside of this coffee shop.

- Sitting outside, masked up, I noticed everyone else sitting at the outdoor seating also kept masks on except for 1 or 2 people.
- Some people took masks completely off to drink or eat, and some only moved it partly.
- It was a generally colder, cloudier day, about 45 degrees. Everyone had light coats on.
- Couples or groups sitting at tables of multiple people were more likely to keep masks on for the duration of their stay.
- There was a slight smell of food and pastries, but strangely enough, the air had a thick odor of cow and horse feces, traveling over from Greeley.
- Once I moved inside, I noticed everyone was drinking and eating, and there was a small minority keeping masks on.
- Others were also on computers or had books out.
- Workers and customers seemed to have a “happy” vibe, despite it being a Monday. There were smiles and laughs exchanged between workers and customers.

Old Town Fort Collins is a historic and beautiful part of the city, and it is what made me fall in love with Fort Collins. There are lots of shops, boutiques, and unique hole-in-the-wall restaurants. I think that these types of small-town areas make people happier — there is more to discover when you’re out, there is more creativity and individuality coming through the town and it is usually better kept and more colorful as well. It reminds me of Old Town Temecula, the place as I chose as one of my favorites at the beginning of the year. The level of artistic expression coming through the town, alongside vintage shops and quirky businesses, reminds me of how I grew up and how my personality was shaped from that age onward. This got me thinking again about the Meinig piece and about landscapes as history. Not only are “old towns” a historical nod to the past, but they represent how different things used to be. From the way lots

and streets are set up, to the facades and buildings and what is considered important - greenery and culture as opposed to corporate ownership of space.



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Field Journal #6

Location: Second floor of community commons

Date: May 7, 2021

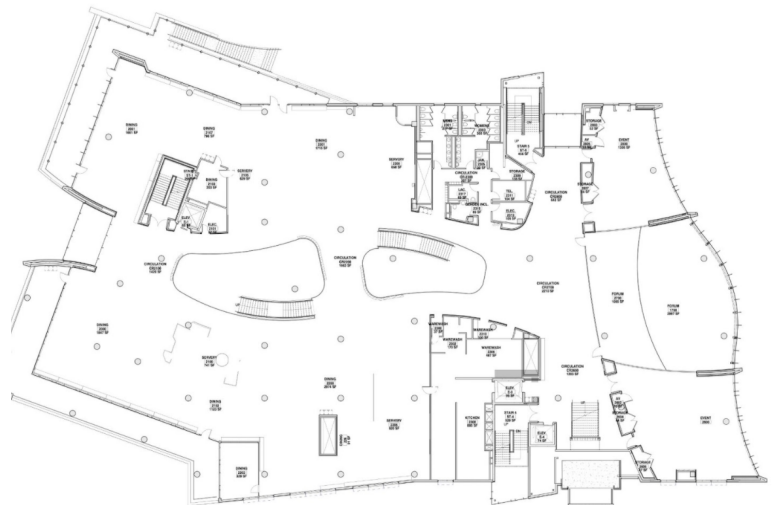
Time: 12:00 - 12:30PM

For our group observation project of the community commons, I observed:

- Two students with masks doing school work at opposite ends of the long tables. No food, and both drank water from underneath their masks without taking it off. There were conversations between them; likely friends
- Soft music playing, not loud enough to not be able to focus, but I noticed many students sitting nearby wearing earphones to potentially block out the sound/listen to their own music
- Group of 4 people sitting at the table on the opposite side of the window, above the lecture room. All eating, no masks. Social distancing was not maintained, but nobody came to tell them to put masks on or to separate while eating
- All the students that I observed walking around kept masks on.
- I did not notice any students flip a cleaning card after use of a table.
- Event 2800 had a number of students socially distanced and wearing masks, all doing work.
- Generally, students abided by mask and distancing rules.
- The best natural lighting is in this room due to the large window in the back of the room.
- The table on the balcony of the forum/lecture room is opposite a large window as well, but there is a short wall blocking sunlight to the table for doing work.
- The middle walkway area (circulation CR2700) with the few chairs has minimal natural lighting, except by the North window.
- Artificial and hanging lighting around the area makes it suitable for doing work, but for reading I would recommend sitting against the window in the lounge/event room (Event 2600).

Observing the community commons opened my eyes to many surprising things. For one, COVID compliance is not something that everybody takes seriously, even in public buildings. Despite the amount of staff monitoring for COVID violations, students still felt enough ownership over the space to disregard some rules. Groth writes that “ordinary, everyday landscapes are important and worthy of study” (3), because a landscape is made up of interactions between people and a space. While the new building, with all of its intended uses, seemed grand and perfect, closer study revealed some changes that could better improve these interactions—between people, people and space, and people and rules. How does sense of ownership impact a person’s relationship with rules? Do we feel above them when we have ownership, or a greater sense of responsibility to them? To see people choose to do what they want, rather than what architects,

Below is a sense map of sounds created by my teammate Sofia Krom. Her mapping of sounds helped us determine how intended use (studying) vs. actual use (eating, socializing) play out in the new building. We found that not every area was conducive to studying, and so students were putting earphones in in order to make the space work for them.



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Field Journal #7

Location: Wash Park bench by the blacktop trail

Date: May 14, 2021

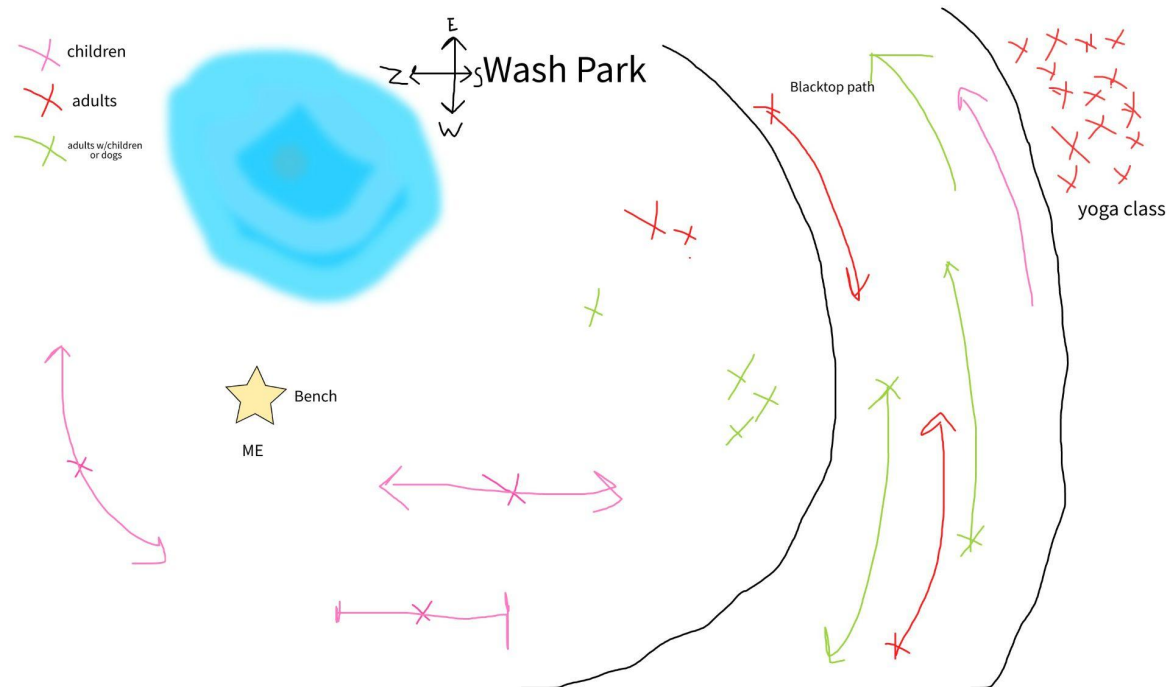
Time: 12:15 - 3:30PM

For this field journal, I chose to spend the morning/afternoon at Wash Park due to the warm(ish) weather.

- It's a Thursday afternoon, so I did not see as many adults as I did kids and teenagers.
- Some children were riding bikes or skateboards along the path
- Groups of people sat on blankets with food
- About 75 percent of the adults I saw were strolling along the path, some with dogs
- Most people weren't wearing masks, were mostly spread apart unless in small groups
- There were kids throwing a ball around, little kids playing, etc.
- A yoga class was being taught in a corner of the park.
- I noticed a lot of space and leeway given to bikers, which is out of safety and not only common courtesy

Wash Park is one of the most socially active parks near the University of Denver. It is very large, and features a long trail/path for walking and spaces for children. People host yoga classes and the like there. It was interesting to see the shift in how COVID has impacted social rules, as many believe we are on the tail end of the pandemic with vaccinations on the rise. People are more inclined to go outside and to be near other people, even if socially distanced. The lack of mask usage highlighted this; many people do not wear masks when walking by themselves through a neighborhood, but in the past they were quite common even in public outdoor spaces. This field session got me thinking about Setha Low's "On the Plaza," in which she discusses how even in public spaces like parks, different groups embody different levels of ownership. In one of her examples, a group of shoemakers was considered the elite, the respected. They essentially owned a corner of the plaza. While this park is not as commercial as the plazas in her book, I was still interested to find that there are only a few displays such as this. For example, the yoga class being taught—while that corner of the park is not owned by one entity, it was understood not to invade the space while the class is going on. People did not walk right into a

game that children were playing. Seeing how people create respect in shared spaces reminded me that public space is not necessarily shared space, and that it is a community's responsibility to make it so.



Hannah Yonas

Field Journal #8

Location: Green by JMAC and Nelson Hall

Date: May 16, 2021

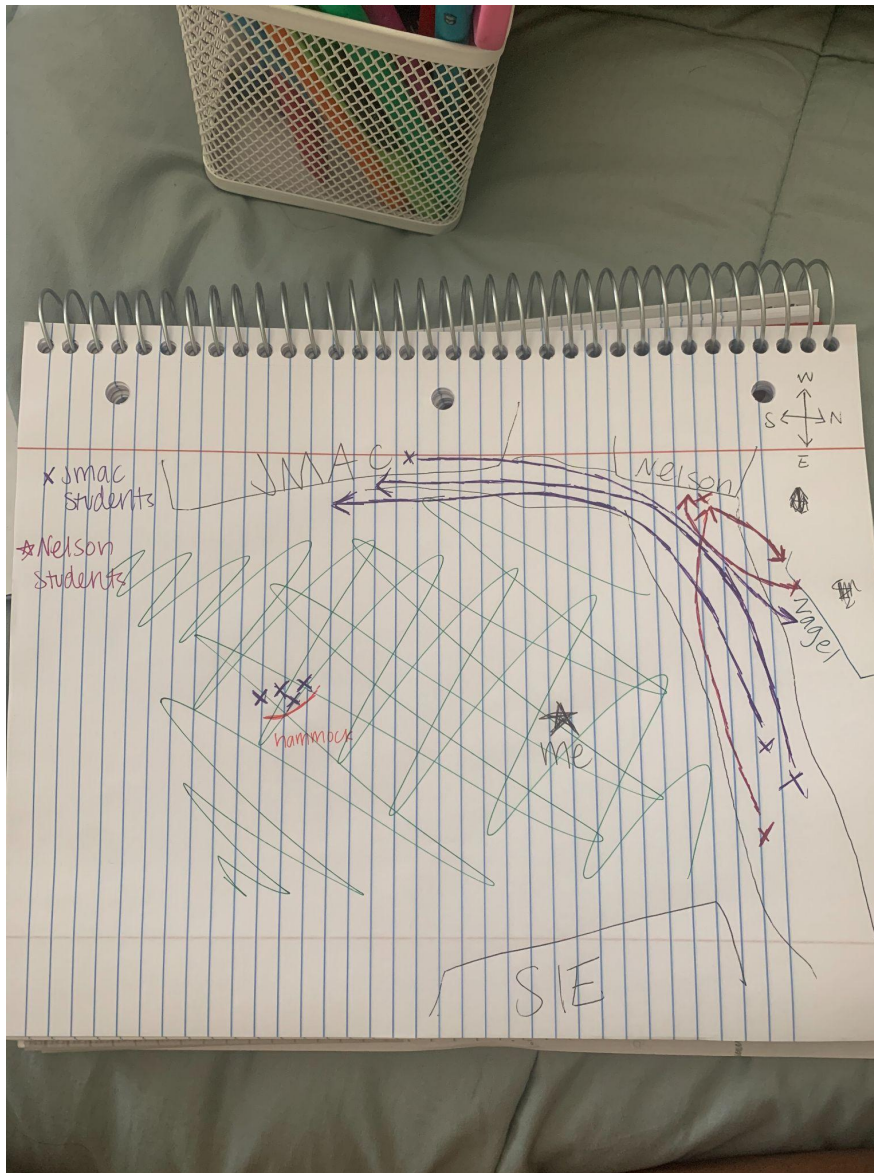
Time: 3:00 - 4:00PM

While sitting on the grass, I tried to observe what kinds of student maneuver this area, why, and how:

- I noticed many students leaving and entering Nelson, a primarily second year dorm. Some students entered the Nagel dining hall, where there is a COVID spit testing location.
- A number of students left JMAC, the first year dorm, to get a spit test in Nagel as well.
- I noticed more first-years coming back towards JMAC from the center of campus, with the to-go boxed food (likely from the community commons, where Dimond first year students eat). Perhaps this is because they have first-year peers living in Dimond. The community commons is now the main food source on campus.
- Most students kept masks on while walking through campus, per DU rules.
- A group of students sitting in hammocks closer to JMAC were well-hidden by their hammocks, but I noticed they were in a group of four with no masks on.
- I did not see many staff walking through this part of campus.
- I had a slight view of Beans Cafe, and noticed one student sitting outside with a mask on and a computer.

COVID, alongside new innovations, has changed DU campus life tremendously. The new community commons was built to be the crux of campus: the social hang out, the dining hall, a place to study, a classroom. It's purpose was to replace a number of dining spots on campus. Due to COVID, Nagel dining has been turned into a testing center. Students are supposed to wear masks while walking through campus, and Beans has likely had to limit its capacity. All of this has culminated in a reworking of campus space use, such as Beans for doing homework, walking farther than you used to to get food. And frustrations seem to be shining through, primarily by way of refusal to mask up. Sadler & Given discuss affordances: the things given to a space in order for it to be used how it was intended, for who it was intended. Students have had to adapt to new affordances (example, Commons dining), or create their own (sitting outside, hidden

away in order to feel free from mask rules). These kinds of observations that are unique to the time we are in demonstrate how affordances, or lack thereof, impact the way we, students at DU, experience campus life. Whether it be for better or for worse, some will work with what they have and others will make it for themselves.



Hannah Yonas

Field Journal #9

Location: Outdoor seating for Ben & Jerry's on Evans

Date: May 17, 2021

Time: 8:30 - 9:00PM

I was feeling very sick and had a sore throat, so I had a male friend walk me to Ben & Jerry's (for protection) for ice cream, ideally wanting to observe gendered interaction on a busy walkway at night. This field session was inspired by Sewell's "Everyday America."

- It was getting dark, and street light posts had begun to turn on. There was minimal lighting outside where we were sitting.
- A number of young people walked by, DU-age looking, of all genders. Most walked right by us, and either slightly glanced in our direction or didn't look at all.
- A few older people walked by, towards University Blvd. A woman with her child smiled and waved at us.
- A middle-aged man turning down Evans after heading south on University looked at my friend and I two different times, once when turning the corner, and again when passing us. If I was alone, I would have felt unsafe despite the lack of action by the stranger.
- When two girls were about to cross Evans, a group of about 4 or 5 boys were heading down Evans towards them. I did not notice a physical sign, but I noticed that they crossed University first and then Evans, rather than Evans followed by University, even though they were already walking down Evans to begin with. If I had to guess, I would say they did it to remain in their own space and avoid the boys.

Sewell discusses how gender neutral spaces are not really gender neutral. Women generally have good reason to feel unsafe in a space occupied by men, even though there are other women and genders that are free to use the space as well. As we all know, a majority of gender-based violence against women is committed by men, and that number is high. While Sewell also notes that men can feel uncomfortable in a space dominated by women, it is likely not out of fear for physical safety. This is a harrowing fact, and goes to show how public spaces may not always feel safe or shared. On the other hand, public spaces may be the safest place for women to be, where bystanders may potentially be around. Gender-based violence, not only against women but against nonbinary and gender non-conforming people as well. How can we make private spaces

feel safer? Gender-neutral bathrooms are a safe space for gender neutral people, but can we make this a federal requirement? These are questions I would like to explore.



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Field Journal #10

Location: Roof of Observatory Flats

Date: May 20, 2021

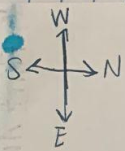
Time: 10:30 - 12:00 PM

For my final field journal, I decided to return to my favorite location: the roof of my best friend's apartment building.

- It is a clear, hot, sunny day. On days like these we like to sit/lay outside.
- There are only my two friends and I on the roof, but someone opens the door to the roof. I assume they were checking to see if it was clear, but they leave before I have a chance to welcome them up to the roof.
- There are five water bottles between the three of us laid around, filled to the brim.
- We use the fire pit chairs, which are not necessarily sun/lounging chairs, to sunbathe in.
- I can hear the bustling of University Blvd, even over our music playing from a speaker.
- We are not joined by anyone else, so we are able to maintain social distancing on the roof for the duration that we were there.

This space is honestly not very special in and of itself. The fire pit doesn't work, the grill is hard to maneuver, there is only one table up there. But for my friends and I, it is a place to gather, hang out, cook, sunbathe, do homework. We create our own affordances to adapt the space to what we are using it for that time: plates and silverware for cooking dinner, portable chargers and WiFi hotspots, towels. It was interesting to me that the last time I was here, I could barely hear the city below me. But today, I could hear it over my own attempts to mask it with music. Is this part of campus busier during the day?

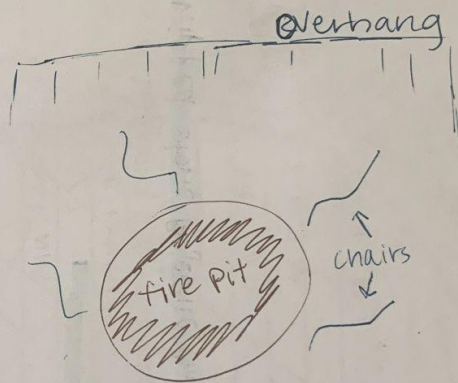
The memories that I have attached to the roof are what make it feel special to me. I made new friends on this roof, and got closer to ones I already had. We tried to create a tradition of cooking "family" dinner up there every week, and while that hasn't always worked out, it represented our commitment to our friendships no matter what. Spaces can shift and change meanings through time and through relationships. It may not always function only one way. In this way, I've come to truly appreciate how I can make space for myself (actual use vs. intended use).



Observatory Flats Roof

Grill

Table



- remained stagnant
- only moved to drink water
- lots of sounds (cars, trees whistling, dogs barking)
- very hot
- music playing

X
me

X
friend

X
friend