

Interview History

INTERVIEWER: Amanda Díaz – undergraduate student at the University of Puget Sound’s History department for her Summer Research project.

TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

Time: Wednesday, August 9nd 10AM

Place: Tacoma, WA

Total number of recorder hours: 1 hour and 5 minutes

Persons present during interview: Amanda Díaz and Tomas Madrigal

CONDUCT AND PROCESSING OF INTERVIEW:

This interview is part of the Summer Research Richard Bangs Collier Scholarship at the University of Puget Sound for the project titled, *The American Creed: Immigration and Detention in Tacoma*. The interview was conducted in English.

Amanda Díaz prepared for this interview by taking the HIS 387: History of US Immigration course taught by Prof. Andrew Gomez in the History department. Amanda has also presented at President Crawford's Inauguration Symposium about the private-immigration detention center in Tacoma, the Northwest Detention Center. She also founded the club called Advocates for Detained Voices, a club that works with a local nonprofit to provide legal and counselling services for families affected by the NWDC.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Records relating to the interview are located in the Archives at Collins Memorial Library at the University of Puget Sound.

Table of Contents- TOMAS MADRIGAL

Wednesday, August 9th 10am in Tacoma, WA

(1:00)- His mother's immigration history, who were migrant farm workers that immigrated from Mexico to the United States in 1963 at the tail end of the Bracero Program.

(3:56)- Father's immigration history, Tomas talks about his father's experience migrating and getting deported from Texas.

"He was willing to do the work at the grain elevator that others didn't want to do"

(12:05)- Tomas discusses how his mother continued to be a seasonal farmworker and her mobility upward into a management position and his father moving upward into mechanical positions after new technology was created on the farms.

(20:19)- Community 2 Community, founded in 1980 as a result of the sanctuary movement from Central America. Tomas discusses the various milestones the grassroots organization has gone through as well as the importance of women leadership and the intersections between private immigration detention and migrant farmworkers.

(31:50)- Tomas talks about his involvement in Community to Community as a researcher on-site and some of the policies that came out as a result of his work

(36:30)- Tomas discusses some of the strategies that Community 2 Community and the NWDC Resistance have used.

(46:49)- The connection between privatized security on farms and privatized immigration detention and references the "private security industrial complex."

(53:10)- Those on the front line are queer and feminist who support these kind of coalition work more than immigrants and Latinos. What gets erased by history is that, at almost at every stage of struggle, the people that are putting their lives on the line, the people that are doing the work, tend to be queer people of color and are at the forefront of social justice movements

(58:53)- Latinos are impacted profoundly by the NWDC especially with family separation, it is a silent contributor to a lot of family's trauma

(1:01:31)- Tomas discusses some of the conflict between various activist groups. He believes that any legal community does is not enough because it is a "band-aid to something that is bleeding more profusely." The strategy they are taking is to go upstream and looking like revoking GEO's contract is more effective.