



**“We Got Outsiders
Up in Here!”**

Ethnographic Research as a
Tool for Critical Renewal

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"we got
outsiders
up in here"

agenda:

framing comments

offering: ethnographic story

exercise: mapping belonging
closing

SAVANNAH SHANGE
**PROGRESSIVE
DYSTOPIA**

ABOLITION,
ANTIBLACKNESS,
+ SCHOOLING
IN SAN FRANCISCO



ethnography:
the science
of storytelling

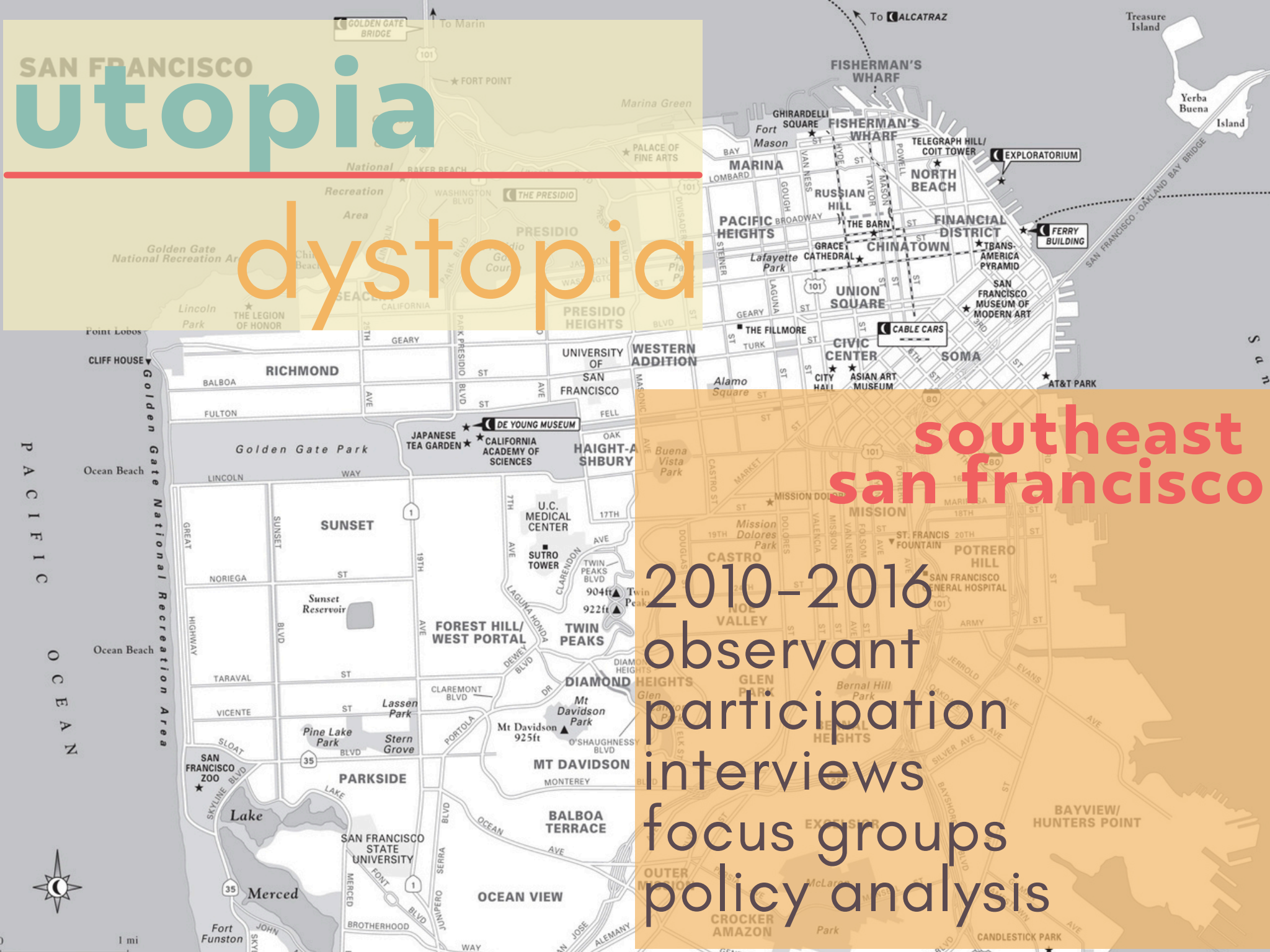
*what would it take
for every child to
belong?*

SAN FRANCISCO
utopia

dystopia

**southeast
san francisco**

2010-2016
observant
participation
interviews
focus groups
policy analysis



**“we got
outsiders
up in here”**

An Ethnographic Story of Un-Belonging

Aaron:

... one thing is like, **y'all** could be like, it's not worth getting pissed about, **it's whatever**. You could apologize if you disrespected someone, you could realize you have more in common than in terms of differences and move with our school's R.I.C.H. values. Or you could take it to be a racial thing, like "those Latin boys are disrespectin' me!" and "those Black girls are disrespectin' me!" and before you know it, you have **the prison culture**. You have people actin' all in the street yesterday in a way that is gonna get them locked up. That is exactly what the people in power want. So I had no choice but to call SFPD - **we got outsiders up in here!"**

Jacki: Somebody went to jail?

Aaron: No, because SFPD is so incompetent they didn't get here soon enough. I wish they had.

Jacki: You want somebody to go to jail?!

Cyarea: Exactly.

Jacki: So if the S-F-... whatever the hell they called, the police came up here and tried to take them boys to jail, you would let them?

Aaron: The ones who don't go here, yes. Not my own students. I don't have time for outsiders. I don't give a crap about them. If they are gonna come up here and mess with our students, then I am gonna have the SFPD come up here and throw them on the ground, and knock their heads, knock their heads - yes."

Juan Carlos: Excuse me, but what did she do before the fight?

Cyarea: They spat on Neveah!

Juan Carlos: Um, what did she do?

Cyarea: They spat on Neveah!

Juan Carlos: She threw some hot sauce!

Cyarea: Oh well, he was talkin hella shit and that's a whole ass girl! They was tryna fight her, she threw hot sauce, oh well! Like boys tryna fight a girl? C'mon.

Aaron: "But Cyarea, no, listen to Juan Carlos..."

Jacki: Why you keep letting him talk but not me?

Aaron: Cause he is saying **reasonable stuff** instead of interrupting me.

Jacki: Okay, wow, I don't care. **I don't care.**

Aaron:

I spend **a lot of time** listening to you, and we as a school spent a lot of time trying to help you and support you, and if you don't feel that way, that's your business, and then you have an **inaccurate perception of how the world is treating you**. So if you have an inaccurate perception of how the world is treating you, you are going to react in negative ways. I'm not saying we're perfect, I'm saying I treat you with a lot of respect. **You have disrespected me in a lot of ways.**

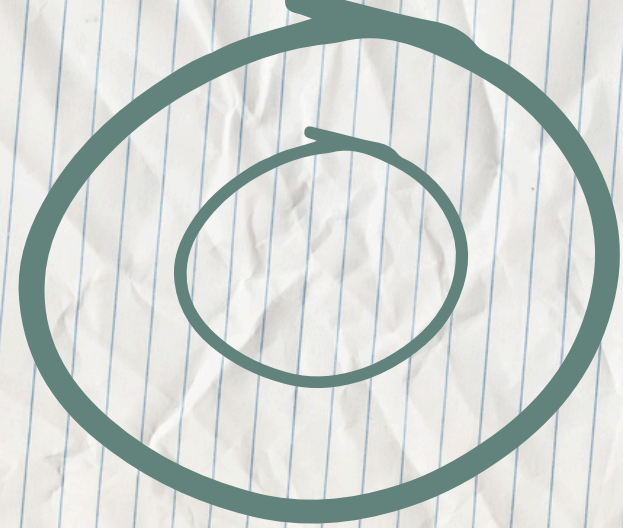
Jacki: Do you hear yourself? How I disrespect you?

Aaron: So I don't take it personal, but you not always on point yourself in terms of how you especially treat adults, then don't be complaining that we don't let you talk.

Jacki: You don't.

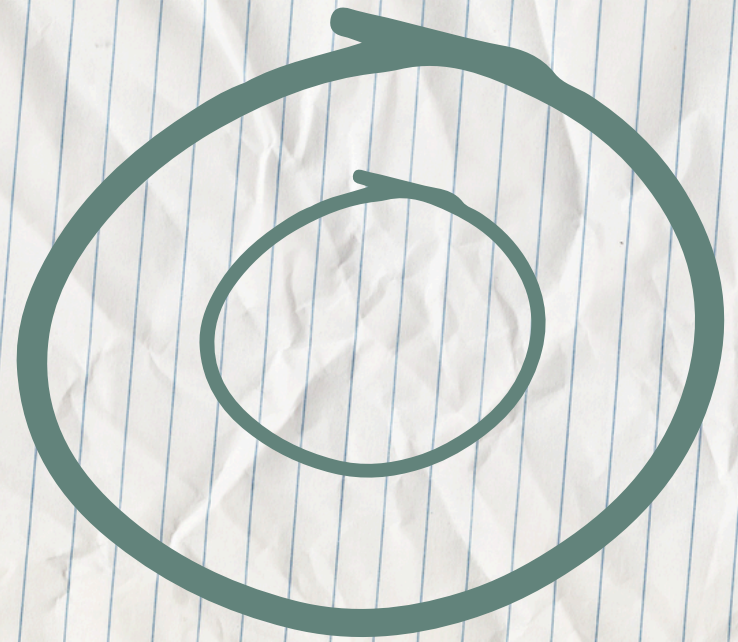
Aaron: We don't always have to let you talk, **it ain't always aboutchu.**

mapping belonging:



- **Draw** two large concentric circles on a piece of physical paper.
- In the center circle, write the name of one young person who is **well loved** by peers and adults in your workplace.
- Outside the outermost circle, write the name of a young person who is often a **problem or an outlier** – include students who may have been asked to leave your program.
- Place **yourself** in one of the circles with a bold **ME** in a box.
- Continue populating your belonging map with **8-10 more youth & staff** – who is at the center? Who is at the periphery?

five minute free write:

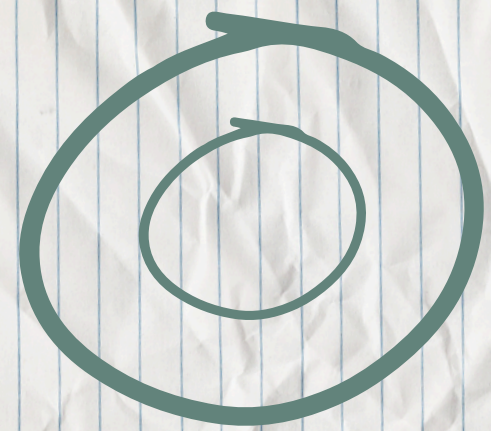


- How does **your position** on the map shape the work you are able to do?
- What **connections**, if any, do you see between the folks in the center circle & those in the outer circles?
- What kinds of **relationships** do you have to folks in each circle? What might it look like to deepen them?

community share:

If you feel comfortable, turn on your camera & hold up your map of belonging!

relationships
as a resource
for **renewal**:
going deeper



“Everything worthwhile is done with other people.”
- *Mariame Kaba*

