



SOCI4900A: Kiana Lawrence

Migrant Justice Network

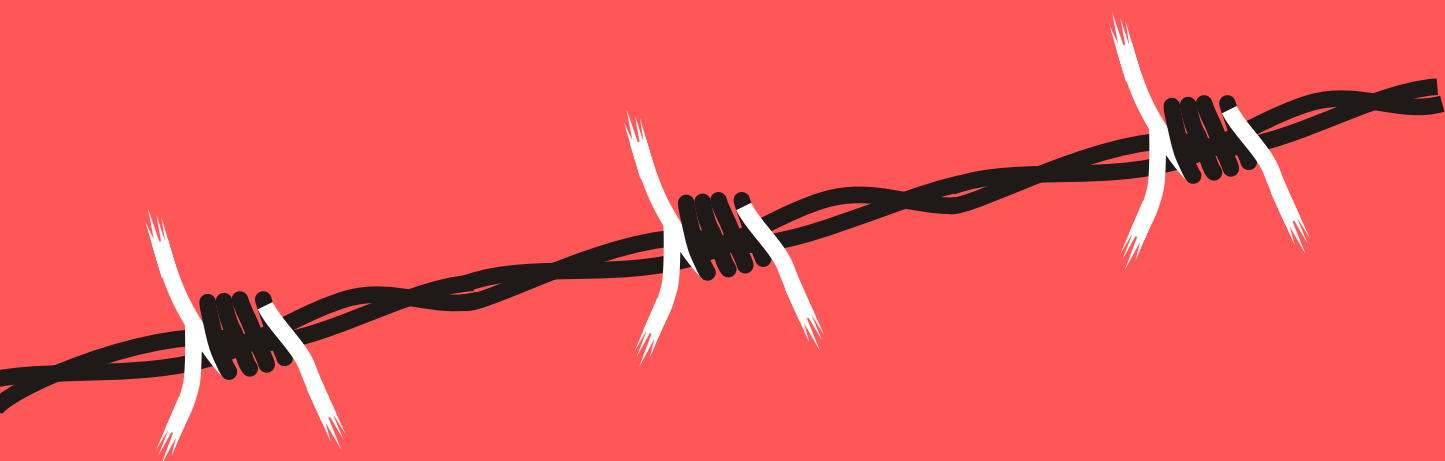
There is a privilege in the freedom to move and the freedom to stay. This research project explores the activism in a migrant justice organization Solidarity Across Borders who actively confront the unjust immigration and refugee system. The project explores the experiences of activists within a migrant justice organization and the activism they promote for migrant individuals within society.



The Research Question

The research project was based off of these following questions:

- (1) What does activism relating to migrants in Canada look like and what are the goals of activists in relation to migrant rights?
- (2) What are the practices used to achieve these goals within the organization Solidarity Across Borders (SAB)?

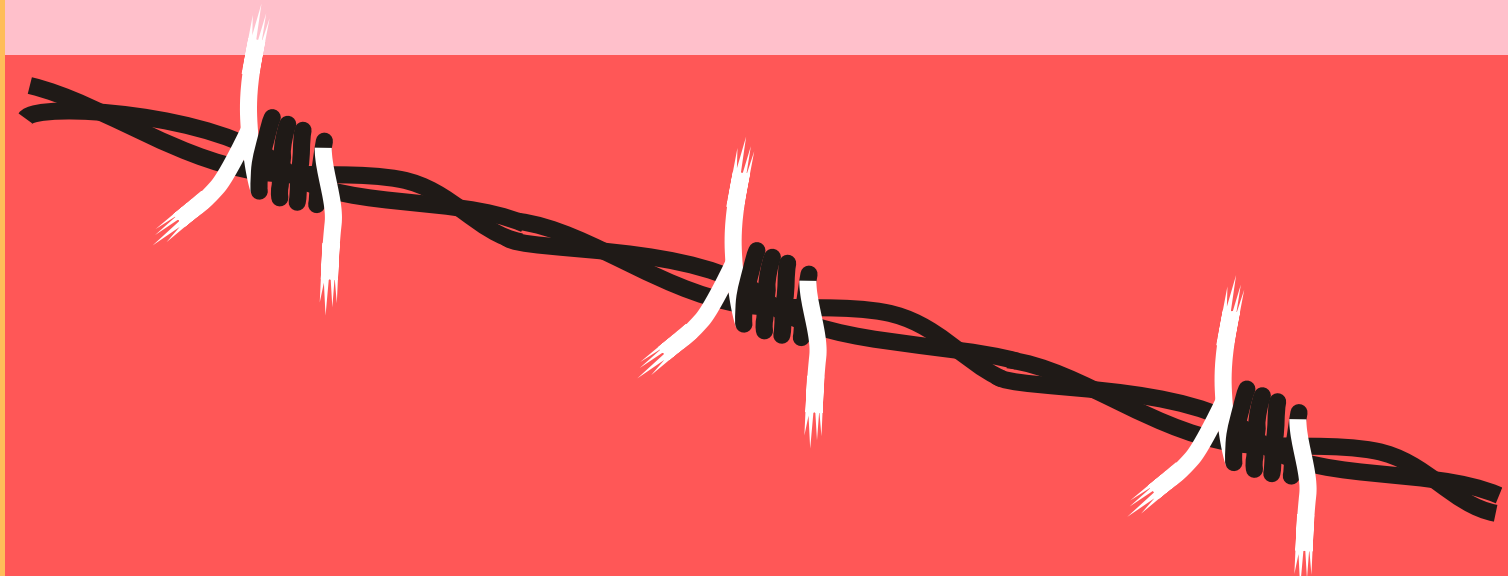


Significance

This research project seeks to contribute to the ways in which activists directly contribute to solidarity for migrant rights, in turn promoting the well-being of lives in our society for today and for the future. The activism that is implemented helps create change for a world where there is social equality.

Research Design

1. The first step for this research project is getting ethics approval before I started recruitment.
2. Recruitment of three individuals who work with SAB lead to three qualitative, semi structured interviews.
3. After the interviews transcribing and coding of the data started which allowed me to organize my themes and a narrative analysis



Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework used for the research project was grounded theory. Grounded theory can be understood as "a theory is not discovered; rather, theory is constructed by the researcher who views the world through their own particular lens" (Chun Tie et al, 2019, p.3).



Narrative Analysis

From the interviews, a narrative analysis is understood by taking what each interviewee has mentioned and creating a biography which brings their experience into light. The story allows for the themes presented in the data to be showcased which can be connected to both the understanding of the research project and the solidarity that is relatable between each interviewee's lived experience.

Below is summary of each interviewee.

Richard

A former refugee who's passion for SAB came from the abolishment perspective that SAB holds. He has been active with SAB for 6 years and continues to do work that builds genuine links between human beings.

Elliot

Branching from his own lived experience his passion for SAB came from his own struggles through the immigration system. He has been active with SAB since 2001 and he believes that there should be a world where borders do not prevent you from doing what you please.

Mack

During his time in a detention centre for 5 months and two weeks his passion for SAB came from the love and support that SAB gave him during his months of detainment. He believes that we are all the same in the world and should be treated equally.



Analysis of Themes

1. Bordering

- The link between the oppressive state and abolishing borders
- Borders are a way we perceive the world around us and our identities through barriers of citizenship and belonging.

2. Activism

- There are many ways activism is practiced and the engagement of each practice (protest, marches etc) allow for a greater sense of solidarity to be produced.
- Collaboration with other organizations who want to dismantle state oppression is crucial to connecting de-bordering into real life scenarios.

Implications

My research focused on the activism that is implemented in society however through my findings concrete change needs to happen at an institutional level that dismantles state violence.

This research contributes to the fight for migrant right justice however it does not contribute to policy's being changed that would help activists in the work they pursue.

Hopefully if there is change in institutional policies future research can focus on the links of policies to migration network justice.

