

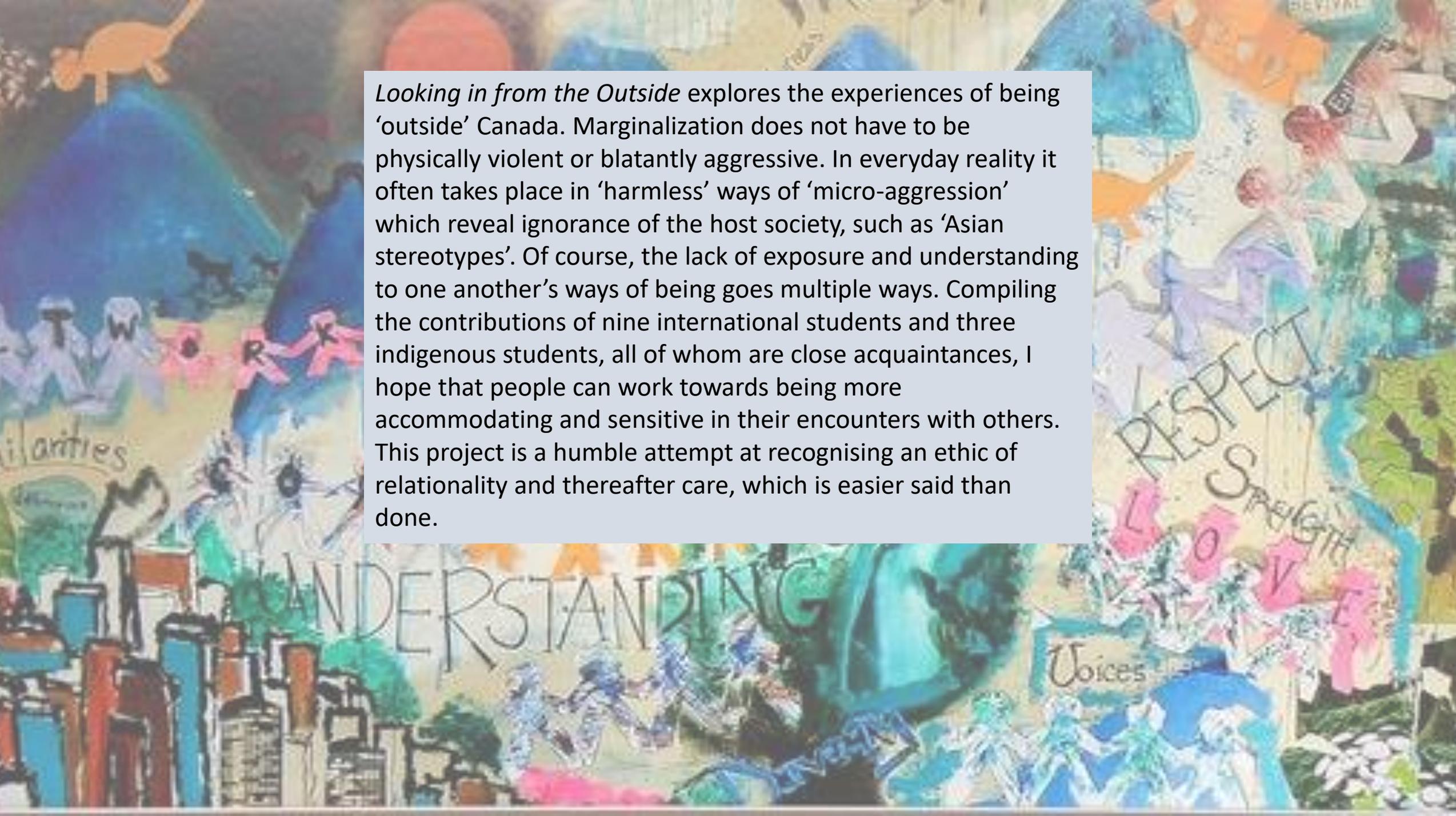
Looking in from the Outside

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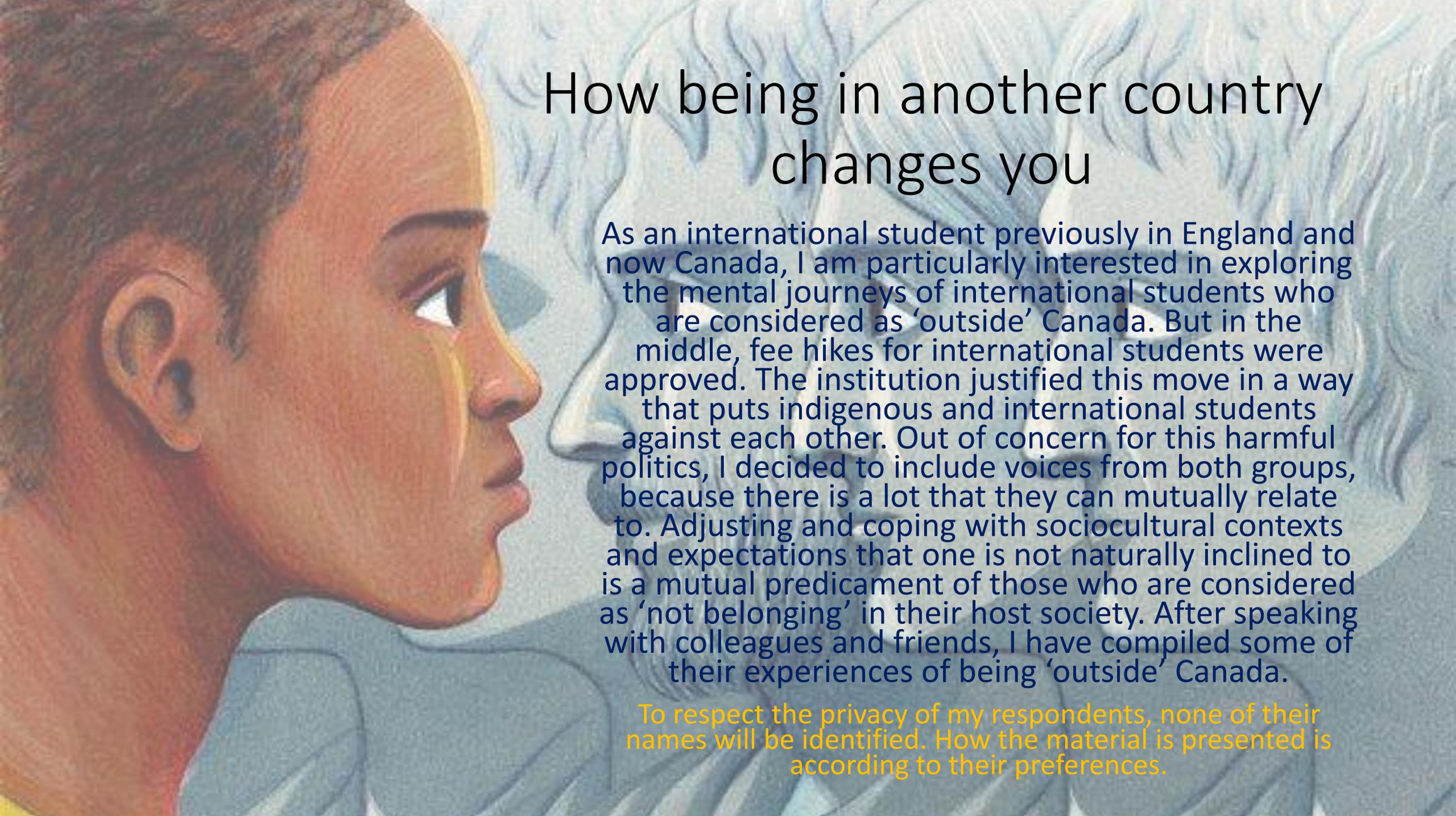


Looking in from the Outside explores the experiences of being 'outside' Canada. Marginalization does not have to be physically violent or blatantly aggressive. In everyday reality it often takes place in 'harmless' ways of 'micro-aggression' which reveal ignorance of the host society, such as 'Asian stereotypes'. Of course, the lack of exposure and understanding to one another's ways of being goes multiple ways. Compiling the contributions of nine international students and three indigenous students, all of whom are close acquaintances, I hope that people can work towards being more accommodating and sensitive in their encounters with others. This project is a humble attempt at recognising an ethic of relationality and thereafter care, which is easier said than done.

Territory Acknowledgement



I acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen-speaking and SENĆOŦEN-speaking peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, specifically the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose relationships with the land continue to this day.



How being in another country changes you

As an international student previously in England and now Canada, I am particularly interested in exploring the mental journeys of international students who are considered as 'outside' Canada. But in the middle, fee hikes for international students were approved. The institution justified this move in a way that puts indigenous and international students against each other. Out of concern for this harmful politics, I decided to include voices from both groups, because there is a lot that they can mutually relate to. Adjusting and coping with sociocultural contexts and expectations that one is not naturally inclined to is a mutual predicament of those who are considered as 'not belonging' in their host society. After speaking with colleagues and friends, I have compiled some of their experiences of being 'outside' Canada.

To respect the privacy of my respondents, none of their names will be identified. How the material is presented is according to their preferences.



UNIVERSITY
AGAINST THE
DIVESTMENT OF
UNETHICAL INVESTMENTS

GRAD STUDENTS
AGAINST THE
DIVESTMENT OF
UNETHICAL INVESTMENTS

Domestic
Solidarity

Diversify
UNETHICAL
INVESTMENTS

UNIVERSITY
AGAINST THE
DIVESTMENT OF
UNETHICAL INVESTMENTS

UNIVERSITY

Diversify
UNETHICAL
INVESTMENTS



UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA HATES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS UNLESS THEY'RE RICH

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

FOOD NOT FEES

PEOPLE OVER PROFIT

FOOD NOT FEES



YOU
ARE SO
LOVED

WE WELCOME:

ALL races and ethnicities





“It is within our differences that we are both most powerful and most vulnerable, and some of the most difficult tasks of our lives are the claiming of differences and learning to use those differences as bridges rather than as barriers between us”.

-Audre Lorde, *I Am Your Sister: Collected and Unpublished Writings*.

Respondent 1

From Bhutan

Lived in India and Australia, now Canada



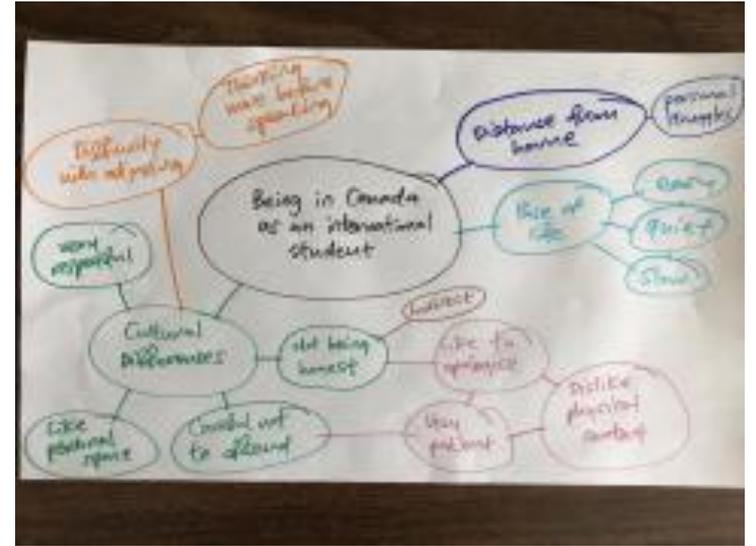
- More critical of one's own thoughts and opinions
- Changed perceptions: one's shortcomings can be seen as strengths
- Attachment to home has only gotten stronger over time

A dirt road with a yellow center line winds through a vast, open landscape. The terrain is a mix of brown and green, suggesting a dry or semi-arid environment. In the background, there are dark, rugged mountains under a clear sky. The overall scene is one of a long, solitary journey.

JUST BECAUSE
MY PATH
IS DIFFERENT
DOESN'T MEAN
I'M LOST.

Respondent 2

From Israel



- Cultural differences: like to apologise, careful about offending, very respectful, enjoy personal space, dislike overly close physical contact
- Admire some social norms, but still struggling with the long distance from home
 - Easy, quiet, slow pace of life is a welcome change



Respondent 3

- Changes in identity: visitor to student
- Changes in self-perception: Native > minority
- Struggle with coping with new norms and expectations
 - Language differences is one of the largest obstacles
- Not direct confrontation but soft and subtle social pressure
- Compared to home country, Canada does not seem as strict with social expectations about general manners and behavior

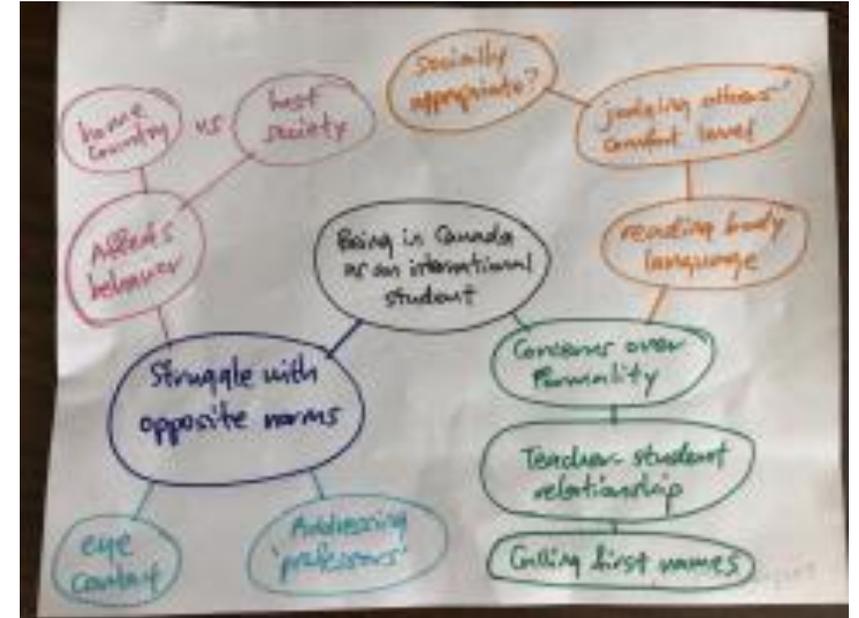




Respondent 4

From Cambodia
Lived in Japan, now Canada

- Struggle with opposite social norms
- Eg. making appropriate eye contact and addressing professors
- Concerns over the appropriate level of formality





Respondent 5



- Very liberal social atmosphere; generally individualistic culture
 - Different moral and ethical priorities
- Eg. expectations of ‘rewards’ in career advancement, concept of time and lateness
- Many cultures do not share the norms of materialistic benefits from being on the job
 - Emotion, especially love, is where human beings are all the same
 - “We’re the same in different ways”
 - Internet and digital communication is extremely important
 - A mixture of adjusting/changing and conforming to social norms
 - Internal balancing act



Equal
beneath
the
surface



Being in Canada
as an international
student

Nice weather
in Victoria
😊

Expensive rent
in Victoria

Everything is
huge
chips
Milk
Milk
4L

challenging
assumptions

Far-
away
from
everywhere

having
new
fantastic
friends
International
environment

challenging
cultural
stereotypes

Adjustment
issues
24 hours
from home

Cars (huge,
noisy, big
engines.

Stress related
concerns



What about everyone else? That shirt is displaying "REVERSE RACISM."

managing
finance

managing
stress and
workload.

accustom to new
practices
learning

expensive international
food.

Being in
Canada

interacting with
culturally diverse
people

Difficulties
in culturally
integrating

Fighting ethnic
stereotypes

Keeping in touch
with friends and
family back home
through time zone
differences

making
great
friends.



WE JUDGE
BECAUSE
WE DON'T
UNDER-
STAND





Language Barrier

Financial Problem

Problems

met :c:

Visa/Study permit

Accommodation and Rent

Neutral
:)):

Climate and weather

Food

Public transportation

Being in Canada
as an international
student

Great environment

Wow!

:)):

Nice folks

Easy for driving

Beautiful scenery

Relaxed atmosphere

???. More to be explored...

WHY IS COLOR

SEPERATING US?



being an Indigenous Student in Canada

emotionally
mentally
taxing
physically
spiritually

Stressful

pressure

institutional racism

challenging

over committed
(family, community,
school, profession)

balancing act

emotional

emotionally taxing

isolating

exhausting

rewarding

good friends / relationships
and connections



EQUALITY



Love one another, shall we?



NETBALL

WEST

LOVE

LOVE

LOVE

LOVE

LOVE

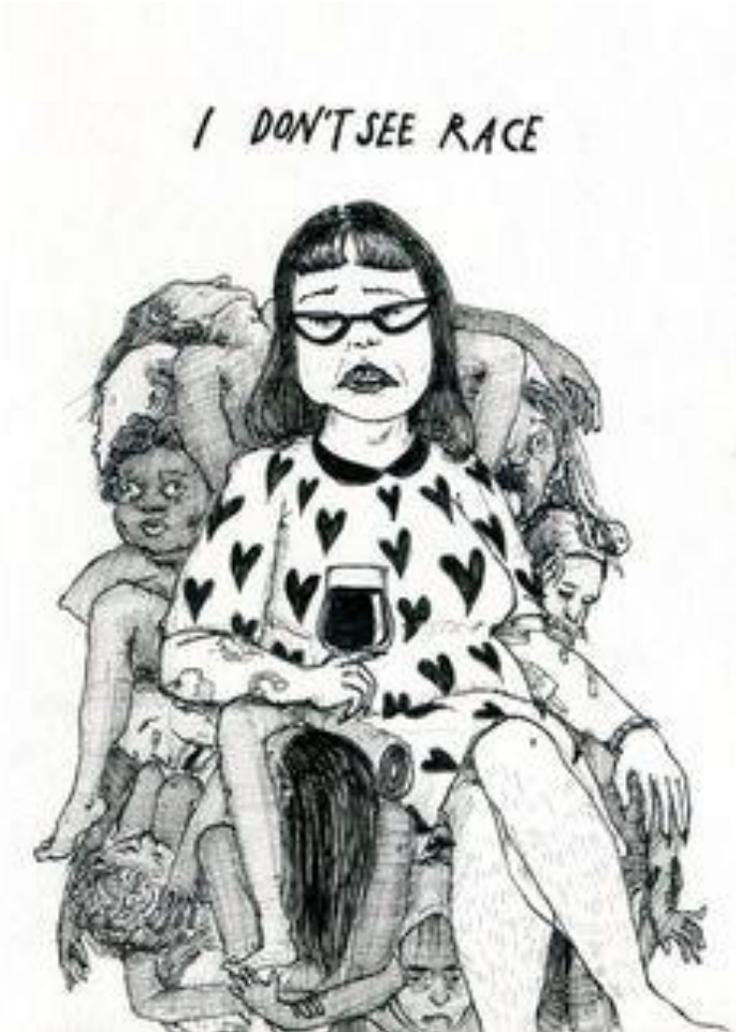
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Let's face it. We're undone by each other.
And if we're not, we're missing something.



For if I am confounded by you, then you are already of me, and I am nowhere without you. I cannot muster the 'we' except by finding the way in which I am tied to 'you,' by trying to translate but finding that my own language must break up and yield if I am to know you. You are what I gain through this disorientation and loss. This is how the human comes into being, again and again, as that which we have yet to know.

-Judith Butler, *Precarious Life: The Powers of Mourning and Violence*