



CSU East Bay's

Student Ethnographic Journal (SEJ) 2022 – 2023

Issue #1 – The Question of Housing



A production of the Anthropology program's
Field Course in Ethnography (ANTH 430)

*Ethnography is the practice and product of research on social and
cultural experiences*

Curious? Interested? Contact Prof. Tony Marks-Block:
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Familismo La Nueva Juala de Oro

By Josephine Rodriguez

For many first-generation students, balancing school with other life responsibilities can be difficult. We've often heard about how tough it is for those who live on-campus or on their own while going to school— but what about those who don't even have that option? In immigrant families, many of us feel like we're 'tied' to the home. This concept of *familismo* is explained as an emphasis on “family loyalty and closeness”, often “requiring an individual family member to put the needs of their family first, even if it means making personal sacrifices” (Sy and Romero 2008). Students in these circumstances feel “tied” not only due to an overwhelming feeling of responsibility, but financial necessity. There is limited money and intergenerational knowledge about housing, leaving us feeling powerless.

Carlos is a 25-year-old student attending community college in the suburbs of the East Bay, on the path to entering a medical program. He lives at home with his family consisting of his mother, his sister and her two young children.

Carlos's living situation is not characteristically unique, many college attendees still live at home with family, as seen in a survey conducted by our class, a staggering 73% reported the same situation. While, certainly, living at home provides some luxuries, it does not come without some hurdles. Many students had complaints about noise, lack of space, not having enough time for schoolwork, and overall difficulty focusing. Carlos has expressed similar sentiments, stating that he is often in charge of looking after the children— leaving it challenging for him to get homework done, or even attend class sometimes. This struggle is commonplace for other immigrant Latinx students, as many take on roles as “surrogate parents”, and are “still expected to fulfill a family care-taking role” while attending college (Sy and Romero 2008).

Not only does living in a crowded home come with noise and distractions, but it can often lead to clashing personalities. In Carlos' case, he spoke about a time a “few years ago” when he was unable to stay in the family home— kicked out and sleeping in his car for several weeks while trying to attend school. He noted that this was a particularly trying time, faced with not only the physical struggle that came with spending a winter living out of a car, but a mental struggle as well. Carlos expressed that during this time, he was still unable to focus on schooling; anxious and worried about where he would have to park and stay for the night. He states that he was torn between struggling in his car, or struggling at home. Riddled with guilt, he accepted the latter and returned back home. This is a battle that is common with immigrant children, wanting the freedom of being on their own and not tied to familial obligations, but feeling guilty about leaving, no matter how mentally tolling it is to stay.

Now that Carlos is older, he is still worried about housing insecurities. While speaking, we highlighted how being first-gen can come with an added disadvantage of not having prior knowledge passed down from our parents about the housing system, he stated “We were never really taught about it because our parents were learning at the same time”.

These circumstances have given many of us an adverse perception of housing. Carlos stated that to him, the concept of owning a home “seems completely out of reach” in the current market. When asked about what he sees for himself in the future, Carlos talked about the double-edged sword that is California. He expressed that although it is unaffordable to live in our home state, he knows that he simply can’t stay away. “It’s a golden cage”, he referenced the *Los Tigres del Norte* song, “La Juala de Oro”.

Just like our parents, we are faced with *la juala de oro*. Our *juala* is different however. Ours can be seen as our home, our family life, and the harsh reality of the endeavor we will have if and when we go and live on our own.

“I would love to stay in the Bay, have my own place... that would be ideal. It’s just that though, an ideal. Not a reality. Right now, it’s either I stay at home with a better financial situation but struggling with obligation, or go off on my own, struggling being broke and feeling bad about leaving. I’ll have to figure it out in the end.”

References:

Sy, S.R. and Romero, J., 2008. Family responsibilities among Latina college students from immigrant families. *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*, 7(3), pp.212-227.



Photo of an RV, which has a rear window duct taped around the seal. As well as having a plastic bag taped around the location of where the spare tire should be. RV is located amongst other RVs right outside of SFSU student housing.

Thanksgiving Worries

At her time in CSUEB Nasha was a commuter traveling 10 minutes to school. Although there was no struggle in commuting or participating in school activities, she had felt there were unfair school related costs. She chose CSUEB to save money. However, there were fees Nasha had to pay to park in the very school where she paid tuition. Through her years in East Bay she worked a job at CVS as a pharmaceutical tech, helping her family pay bills. After graduation she found herself working two jobs to make ends meet, but even then it was not enough. Nasha would work from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm and again at 7 pm to 9 pm. Working two jobs is extremely tiring. She has a lack of sleep and the only remedy is coffee, which upsets her stomach in addition to not eating enough food. She wonders whether it is always going to be like this? Feeling exhausted, tired mentally and wanting to give up, she continues for her family.

Nasha is loud and extra for no reason. An outgoing person who is lovely to everyone she meets. She loves her family more than most people. She follows a relatively strict curfew and doesn't cause trouble, for her family means everything. She helps pay the bills and is always willing to pay for takeout and any other expenses.

I have the pleasure of being her friend for about 5 years now. In all that time I could never understand how she is the way that she is. We're complete opposites so I guess I never will, but to be fair she doesn't get me most of the time. Being her friend for 5 years means that I have been to her house and met her family and even spent nights there. Every year she would invite me to Thanksgiving dinner. Being from Fiji there was loads of food covering the table and there is no end to how much you eat. At the end of the night you leave with about three to four take out containers of leftovers. During the night Nasha barely sits down and quickly shifts from the kitchen to the dining room to the garage (where the prep station is set and where the men can be found watching some sort of sport). The atmosphere of the room is warm and everyone is always looking out for you. Since her family is the host it makes sense to look after your guest. However, the work associated with cooking feels like a family burden. Her and her mother usually wakes up at around 8 am. Her mom is the one who carries the burden of cooking, cleaning, and maintaining the home. I know that at some point Nasha will carry this burden for her own family one day. Seeing her mother with the weight of the world on her shoulders, Nasha

does whatever she can to help. However, just like her mother, Nasha carries part of the world on her own shoulders. Sometimes I can see it in her face. When her mom has the heavy burden to prep, cook, and host she takes the same responsibilities. At the end of the night she would comment that other family members needed to host because it was exhausting.

After all of it she continues to be a good daughter. The burden of Thanksgiving night is followed by the hard truth. Her smile only lasted until everyone left. I stayed the night and stayed during the next day. Her check came in the day after thanksgiving and it was not in its usual amount but she knew that. The reason for this was simply because she was sick and could not come in to work. At the end of the day she's the breadwinner and is constantly worried about not having enough money to pay the bills. As she's getting older she is looking to be married and a part of her is uneasy. Since she's the main source of income in her family, leaving her family's home would mean that she now has a home of her own and she would now have her own bills to pay. She has a fear of leaving home because she worries her parents won't be able to pay their bills. Other than Nasha, her mom is the only one who brings income into the home. I should mention that her father is not able to work due to back pain and other conditions. She says that the economy is so bad everything is expensive. One paycheck would be ok if everything was not overpriced but even with two jobs it's hard to pay for what is needed in the household. This upsets her. Her family means a lot to her and not being able to help them with housing causes worries for her family's future.

An update from 12/04/2022, Nasha was laid off from one of her jobs.

Housing and Transportation Amongst Bay Area College Students

By: Bella Tabora Isaula

Everyone's journey into higher education is different, but there are often commonalities and differences to how a student approaches their college lifestyle. In this section, I will be discussing the lives of local Bay Area students who attend CSUEB and SFSU. One student is a transfer student and the other is a freshman, each of which I had the opportunity to discuss their respective housing and transportation experience.

<p><i>Jose: Commuter Lifestyle</i></p> 	<p><i>Mari: Dorm Lifestyle</i></p> 
<p>I interviewed a fellow CSUEB student on November 5th, 2022 in order to better gain insight on commuter life at East Bay. Jose resides in Hayward, where he lives with his mother, father, sister, and brother-in-law.</p> <p>He divides expenses with his family and doesn't pay market rate rent prices because of it. Interestingly, he had always planned to live with family, especially because he mentioned that "the hours of studying that school requires does not allow me to work full time. Rent is also way too high in the bay area for me to rent my own place since I am only working 30 hours." This was the main reason why he hasn't been able to find a place of his own while juggling his responsibilities. His housing situation is something he has to compromise on to go to school and work. I found his living situation to be convenient, since his short commute includes "[living] 12 minutes away from campus and [working] 6 minutes away from campus". Jose expressed that's why he chose to go to CSUEB.</p> <p>Jose shared that "if I was a younger student like fresh out of high school and had gone straight to CSUEB I would have liked to live on campus because it does seem fun. Since I transferred and I am already in my late 20's I just don't feel the need to experience living</p>	<p>I had the opportunity to conduct field/participant observation with a SFSU student on November 11th, 2022 while observing a typical Friday school day. Mari is a Bay Area local from Burlingame and currently lives in the SFSU dorms.</p> <p>Elaborating on her housing situation, Mari lives in the 1st year dorms called Mary Ward Hall. She shares a dorm space with her one roommate, where the set up contains two twin size beds, two desks, and two closets. All the other living spaces are communal. While shared spaces can be inconvenient at times, Mari expressed how she feels more productive and independent at her dorm than when she's home. However, she did mention that choosing to live in the dorms was an argument she had with her parents. Her mom didn't think she was ready to live on her own, but her dad thought it would be a good time for her to do so. Mari explained that her parents had the means to afford to pay for her dorm, so she argued that living in the dorms would allow her to experience an independent college life. Living at the dorms allows Mari to access her classes a lot more quickly than if she commuted. Especially because she doesn't have a driver's license, she said she would have to wait until later at night for her</p>

on campus.” This is a common sentiment I noticed with transfer students who go to local schools, including myself. When transferring from a CC, the adjustment can be difficult and on-campus housing isn’t always ideal for students. In Jose’s case, because he is older and returning to school, he doesn’t see why he should live on campus since he equates it to the fun part of the college experience.

Reflection:

Jose is a 29-year-old transfer student who has had to navigate higher education at an older age. Although he lives with his family, Jose contributes to the housing costs by working 30 hours a week as a Paraeducator for the Hayward Unified School District. Because school is a priority for him, having to work less than full time pushes him to stay at home. Jose desires a space of his own but due to financial constraint and rising rent costs, he is unable to do so. This speaks to the larger issue of Bay Area housing and how the housing market is often difficult to attain. Jose must compromise on his job hours to complete his education, but that means he can’t live in the Bay Area on his own income. The higher cost of living that forces the people who live in the Bay Area to compromise on their goals is something very common, as seen through Jose’s interview responses.

parents to be able to pick her up if she lived at home.

In terms of transportation, Mari is only a 5-10 minute walk from her classes and a 15-minute walk from the mall that has multiple grocery stores, clothing stores, and restaurants. While walking to the Muni train, she explained that it usually comes every 10 minutes, so it’s frequent enough to be reliable. She typically has a class from 9:30am-12:15pm and then takes the Muni to West Portal. On top of the Muni, Mari also navigates Bart and the bus timetables if she goes further into the city.

Reflection:

Mari is an 18-year-old freshman who is new to the college experience. Because her family is financially able to afford to fund her campus housing, Mari can stay directly at SFSU. The 3 of the main public transportation methods in San Francisco that she uses have different schedules, delays, and closing times, which made it difficult for Mari to track. The areas where these stops are located are highly populated areas, which made me think back to the Maharawal and McElroy article about tech bus evictions. Only dating until 2018, the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project does display many evictions in the neighborhoods closest to SFSU, like Park Merced and Ocean View. The evictions and transportation map provides another layer of information about the Bay Area housing crisis. Additionally, public transportation is essential for many people in the city, especially people like Mari who don’t drive or have a car. Observing how Mari navigates getting around the city, I was able to observe how uncentralized the system could be and how unpredictable delays could affect someone’s entire commute.

Interviewer: Patricia Juette

Perspective on Student Housing by an Austrian Exchange Student

Finding affordable housing in in the San Francisco Bay Area is a prominent issue. Even if it is affordable, the quality is often poor. This is also frequently the case for student housing. These problems seem to be the norm in the Bay Area, but they are not in other parts of the world. This report will present the perspective on the housing situation at CSU East Bay from an Austrian exchange student and will give insight into the standards in Austria.

The interview was conducted in person on October 31st and November 8th. The interviewee has finished her Master in Austria and is studying history at CSU East Bay during the Fall semester of 2022. For her, staying on campus is the most convenient option since there is no need to find a more permanent accommodation.

The biggest problems, according to the respondent, are with the facilities and the maintenance. The dorms are outdated, and it takes a long time to fix more pressing issues, like broken elevators or malfunctioning key cards.

Compared to Austria, the price of housing in America is excessive. Despite being less expensive, Austrian housing provides more amenities, like well-appointed kitchens. The interviewee criticizes how in the U.S. you only get “very basic accommodation” for a comparably high price. Having carpet floors in the dorms was unexpected for the interviewee. Carpet floors are generally more difficult to clean and to maintain in an acceptable state. Therefore, this furnishing is not well thought out. The common spaces in Austrian student housing are also said to provide more comfort. Paying a large amount of money and not receiving comfortable or any private spaces, appears to be a serious issue. The interviewee also discussed how living with fewer people is beneficial for a harmonious atmosphere. At CSU East Bay students are forced to live with up to ten people. Sharing a small space with little to no privacy can be a strain on mental health. This aspect opens possibility for further research to help struggling students.

When asked about possibilities for improvement the respondent says that even “small steps can [...] have a huge impact”. Fixing the technical issues and revamping the maintenance service is deemed as a potentially efficient way to improve the housing experience.

The overall housing situation in the San Francisco Bay Area was described as a “striking” experience by the Austrian respondent. The interviewee identifies that there is a severe lack of affordable housing for the population. She also guesses that even if citizens can afford an

apartment, it will probably lack basic facilities. These assumptions are clearly validated by her experience in on-campus housing. This also shows how people in the Bay Area struggle with their housing situation for most parts of their life.

The housing situation in Austria is objectively more agreeable for students than it is in California. The interview shows that many conditions here are surprising to a European student. The quality and the quantity of housing amenities are unexpected, considering the amount of money students pay. To live in the conditions for an extended period, is not considered amenable by Austrian standards.

A different arrangement, that is directed at helping students to have proper housing, is in place in Austria. This shows that a system like that should be possible in America as well. The issue, at its root, is probably connected to the fact that the institutions, that provide housing, prioritize profit. There is also most likely a lack of subsidization by the government. If the primary goal were to provide affordable education to people in the area, it would be possible to offer cheaper housing with better quality. This statement is applicable to the overall housing situation in the San Francisco Bay Area.

More information about housing costs for students in Austria can be found on:

<https://www.educations.com/study-guides/europe/study-in-austria/student-accommodation-3794>

https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/bauen_wohnen_und_umwelt/wohnen/6/Seite.210271.html

Information about exchange programs to Austria (or other European countries):

<https://www.isepstudyabroad.org/member-universities/>

Hungry for Housing

The rising housing costs throughout the bay area have affected multiple residents. Some struggle to find affordable housing, while others slowly lose their houses when unable to compete with higher-paying residents. The worst end of these rising costs is an increasing number of people suffering from homelessness. Others, such as students, must make sacrifices to maintain financial stability. Cal State East Bay is a commuter school where many students have had to sacrifice independence for financial stability or help support their family's economic well-being. I wish to address students' commuting issues to preserve financial stability. My interviewee, Angelica, lives on the union city/Hayward border, and she commutes to school attending San Jose State. Through her interview, I learned she chose to live at home due to needing financial stability and helping her family maintain overall financial stability by contributing to bills. The drive is a 1 hour and 15-minute commute with an extra 30 minutes when driving home from San Jose State. Angelica cannot afford to move to San Jose State as a single household residence, which she would like instead of living with roommates. She decided to stay with family but ultimately is stressed from her commute to school daily. *"Living off campus makes my schoolwork more difficult because the time I spend in traffic could be the time I spend on my assignment. I also get tired from driving, so I don't have the energy to do my assignments. Most days, I have a mental fight to convince myself to go to class because I do not enjoy the drive to campus."* Unfortunately, Angelica represents a small portion of students throughout the bay area who cannot afford to live closer to school.

Many students who attend CSUEB commute as far as Modesto, Manteca, and Stockton and face challenges such as traffic, distractions, and lack of study space. If costs keep rising, more students and residents will have limited choices on where to live and where to go to school based on their financial needs. Places such as Oakland, close to CSUEB, may be lost to gentrification or displacement. This is already affecting almost 2800 people facing homelessness in the city of Oakland itself. (Maharawal and McElroy 2018) While the students surveyed did not indicate their primary struggles were homelessness. These responses don't mean they are not affected by rising costs throughout the bay area.

Many SROS and affordable housing are being sold off and turned into luxury housing for tech workers willing to pay higher rent. Students and residents lose out on opportunities to pay for any affordable housing that's left. (Maharawal and McElroy 2018) Changes need to be made to help those who can't afford to live locally anymore. The rising costs don't mean housing is unavailable; it's simply unaffordable. Changes need to occur on the political scale that put residents first regarding affordable housing and caps on rent increases so students wishing to move closer to school can afford to. Students may very well become local residents, after all, contributing to the community. Locals can act by being aware of policy changes and attempting to vote and get their voices heard when necessary.

References

Maharawal, M., & McElroy, E. (2018). Mapping dispossession, mapping affect. *Anthropology News*, 59(6). <https://doi.org/10.1111/an.1038>

To whom it may concern,

My name is Scott L. Welch, I would first like to thank you sincerely for your time in reading this short letter. I came to know the particular individual whose story is the subject for this correspondence, through my time at community college (2008-2018). In getting to know them better I slowly became aware of the circumstances in which they've found themselves. In the interest of anonymity, I've chosen to use open pronouns in this letter, as well as change some locations. This Individual was living on their own, homeless, and lacking the support of any immediate family. At the time, they were living on the street while balancing working at a fast-food franchise for minimum wage during the day & attending community college at night. To my knowledge, they had always been a very resourceful individual and are currently focused on making every attempt to improve the living situation in which they've found themselves. While estranged from their mother and father, they have been forced to make ends meet on their own. Often going without the basic amenities that many take for granted such as food, water, shelter, transportation, clothing, or direct access to the internet.

It is egregious that without additional support from others, they may not be able to attain what was once promised to us all as citizens of the U.S, branded as the "*American Dream*". The minimum wage in the San Francisco Bay Area is simply not enough to cover the cost associated with living expenses, especially alongside the fee's required of students to attend community college, let alone university. Research on housing in the Bay Area and Silicon Valley, such as that of *Maharawal & McElroy* (2018) has shown that alongside skyrocketing property values, the number of evictions has risen at a breakneck pace. Additionally, the number of available single occupancy rooms for lease has dwindled as property owners opt for more lucrative tenant arrangements. I find myself dismayed by the fact that the situation in which they've found themselves, essentially forces the choice between investing in their future through higher education (while choosing to live out of car) or abandoning their dreams of a better future, just to work a gig economy for hardly enough to cover rent. The entire trajectory of their life is bound on their ability to access federal financial aid and support services. This person has held a number of low paying jobs in brick-and-mortar retail establishments, as well as management positions in the hospitality industry. Additionally, they have continuously worked as a delivery driver for services such as *DoorDash* or *GrubHub* in California's booming gig economy during their off hours. However, despite the display of exemplary work ethic these positions have usually been under-paid, exploitative, and resulted in an increased exposure to health risks during a pandemic. Through hard work they were able to save enough to purchase themselves a vehicle, but shortly thereafter it was lost due to an unfortunate accident. That vehicle was in every sense of the word, their home. After them reaching out for help, various friends, including myself, were able to fund the purchase of a used police vehicle in order to support them temporarily as they continue in the quest for adequate housing. In addition, I often prepare meals to share with them in hopes of giving some sense of belonging, along with some solid nutrition. As I know they are often forced to make the choice between eating or meeting other obligations.

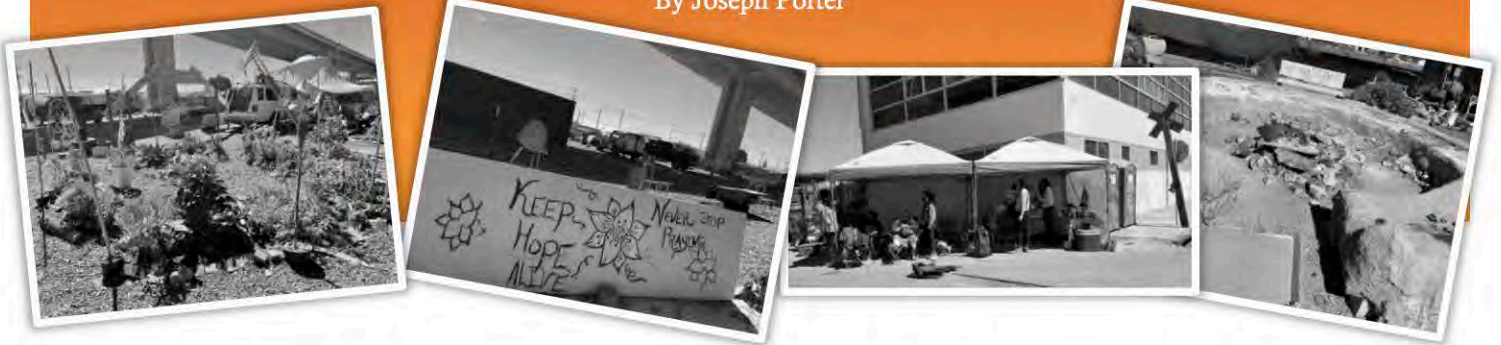
I know that they aspire to earn a bachelor's degree in engineering and are doing everything possible to work towards that goal. However, without additional support in overcoming the hurdles facing them, it is unlikely that dream will come to fruition. As a close confidant of the person for nearly four years, I can attest to their need for financial aid in order to finish the path of education they've begun and make their dream of becoming an engineer a reality. They have remained determined to reach their goal of graduating from college despite the setbacks they have experienced and are as convinced of their own potential as when we first met years ago. I am fully confident that they will one day realize they're educational goals and find themselves on the career path of which they aspire.

Sincerely, Scott L. Welch

"Hope is a tether, one which when drawn thin, can reveal incredible strength."

Wood Street

Homeless Eviction
By Joseph Porter



Wood Street & 34th Street

Local citizens of Wood Street Commons in Oakland, California is being affected by the decision to evict the members of the community. On September 7th, 2022 California Department of Transportation workers showed up earlier than expected and began the process to remove any items that were being used throughout the community. The members in the community range between 200 to 300 people and have been here for years. A visionary named John has taking charge and became the community organizer for this community. Together the citizens engage in community meetings and gatherings each month to discuss issues and to provide a sense of camaraderie.



Cob on Wood, Community Gathering Spot.

Government Involvement

The actions of law enforcement or other city officials have not done much to assist in Wood Street Commons over the past 5 years. More recently, their presence is not to harass the citizens. Their activity was placing notifications on private property and abandoned vehicles in order to have them placed under the state of California's possessions.



Community Insight

Speaking with a member of the community who has been living in Wood Street for nearly 5 years provided insight that you could not tell just by looking around. Mona, mentioned about how there was never any positive actions taking by the state or city officials throughout her time here unless it was part of an investigation that was part of law enforcement employees. She had mentioned that the Sante Fe Railroad Police had stopped by a few times and gave her notices to remove items from the section she was inhabiting. Those employees failed to identify themselves upon entering her home and they ended up using mace to subdue her dog. I asked her how she ended up in Wood Street Commons.

She was living in a house that had caught on fire due to an electrical issue in 2016. That is when she arrived at Wood Street. Since her arrival the size of the community had doubled in size; which she described as something hard for her when it comes to her belongings in the event she leaves to get essentials. In the heart of the community is a gathering area called Cob on Wood. Inside the enclosed space is a few buildings used a kitchen that houses food, a clinic with medical supplies, a place to shower and a free store room for members to obtain basic essentials. Mona did mention that if you want a certain brand or specific items that they were on yourself to obtain, but they did have something for hygiene.

Mona mentioned how she loved dove body soap. She said in order to obtain what she wants she makes her money through recycling anything, but mostly sticks to metal and copper. That is her main focus. Mona mentioned the issues that have been taking place all summer throughout the community. One of them being the amount of fires they have had to their vehicles and their facilities.

The city began bringing out K-Rails to block off entrances and exits to the community which made it more difficult to get things in and out. It was at this point Mona began to protest and started placing road blocks of her own into the path that workers were trying to access, as a result she was arrested for her actions. The community had a temporary restraining order on the area and during that time frame is when all the fires began taking place. They even set the clinic on fire. Soon after the temporary restraining order was lifted by the judge right after Labor Day.

Every week there has been a mobile outreach by Lifelong Medical for more supplies for this community. However, without a known place to bring supplies most of the citizens here will now go without. There are more ways that outside organizations have come to help out Wood Street Commons. Love and Justice on the Streets and Operation Dignity are there to assist in what is taking place here with the community and its members.

Additional Groups in support of Wood Street

Antiterror Police Project, Delphine

Primerica, Regional Vice President: Stephisha Ycoy-Walton

San Francisco State University, Anthropology Dept., Dr. Jeffrey Schonberg

The members of Wood Street Commons have a fundraisers and events planned to benefit their community; as well as a gofundme.

THE HOUSING

Jamie Meronk



ALLIANCE OF CALIFORNIANS FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

is a multi-racial, democratic, non-profit community organization working to help tenants know their rights and stay in their homes.

JUSTICE LEAGUE

While participating in the ACCE Housing Justice monthly meeting on Nov. 5, 2022, I was able to meet the team members and the State Wide Organizer who was very enthusiastic. These meetings are accesible in Spanish and English. The Organizer for ACCE San Diego announced their city council passed a resolution that declares housing as a human right!

“This is a foot in the door, we want to get lots of cities around the state passing it to really build this movement from the bottom up and pressure the state.”

“They will need to follow up with passing stronger tenant protections, rent control, and making affordable housing more accessible.”



Add Housing is A Human Right to our constitution



TAKE ACTION NOW!

INFORM
ORGANIZE
FIGHT

Fix California's Emergency Rent Relief Program (ERAP) Now with these demands:

Get CA Department of Housing (HCD) to approve all eligible error applicants that are still pending or wrongfully denied.

Establish a short-term rental assistance program for those who are still working to get back on their feet, who would be helped by a few months of assistance that would be a new ongoing program demand.

Holds the for profit Disaster Capitalist Corporation, HORNE, that HCD hired to run ERAP accountable. “Despite being paid 278 million dollars of our taxpayer dollars, HORNE has failed to meet every deadline. “Their mistakes could have a more calamitous impact for families than for our state.”

While observing the weekly Defend Your Home workshop on Nov. 10, 2022, I felt empowered by being informed about my rights and learning how to organize against unfair rent increases, evictions, and landlord harassmnet. A presentation was given to explain the eviction process. An attorney is present to give legal advice. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS LOSING STABILITY IN THEIR HOUSING SITUATION, THEN SEEK HELP BY ATTENDING.

“We know landlords don’t always follow the law.” *Don’t talk to landlord’s lawyer!*



Data Coding of Student Interviews on Housing

The ethnographic research class administered an on-campus and off-campus housing survey, which led to further interviews to gather more data and understand our results. We conducted seventeen interviews on either survey responses or related questions in a semi-structured interview format. The following data has been extracted from these interviews and coded through the qualitative coding software Taguette. First, we followed the Grounded-theory of qualitative data analysis by using taguette to identify common themes and categories throughout the interviews (Bernard, 2006, p. 492). Next, we highlighted eight themes from the interview transcripts to formulate our codes and compare them; these include discussions of commute, family/roommates, finances, food/meal plans, housing/maintenance, resources, time management/ distractions, and work. What follows are quotes, data, resources, and an analysis of our findings.

Students on-campus housing grievances via Interview data

Many students share the same grievances that on-campus housing costs are becoming unrealistic, and the students are asking, In favor of who? The high rising costs cause students to take more loans and work more hours for what seems to be a disproportionate quality of housing. Particularly concerning upper-class student housing. A common theme mentioned in interviews is the poor conditions of dorms and high costs.



Figure 2. Bar graph of housing quality issues identified in 17 interviews coded with taguette.

“The cost of living on campus is ridiculously high and apartments are in terrible condition, not to mention the meal plan is the worst. I don't understand where all the money students are paying to live on campus is going because the buildings are all falling apart.” - *Interviewee's response on how it was living on campus. (Conducted by Andrea Aguilar, 2022)*

“Could have better resources, dining could have more variety. If they can build a new building, they could have better dorms. That money could have gone to refurbish the dorms or have better food. Students can't afford to buy groceries, and the pantry has limited selections and time slots.” – *Interviewee's response to what they think housing could be better. (Conducted by Kimberly Contreras, 2022)*

“The maintenance and also I feel like they could do a better job of fixing stuff before students come into their dorms. There was already stuff that was broken when we got here. Like, the lighting is very bad, and I feel like that could have been fixed before...” – *Interviewee's response to specific complaints of on-campus housing. (Conducted by Yuliana Fernandez, 2022)*

A student in high school who is planning to pursue a higher education has to consider their living situation as well. To pursue higher education, many stay with family or take out loans to live on campus. However, based on the surveys conducted by the ethnographic research class, many expressed that on-campus housing is costly for the institution's quality.

The burdens of off-campus housing: Interviewees share their struggles

In the United States, especially in California, housing prices have skyrocketed due to tech companies buying and building unattainable houses for most. Hayward and the surrounding areas are part of Silicon Valley, where these tech companies are thriving and evicting Bay Area natives due to rising prices and lofty luxury goals (Maharawal and McElroy, 2018). Many students and families struggle to balance roommates and multiple jobs to lighten the burden of a pricey housing market. These are daily challenges commuter and off-campus students face while navigating student life. Using Taguette, we coded the qualitative data with seven tags to simplify how each pertains to housing struggles. The tags in fig.2 include commute, housing quality, food, finances, work, time management/ distractions, and family/roommates. Commuting affects housing because students have to find cheaper housing far away from campus causing long commute times. Housing quality relates to student housing struggles because more affordable housing often means less quality housing, and working enough hours to afford poor-quality housing is also a burden on students. Food expenses or food insecurity for students are also of concern when high housing costs are nearly all students' income.

“I don't feel like I have security to pay the rent all the time. I just figured out how easily I could not make it. Any unplanned expense could wreck it. If there are any problems with job stability, I

don't know how I could make it.” – *Interviewee's response to any fears relating to rent contribution while a student. (Conducted by Josephine Rodriguez)*

“The hours of studying that school requires does not allow me to work full time. Rent is also too high in the bay area for me to rent my own place since I am only working 30 hours.” – *Interviewee's response to some obstacles preventing them from living in their ideal housing situation. (Conducted by Bella Tabora Isaula, 2022)*

Student Struggles Related to Current Housing Situation

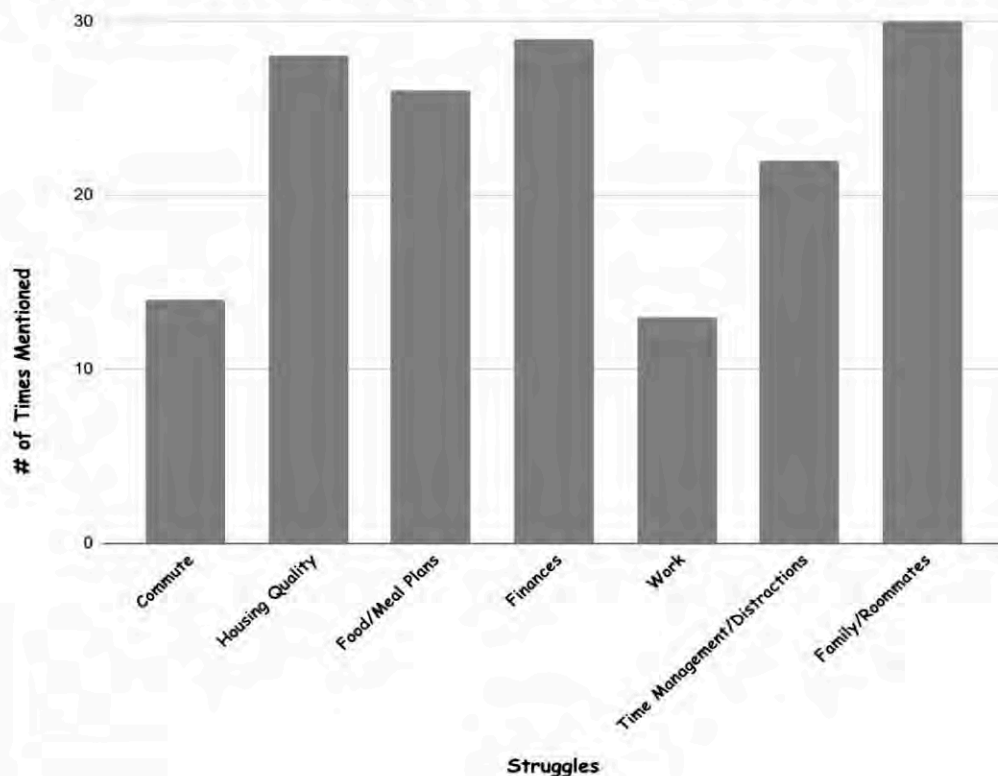


Figure 2. A histogram of student struggles based on emergent categories from 17 interviews coded using Taguette software.

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Bernard, H.R., 2006. *Research methods in anthropology: Qualitative and quantitative approaches*. Rowman & Littlefield

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On Campus (CSU) Student Housing Scarcity with Sister An **By Yuliana Fernandez**

My sister An attends CSU Chico and lives in on-campus housing. She has 6 roommates overall but only dorms with another in her own room. She is currently majoring in being a teacher for the specific subject of Spanish and is a recent transfer of Fall 2022 from her local community college. The upcoming questions and answers were from an interview I did with her in early November.

I had asked An some basic questions regarding her experience as an individual living in CSU Chico's student housing, such as "What was the primary reason that you were on campus? And An responding by saying "Because commuting was too far, and I felt like it'd be closer if I just lived here than to go an hour and back and forth to school." Or "What do you think needs to be improved to improve the quality of life on campus?" and again, An responding by saying that, "I feel like Oh, maybe having maintenance work... I don't want to say faster. However, there are days where we submit maintenance requests and they will take like, a week to reply. We had a situation where the air conditioning wasn't working and it was like, at 110 degrees Fahrenheit and they did not come until like, a whole week later."

After these standard questions that highlighted that housing maintenance needs to be improved and the reasons for choosing for on-campus housing such as off campus commute being too long, there was one question that truly interested me and felt that it deserved a spotlight for itself and basically shined light on the reasons for the first question I asked above. Most students choose to live on campus housing because it's very close or closest to campus, or because their initial home is too far away. An contributed more to this discussion when I asked her, "And how satisfied are you with your current housing situation? On a scale of one of five." An surprised my beliefs on on-campus housing by saying that, "it's a 5 because they pretty much cover everything... I think the only problem is how far it is from campus. Like, I have to walk to campus. Like, it takes 10-15 minutes to walk to campus, which I feel is kind of necessary because you would either have to take the bus and walking gets you to campus quicker. Walking, especially when it's a rainy day, you don't have an option to walk. You would have to take the bus, which can be annoying."

I was surprised by this answer since CSU East Bay has their student housing on the street right across from campus and in front of the dining commons. This question highlighted to me that although CSU Chico student housing isn't too far away from campus. most would assume that on-campus housing is the closest housing option, but that might not be the case on all CSU or college campuses. Either because the campus does not have enough land area around it to build more housing, legal reasons, ability to gain more money from having student housing farther away from campus, or because real estate is buying off land and housing so that none is left over.

In comparison, it makes sense that on-campus housing is super close to campus as CSU East Bay has stores and restaurants students can go to and bring in revenue for the campus and perhaps because it is known as a commuter school, and further alienating the rest of the students could affect not only revenue from students choosing to take classes here but also class attendance and participation. CSU Chico is the campus my sister attends and when searching up her school I see that her student housing is farther away because the city's high school, a historic park, off campus apartments and other public city buildings are closer. This highlights that perhaps campus-owned student housing is not a priority for many campuses not just on a basic maintenance level but on a financial, social level or unavailable because of real estate buying up the buildings around them. And when looking at their information online (https://www.csuchico.edu/offcampus/_assets/documents/off-campus-housing-resource-guide.pdf) the campus site even explains that CSU Chico has a high demand for on campus-housing but they cannot accommodate more students, and it's likely because they cannot build more housing since the campus is surrounded by non-campus buildings, parks, and businesses, so they try their best to advise on off campus housing. Off-campus also has issues that they explain when saying "The housing demand is so strong in some areas that landlords can readily rent their property without advertising, simply by placing a "For Rent" sign on the property or rely on word of mouth."

This interview with my sister An, gave me insight that even though student housing is a desire for many, even with issues such as maintenance that our class survey and An mentioned, housing scarcity is happening even for on-campus students. Housing insecurity is happening for all of Chico as well and this relates to an article I read by Naomi Klein (2021).

The article goes over Chico's anti-homelessness caused by the lack of affordable housing in Chico because of the failure from the city government and police on unhoused residents. A surge of population that Chico failed and could not accommodate for, after taking in Camp Fire residents which pushed people into homelessness. Therefore, the cause of displacement is being caused by "many factors such as decades of defunding social programs, coupled with wild overfunding of police..." (Klein 2021). These factors stop the campuses' ability to buy more land to build student housing, causing students to pay those expensive prices of off campus housing to not have a long commute or just accept living farther away from campus. Overall the interview shows that housing insecurity can be caused by many factors, and can be worsened if the city/governments don't have an adequate plan, and displaces people and schools from their nearby homes and/or causes homes to rise up in costs.

Work Cited:

Klein, N. 2021. "A Climate Dystopia in Northern California." The Intercept. (<https://theintercept.com/2021/05/07/california-fires-chico-housing-real-estate/>).

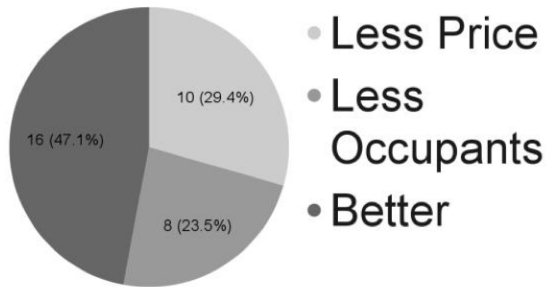


Image of a broken ladder for a bunk bed from one of CSUEB's dorms. One hinge of the ladder is missing, the area the hinge would attach to is chipped off. Students mentioned that the broken ladder had been like that since the beginning of their stay at the dorms. Mentioned it to maintenance and they put a sticker and took note that it was broken before the student's stay.

An analysis of Ideal housing of off-campus students based on survey responses.
 Andrew Ware

Wishes for Ideal Housing

Figure 1

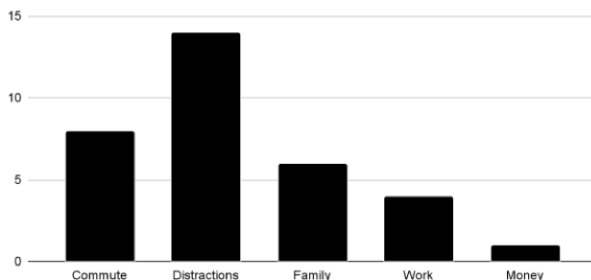


What makes the ideal housing situation is a complex thing, People have differing views on what they want from housing, but when asked on an off-campus housing survey, most people reported wants that fell into one of three categories. These categories are wanting less expensive pricing for housing, wanting housing that would be their own without other people, and wanting to live in a better location. This survey was conducted mainly by finding people on the Cal State East Bay campus, finding people who lived

off campus, and having them fill it out. This was done over two days, with a total of 99 responses. The Problem areas were encoded based on open-ended questions, with the numbers here being the main problems identified within the responses. The two biggest problems talked about were less price and a better environment, which makes sense. A lot of people in the Bay Area pay a considerable amount for housing, and because of the price of housing a lot of people are forced to live in places they would not want to, be it far away from where they work or just in a bad neighborhood. These people want to be able to get out of these places that they don't want to live in, so, unsurprisingly, they describe their ideal housing as being somewhere else. Some of the people who answered this question said things like "Ideally I would like to be able to afford an

Student Complaints with Current Housing

Figure 2



apartment for me an [sic] my kids on my own, without having to share housing in order to afford." and "Living on my own in a safe area and close to school." These thoughts and what people said they wanted from their ideal housing make sense when compared to what people complained about in their current housing. As can be seen in figure 2, most people complained about commutes and distractions at home the most, showing that the two biggest

problems are other people in the house and living far away. Again this mirrors what people say they want in ideal housing.

Themes:

Financial Burden, Housing Insecurity, Mental Well-being, Academic/Career Success, Lacking Productive/daily essentials, Yearning For Financial Independence, Crowded Living Conditions/Lacking Personal Space.

Quotes:

“The amount of time I have to work bites into the amount of time and effort I am able to put into my academics” - Impacting Academic Success.

“I would take more classes if I could afford to., It has prevented me from making large purchases such as buying a car., I have not purchased essential materials this semester such as books, laptops, or other necessary school supplies.” - Financial Burden, Lacking Essentials, Yearning Financial Independence.

“I would take more classes if I could afford to.” - Academic success

“No, it hasn’t impacted my ability.... Living in a house that I own and not renting!” - Academic Success, yearning for financial independence. (This quote is an outlier, one of the only ‘owners’ and is not struggling academically due to a better financial situation. This makes a good comparison to the general majority that have opposite answers.)

“My ideal housing situation would involve me buying my own car so I can get a better paying job and actually travel there so I can leave home quicker” - Yearning for financial independence, Academic success.

“I don’t have a designated study area in my apartment and sometimes noise from family make it hard to focus on hw” - Living conditions/Personal space, mental well-being

“I find it difficult to study sometimes given that there are a lot of people in my household and not enough space.” - Academic success, Living conditions/personal space

“Working two jobs” - Yearning for financial independence, mental well-being

“I can’t afford my groceries” - Yearning for financial independence, housing insecurity

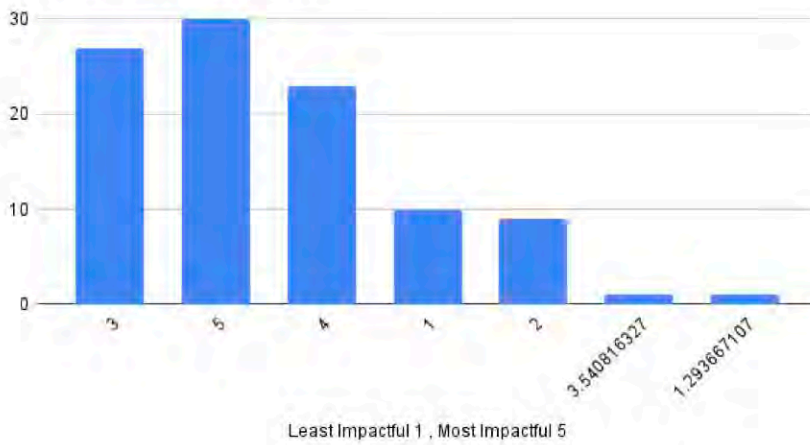
Analysis:

There are a few main focal points after analyzing all of the survey data and individual typed out responses, Those points revolving around people having stable financial and housing security passed the bare essentials, a sense of mental well-being, and being able to live independently or even semi-independently without having to rely on others. A majority of those who participated in the surveys were students and mentioned keeping up with their academic responsibilities when you have the angst and worry of your living environment and upholding your finances simultaneously is difficult.

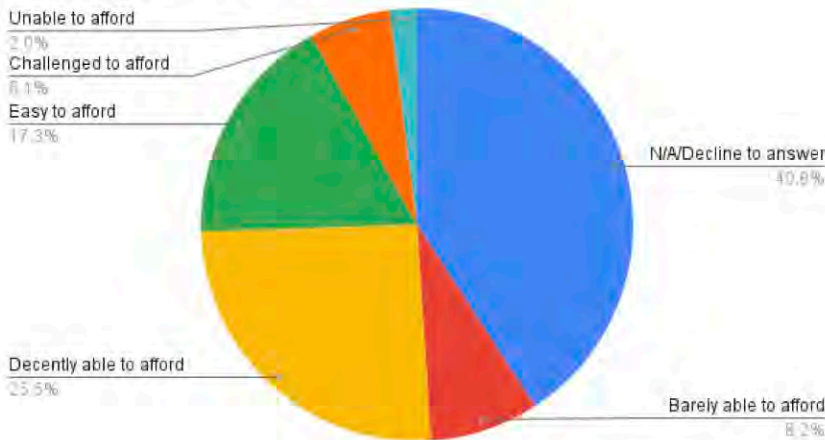
There is relevance to the degradation of students and working class peoples' mental health, prolonged worry and stress does awful things to peoples foresight in terms of their future success and self importance. It is hard to stay motivated when you put your all just to have to give your all if that makes sense, there is no left over money or energy to store, most people are working just to float and that is obvious from the responses. The first graph shown is a great example of this, it rates the negative overall impact of the inflating costs of living/rent for the people who took the survey.

Now not every response rings this true, there is an exception, but when you compare those that are rather satisfied with their living situation and financial stability, to those who are not; it is only a small percentage of people that are well off enough to provide for themselves independently and successfully. I think this speaks volumes though, a majority of the participants are dealing with some type of housing/financial issues. You can see that this is true from the second graph. The graph is from a question that asked the participants about their confidence in ability to pay their rent from month to month. As you can see in the pie chart, less than a quarter of participants were able to easily pay their monthly dues. While there is a large chunk that felt they would rather not answer, I believe it is not too far fetched to assume that they did not want to answer because they may have felt ashamed to admit that it is a struggle to pay rent, and no one but themselves should know that.

Impact of Housing Inflation



Affordability of housing



Ethnographic theories:

Perpetually at a standstill in life in order to pay for the occupying space, this creates a sense of dissonance for personality and future aspirations. I see it even in my family, many relatives I know are stuck in a sense and they are aware of it and definitely want something different, but have already adhered and gotten programmed into this mindset of what their life is and what it will be, and settling for it.

Typically speaking they are not the happiest or healthiest people, mentally, physically and psychologically. These type of living conditions and work cultures bring down livelihood in Americans lives. Living just to float/barely getting by with no savings/future plans for change,

Being “stuck” in one situation.’ Takes a hard toll on people, it would do that to anyone from any culture.

From the Generation Rent article by Kim McKee there is an excellent quote that highlights this theory, “The housing insecurity, which characterizes countries where state regulation of the PRS is weak, has significant impacts on subjective well-being. Security is pivotal to transforming a house into a home. But it also provides an important ‘foothold’ enabling people to get by, and get on, in life (Desmond, 2016, p. 292).”. This section from the article helps put into perspective that a house is more than a house, it is a place to be a home, where a person is supposed to thrive and feel comfortable, and be set up to succeed.

Sacrificing personal growth to maintain financial/housing stability is a concept that seems dystopian but unfortunately it is a reality for many Americans and that is what I have gathered from analyzing the data in the surveys.

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McKee, K., Soaita, A.M. and Hoolachan, J., 2020. ‘Generation rent’and the emotions of private renting: self-worth, status and insecurity amongst low-income renters. *Housing Studies*, 35(8), pp.1468-1487.

Amezcuca Alexia
Professor TMB
5 December, 2022

How much Financial Aid does the Government really Provide?

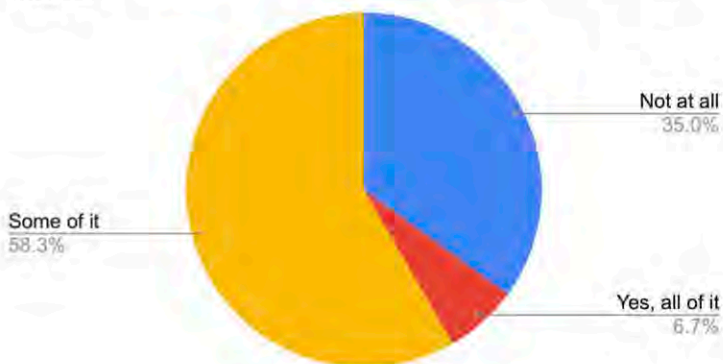
A big issue associated with housing security is that housing in California is simply too expensive. There isn't enough aid to help low income individuals or households pay for the extreme costs of living. Wages are too low for a state that has always aimed to make the rich richer and keep the poor where they are at. The government clearly does not provide enough financial support for the community members who need it most when it comes to housing security.

In the article "Mapping Dispossession, Mapping Effect" by authors Maharawal and McElroy, they discuss evictions and redlining in Oakland, Ca. In their article they show the relationship between bank loans and the number of evictions per neighborhood (2018, p. 5). What it shows us is that the areas with the greatest amounts of reported evictions were directly correlated with the notion that these same households qualified for the lowest amount of bank loans (2018, p. 5). Also in relation to these families or individuals, is that they were either classified as "negro" or "low income," or even both (2018, p. 5). This demonstrates that people within the lower class, and people of color, are not supported by government aid.

In the fall of 2022, our Field Ethnography course conducted a housing survey of 72 students at CSUEB. We asked questions that would highlight this issue and give us the information we needed to see if students in the CSU system were receiving enough aid. For students who live on campus, most CSU systems have meal plans, however from what I have heard prior to the survey distribution, the cafeteria does not provide enough access to meals. The types of questions we asked, aimed to figure out why students choose to live on campus, why they left campus housing, how much aid covered their housing, their thoughts on the meal plans, and any other complaints they had about on campus housing.

In our survey, one of the main issues we found is that financial aid is typically not enough to cover housing, and in a significant amount of cases, doesn't cover any portion of housing at all. For instance, the pie chart shown on the left (Figure 1), titled "Proportion of Financial Aid that covers student housing costs at CSUEB" shows the percentages of students who said financial aid covers some of their housing, none at all, or all of it. Four of these students said it covers all of it, 21 said it doesn't cover anything, and 35 stated it covers some of

Proportion of Financial Aid that covers student housing costs at CSUEB



their housing (Figure 1). What this shows us is that the majority of students are not receiving enough financial aid to cover their housing costs.

To further elaborate on this data we found, I decided to more thoroughly interview a student from CSU Dominguez Hills who reflected our survey data. The student shared that

CSUDH doesn't provide enough aid to pay for the cost of housing. She pays around \$4500 a semester, or \$9000 a year, not including groceries of course. When I attended California State University Long Beach I used to pay \$12,000+ a year to live in a dorm room with one roommate. One common issue students talked about, including my interviewee, is having to work in order to afford the cost of living, while balancing school life. School and homework take up a great amount of time, as does having a job. Hence, it gets extremely tricky to balance the two out, which shouldn't be an issue students have to face.

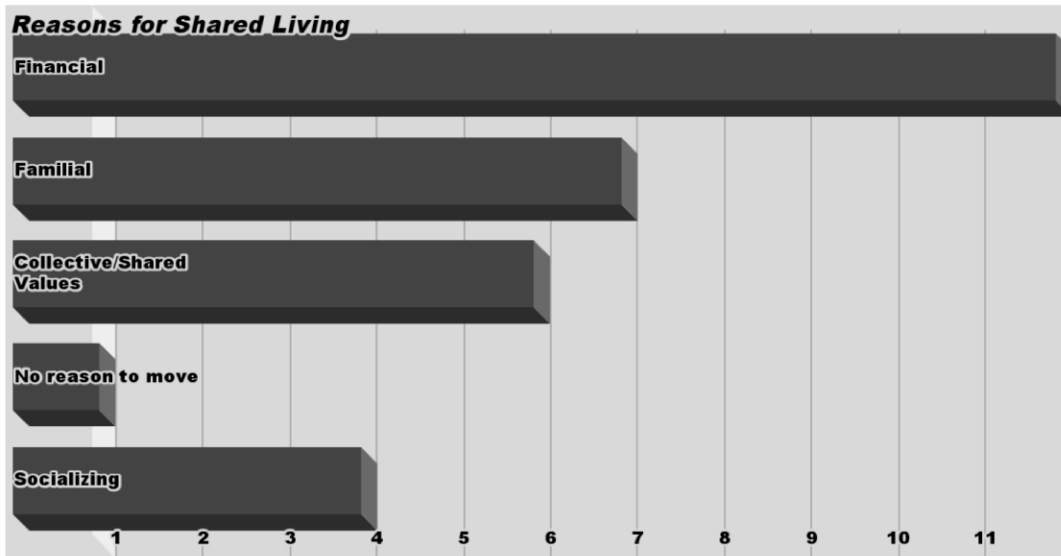
Though I no longer live on campus, the cost of living is still a huge issue for me, amongst many others. I commute with my cousin to school on 2 days out of the week, then on my own another day out of the week. For my commute on Monday's to CSUEB, it takes an overall 7-8 hours from leaving my home in Hollister, CA to school, and arriving back at home. This takes up my entire day only leaving some time in the morning before I have to leave around 11 AM. I get stuck in a ton of traffic, which correlates with a greater usage of gas. As we all know, the gas prices are at an all time high right now, which doesn't do me any good. On the other two days that I commute to Monterey Peninsula College, I always drive me and my cousin. These days last an overall 8 hours or so as well. We typically leave at 7 AM and get home around 3 PM. The reason I must commute now is because I only needed one course requirement left to graduate, along with a few elective credits, and I wasn't going to move back to Long Beach and pay thousands of dollars more. I now must commute to two schools because CSUEB was the only school offering an Ethnographic Methods course equivalent to that of Long Beach State.

It's a battle for many of us college students, between working more hours to afford the cost of living, cutting back on work hours to study more, and spending half your day on the road for commuters. The cost of living in California continues to grow, therefore so should the amount of financial aid college students receive. The CSU system makes receiving an education such a struggle for students, it feels as if they set us up for failure. We have to make school our lives in order to do well and succeed, which is nearly impossible at times when many of us have to work full time, commute, and pay for large amounts of rent or even on-campus housing.

Exploring Reasons for Co-Habiting among Commuter Students: by Andres Mathis

Through a campus-wide survey distributed over multiple days, over 100 CSUEB students were asked to explore some of the reasons they decide to live with other people, in order to understand access to affordable housing in Bay Area college students. The Bay Area is currently experiencing a major housing affordability crisis, and countless colleges students are forced to live paycheck to paycheck. With places like Oakland being called “the country’s hottest real estate market” driving up rent and evictions, (Maharawal & McElroy, 2018) and companies like AirBnb and Zillow hoarding empty houses as speculative-market chess pieces, it’s no wonder that committed students are struggling to meet ends meet.

Given five options, 40% of the 30 participants stated having multiple roommates was to **maintain financial stability**. Many of these people also answered that they stayed at home for familial reasons, which may be correlated with saving money for many people who stay at home with their parents. For a committed student, living with other people certainly can impact study habits and learning ability. One participant shared, “Living with many people can cause interruptions in studying and make it difficult to concentrate.” Finding a quiet place to study is a difficulty that many students face and can cause high amounts of stress, especially during the end of a term. Another student stated, “I would take more classes if I could afford to,” an impactful statement that speaks on the struggle facing many college students today; that the cost of living is holding them back from academic success. This survey made it apparent that the main focus on commuter student’s minds is finding an affordable place to live.



Work Cited

Maharawal, M. and McElroy, E., 2018. Mapping Dispossession, Mapping Affect. *Anthropology News*, 59(6), pp.e70-e77.



Bart station in South Hayward, two juxtaposing ads. On the left there is an ad for a law firm which focuses on eviction and on the right, there is a brightly colored glasses ad. The frame of the sign has some tagging around it.

Untitled Ethnographic Observations by Marcos Arreguin

Nick Belveal, 25, is a recent graduate of Sonoma State University who aspires to continue his career in education as an Elementary school educator. Upon receiving his B.A in 2021, Nick immediately began work on achieving his teaching credentials by enrolling in graduate classes at CSU East Bay, while simultaneously working as a substitute teacher at Dublin Unified School District. Similar to a majority of actively-enrolled university students, Nick also experiences housing insecurity, primarily due to a shortage of available housing units within working distance of his occupation, in addition to increasing living expenses in general. For example, Nick states "... I'd definitely like to move into my own apartment one day, but I don't exactly have enough money saved up yet to do that. Plus I haven't been able to find anything available for less than \$2,500/month in the tri-valley area."

In an effort to combat this struggle, Nick currently lives with both of his parents and his brother in Pleasanton, CA. However, he has previously mentioned that his parents encourage him to contribute toward their home mortgage costs, along with his own tuition costs. Although Nick states that his current housing situation is not 100% ideal, he does also mention that his current housing dilemma is much more favorable than that of his time living on-campus while at Sonoma State.

When asked about his ideal living situation, Nick mentions that he would like to own a home located in the tri-valley area that is within working distance of his occupation, while also being located within traveling distance of his parents' home. When asked how he plans to achieve this ideal living situation, Nick states that he envisions himself making enough money from being a full-time elementary instructor to afford his own home located in the tri-valley area, but remains aware that his potential salary may prove to be a stumbling block as to how much money must be allocated toward necessary living expenses, in balance with his personal desires, such as a "flashy" car or a piece of luxury jewelry. When asked about any potential advice he'd like to share with any actively-enrolled university student, Nick shares his belief that each student must embrace the financial reality that rising living and/or tuition costs will place certain pressures upon each student that will encourage them to reflect upon their own goals regarding their ideal living situation(s), and how they plan to achieve those goals given the potential income of their chosen profession.

Personal interpretation/analysis of interview

Although I am not in pursuit of any academic teaching credentials, I have recently contemplated pursuing teaching at some level of education as a profession. Similar to Nick's living experiences, I too currently live with my parents in order to alleviate my personal living costs. Although I have never lived on a college campus as Nick had reported, I believe my own living experience(s) are similar enough to create a similar comparison regarding our current living situation.

Similar to what Nick had reported during our interview, I am also aware that pursuing a career in a profession such as academic teaching; especially at grade school level; simply would

not generate enough income to allow for and/or sustain a “comfortable” living situation. Although the term “comfortable” is highly subjective in the context of daily living, Nick and I both agree that this term regarding everyday living should suggest an individual to be able to afford, at the very least, a single-tenant urban city apartment, required utilities, groceries, as well as some kind of affordable healthcare coverage. When considering these aforementioned categories as being suggested by the term “comfortable”, Nick and I would both agree that securing employment; and preferably a career; that generates enough yearly income that allows a person to afford these daily necessities to be of the highest priority. In stating this, Nick and I also agree that a certain “balance” must be achieved in securing employment that allows for this type of “comfortable” living, and finding a profession that is enjoyable to the individual. In the case of academic teaching, Nick had stated during our interview he is aware that his potential salary from teaching would likely create future complications with securing what he would consider a “comfortable” living situation, while also saying that his desire to secure a profession in academic teaching is something he has always foreseen himself pursuing.

According to Hoolachan et al. (2017), the trend of the younger generations experiencing heightened anxiety regarding potential housing insecurity is not exclusive only among a few individuals, but rather an extremely common perception of the housing market by the younger generation. The younger generation has an overreaching sense of anxiety with regards to what is perceived in achieving the “goals” in life, chiefly among those “goals” is homeownership. In the case of Nick’s current living situation, these statements made by Hoolachan et al. (2017) remain accurate in alluding to the financial and/or emotional struggles that arise with a transition from late childhood into early adulthood, especially as the traditional “goal” of home ownership becomes more difficult to achieve as prices for general goods and services continue to rise.

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Hoolachan, J., McKee, K., Moore, T. and Soaita, A.M., 2017. ‘Generation rent’ and the ability to ‘settle down’: economic and geographical variation in young people’s housing transitions. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 20(1), pp.63-78.

Building Our Own Village- Strengthening Our Societies Through Community Based Organizations

Jillian Campbell
November 2022



Learning about our society's needs and ways to support our community members as experienced through participant observations, interviews, and volunteering.

Location: Loaves & Fishes of Contra Costa County's Dining Room located at St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County
2210 Gladstone Dr., Pittsburg, CA 94565
Date: November 13, 2022
Time: 10:00am-1:30pm

Society is a challenging place. It is a place filled with invisible social constructs, unverbilized yet palpable cultural rules, and shaped for better or worse by our economic and political system- capitalism. It is not currently a place where all can thrive, but it doesn't have to remain that way. Community based organizations such as Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa provide individuals with daily hot meals and a wide variety of donations from local businesses. Such donations allow Loaves and Fishes to provide individuals with creature comforts such as tea, tortillas, baked goods, backpacks, knitted caps, pet supplies, and hygiene products.

While volunteering at Contra Costa County's Loaves and Fishes, I spoke with individuals who were struggling to get their basic needs met. An elderly woman was brought to tears upon receiving four hot, packaged meals, "We haven't eaten since yesterday" the women whispered as she pulled a crocheted flower from her pocket. "This is for your kindness," she said as she put her hot meals, tea, water bottles, and soap bar in a canvas bag she carried on her slouched shoulder. "I don't need a meal today," another visitor explained to me. "But do you have any boxes of pasta though? I see my grandson today and he likes those cheesy noodles." Visitors came for various resources, and Loaves and Fishes was able to provide a variety of amenities thanks to ongoing donations from non-profits, local businesses, and community residents.

During my time volunteering and talking with both visitors and the dining room manager I learned that more than anything, most people just want a positive human connection, "You know, I think most people come here not because they really need the free meal, but because they want someone to talk to" explained Penny, my supervisor that day and manager of the Pittsburg dining hall. Loaves and Fishes does just that, even though interactions are brief, and lines can get long. Loaves and Fishes offers a welcoming and positive environment and the culture the employees and volunteers have built in this small community provides visitors with feelings of respect, acknowledgement, and dignity- things we all need to thrive. Fitting in to a

society that was created without most of our input is challenging to say the least, but as Christina Livingston, Executive Director of the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Action eloquently expresses, "...it's important to remember that ultimately the electoral system and politicians alone will not save us- WE save us...so let's get out there and keep winning." Indeed, while we may not be able to drastically change policies so that more citizens can afford secure and adequate housing; or erase the stereotypes and generalizing that negatively impact our housing insecure community members, we can be the change we want to see in the world. Change starts with each of us, and I challenge any reader to get out there and help your fellow humans.

Additional Resources in Contra Costa County and the East Bay:

Homeless Clinic

Miller Wellness Center

25 Allen Street, Martinez, Ca 94553

If you are homeless, you can walk-in or schedule an appointment every Friday: 8am-12pm

Call (925) 270-7451 or (925) 313-6166

Services Offered:

- Care for chronic diseases
- Assistance applying for healthcare coverage according to eligibility
- Immunizations
- Behavioral Health Assessment
- Healthcare Maintenance

Referrals Made For:

- Public Health Nurse
- Ongoing Mental Health Services
- Alcohol and Drug Counseling

Homeless Ambulatory Care Clinics

Call to make a Homeless Ambulatory Care Clinic Appointment (925) 313-6166

Available at: Miller Wellness Center, Alhambra Ave., Martinez- Friday AM

West County Health Center, 13601 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo- Tuesdays AM & Friday AM

Antioch Health Center, 3505 Lone Tree Way, Antioch- Thursdays AM

Contra Costa Health Services

Healthcare for the Homeless

Dental Services

Location: Concord respite Clinic at 2047 Arnold Industrial Way Suite D, Concord, CA 94520

*Appointments Required

Call to see if you qualify: (925) 646-5016

RESOURCES YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF!

This page informs students of resources and amenities they can access through the CSU school system and in the bay area. Whether it be financial aid, food pantry, or counseling, there are a lot of opportunities out there to help students get through their time in school.

Financial support:

- **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): <https://studentaid.gov/>
- **CSUEB financial aid office:**
<https://www.csueastbay.edu/financialaid>
Call (510)885-2784
FAFSA/OPEID #: 1138
- **Scholarship search:**
<https://www.scholarships.com/>
- **Unemployment aid:** Employment Development Department (EDD):
<https://edd.ca.gov/en>
 - California Training Benefits (CTB): helps support students through the use of unemployment benefits while undergoing training or schooling.
 - State Disability Insurance (SDI): helps those who cannot work due to a disability

Counseling and health services:

- **Campus counseling services:**
<https://health.csueastbay.edu>, call (510) 885-3735, or email shcscounseling@csueastbay.edu.
- **Community Counseling Clinic**
25800 Carlos Bee Blvd
Arts and Education Building
Second Floor, Room 260
Hayward, CA 94542
- **Student Health Center:**
<https://www.csueastbay.edu/shcs/>
schedule appointments through MyPioneerHealth, and is covered through cost of tuition for eligible students. More information that pertains to specific needs can be found at the above website.

Food programs:

- **CalFresh:**
<https://www.getcalfresh.org/students>
CSU campuses typically have food services, meal plans, or food pantries to help students. Some are available at various costs depending on the campus.
- **Centro de Servicios**
<http://www.centrodeservicios.org/>
Centro de Servicios is devoted to assisting the residents of the Tri-City Area in securing the services they need to live happier, healthier, and more productive lives. Their mission is to help poor and low-income families secure immediate and basic needs and rights, retain pride and dignity, and become self-sufficient and productive citizens.
525 "H" Street, Union City
(510) 489-4100
Jaime@centrods.org
- **Food Bank of Contra Costa County**
<https://www.foodbankccs.org/>
The Food Bank of Contra Costa County distributes food directly to low-income people at community sites and makes food available for other nonprofit organizations serving the ill, needy, and infants.
4010 Nelson Ave. Concord
1 (855) 309-FOOD (3663)
(925) 676-7543
info@foodbankccs.org
- **CSUEB Food Pantry:**
HOPE's food pantry on the CSUEB campus is open to students upon appointment.
<https://www.csueastbay.edu/hope/food-pantry.html>

Housing and shelter:

- **Bay Area Community Services**
<https://www.bayareacs.org/housing-solutions/>
BACS is the Bay Area leader in innovative & ambitious solutions to ending homelessness. An effective provider of housing & homelessness solutions, working to make visible changes in our community.
(510) 613-0330
bacs@bayareacs.org
- **Hope Project Mobile Health Clinic by Abode**
<https://www.abodeservices.org/alameda-county>
Abode Services' mission is to end homelessness by assisting low-income, un-housed people, including those with special needs, to secure stable, supportive housing; and to be advocates for the removal of the causes of homelessness.
Health clinic: (510) 825-7722
hopeproject@abodeservices.org
- **Ruby's Place**
<https://www.rubysplace.org/>
Ruby's place provides survivors with crisis services, shelter, counseling, children's services, and more. They also provide educational training and technical assistance to law enforcement and providers.
(888) 339-7233
(510) 581-5626
info@rubysplace.org
- **CSUEB Temporary Housing**
Temporary reservations at economy class hotels or AirBnB's in hayward, near campus.
<https://www.csueastbay.edu/cie/f-1-students/new-students/temporary-housing.html#:~:text=Students%20who%20require%20temporary%20accommodations,within%205%20miles%20of%20campus>
- **Shepherds Gate**
<https://shepherdsgate.org/about/program-s/program-intake/>
Shepherd's Gate exists to meet the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of women and children suffering from homelessness, addiction, and domestic violence.
LIVERMORE:
1660 Portola Avenue. Livermore
(925) 487-4147
BRENTWOOD:
605 Sycamore Ave. Brentwood
(925) 308-7507 ext. 307
- **Swipe Out Hunger** (Student Navigator Network)
<https://www.swipehunger.org/studentnavnetwork/>
A one-on-one online student referral service that helps students.
- **Trinity Center**
<https://trinitycenterwc.org/>
Trinity Center is a non-residential program serving homeless and working-poor adult men and women in Walnut Creek and Central Contra Costa County. They are a membership community that offers hope and support.
1888 Trinity Ave Walnut Creek
(925) 949-8712
- **Emergency assistance**
<https://www.csueastbay.edu/hope/emergencyassistance.html>

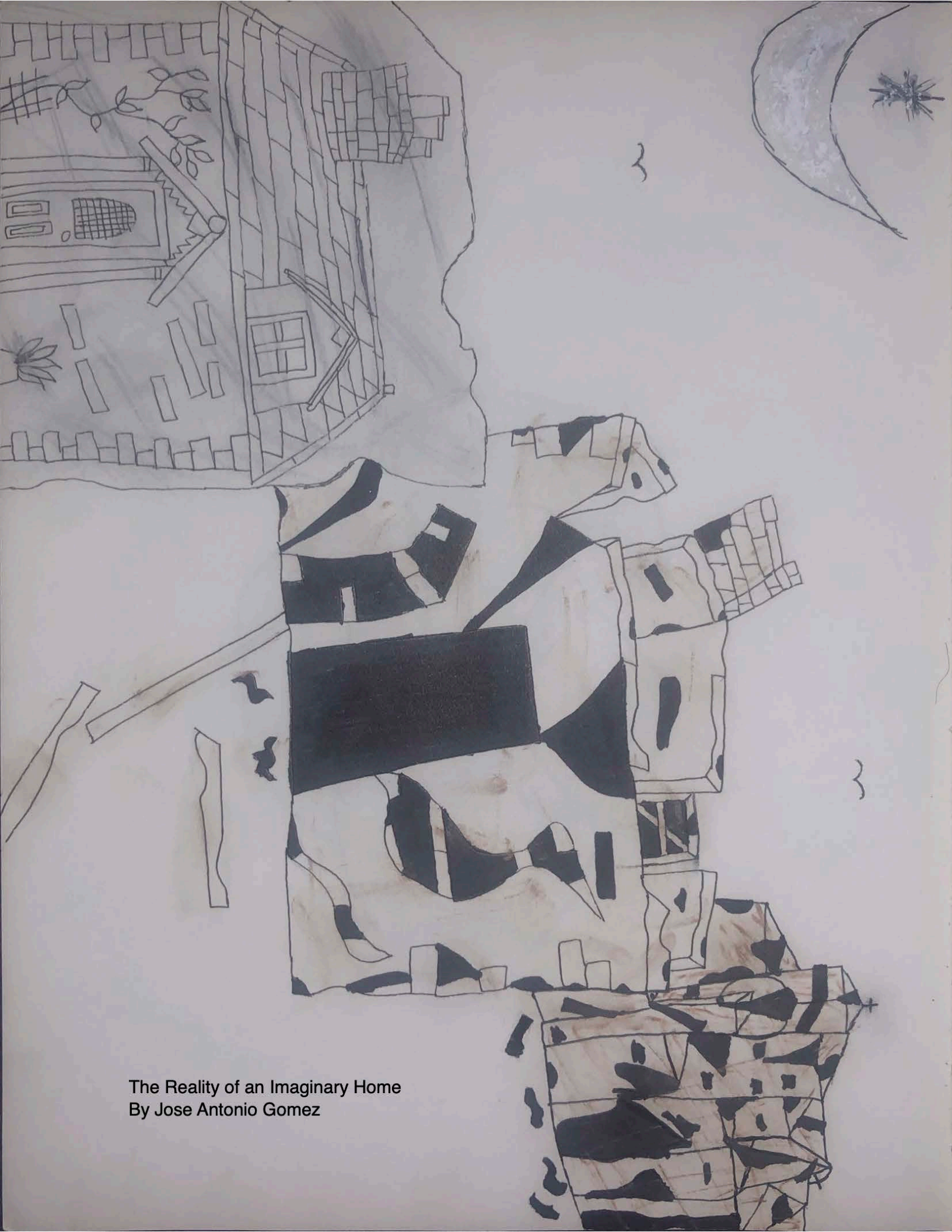
Authors/editors: Allison Jack and Patty Tapia

This picture was taken at the Sequoia building of student housing at CSU East Bay



A freshman dorm has been having issues with one of their toilets. The toilet had a broken pipe and was leaking water. In person this photo would want you to cover your nose. Student living in this dorm mentioned that this maintenance issue has been going on since the beginning of the semester. Maintenance still hasn't come to resolve this issue.

By Abdul Irshad



The Reality of an Imaginary Home
By Jose Antonio Gomez