

# CouRaGeouS Cuentos: A Journal of Counternarratives

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## Author Bios

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## Author Bios

**Adele Mora** (she/her/they/them) is a Studio and Art Education Major at Cal Poly Humboldt. She loves collecting little pieces of life. Documentation has been incredibly impactful in their life. It began before she was born with their mother writing her letters in utero, and it continues today when they take photos of insects on her walks and write themselves yearly letters. She enjoys creating compositions through collages because they provide pieces to the stories behind their artwork that would otherwise be excluded in other compositions.

**Alex Godinez** (he/him) is a freshman in high school who enjoys eating lots of good food. He enjoys playing Fallout and cooking food. He is very funny and enjoys making his friends laugh.

**Ana Bernal** (They/Them) is a Gender Non-Conforming artist born and raised in East Los Angeles. Founder and Executive Director of Q Youth Foundation, a non-profit organization using the power of storytelling, wellness and survivor centered work to connect the LGBTQIA+ community in California. Currently, they are a lecturer for the Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies Department and serve as the Project Director and Co-Chair for Cal Poly Humboldt's Sexual Assault Prevention at Cal Poly Humboldt University.

**Andrea Merezko** (she/her) es Mexicana. She is from Las Vegas, NV. Le gusta ir al gimnasio, pasar tiempo con su familia y distribuir comida.

**Anitanais Mercado** (she/they) is currently a senior who will be graduating this year, 2024, with two degrees, one in political science and the other in Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies. She was born and raised in Santa Ana, CA, a place they are extremely proud of being from, and has shaped her into being the person they are today. She enjoys being in the

community and conversing, and sharing knowledge and stories.

**Athens Marrón** (he/him/él) is from El Valle de Coachella. His major is in Sociology and his minor is in Multicultural Queer Studies. He is pursuing grad school next fall to become a researcher and educator who humanizes the schooling experiences of Latinx/Chicanx students in K-12.

**Audriana Peñaloza** (she/her/ella), but many know her as Audri, comes from a small town in the Central Valley called Arvin and traveled all the way to Humboldt County to come to Cal Poly Humboldt. She is a first-gen grad student in the Applied English program and she is currently researching about the book bans that have been affecting many marginalized schools across the country. When she is not being a scholar, she loves being at home watching period pieces, cooking, or spending time with her loved ones and pet babies.

**Ava Gaskell** (she/her) nació en Estados Unidos, pero su padre es Europeo.

**Baylie Battle** (she/her) is a junior at Eureka High School.

**César G. Abarca** (he/him) is Dean and Professor of the Facundo Valdez School of Social Work at New Mexico Highlands University since July 2023. He is a Xicano community organizer, scholar-activist, and urban farmer. He earned his interdisciplinary doctoral degree in Sociology and Social Welfare from Boston University, and his BSW and MSW degrees from San Francisco State University. He has practiced social work in multicultural, multilingual, and multi-ethnic communities in California, Massachusetts, and New Mexico. He has presented in national and international academic conferences on topics such as transnational communities, immigrant employment, environmental justice, and international migration. He lives, works, plays, and prays in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Christy Wilson** (she/her) tiene dieciocho años y es de Humboldt County. Le gusta trabajar y le gusta pasar tiempo con su hermanito.

**Cristian Casimiro** (he/him) is from Bakersfield, California. He is majoring in Forestry Wildland fire management. He enjoys listening to music, drawing, and being out in nature. It's amazing to have the opportunity to go to school in such an amazing place and he is here because it all started con un sueño.

**Eliseo Casiano** (he/him) is an artist and Assistant Professor in Painting at California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt. He interprets time through painting, documenting symbols, landscapes, and people who define his surroundings. Working with vibrant color relationships and a reference to light, he paints radiant beings existing in both domestic and imagined spaces.

**Emily Carrillo Cifuentes (Emy)** (she/her) es de Guatemala. Le gusta estudiar lo que es enfermería. Disfruto aprender cosas nuevas.

**Estrella** (she) es de Oaxaca y le gusta mucho viajar a México en las vacaciones.

**Fernanda Salinas** (she/her) is studying Environmental Resource Engineering at Cal Poly Humboldt. She spends most of her time with friends, but when on her own enjoys writing and doing art. This is her first time submitting anything she has written for the public to see which is fun! She hopes that her work is enjoyable! Thank you!

**Genesis Ruiz Hernandez** (she/her) was born in Sinaloa and immigrated to California when she was 3. She tends to spend her free time doing things like drawing, painting, or making bracelets.

**Giselle Salas** (she/her) is currently a junior at EHS. She was born and raised in Humboldt County and has lived here her

whole life. She currently doesn't know what she would like to major in but hopes to figure it out soon. She aspires to be rich, not just economically, but in all aspects of her life. She enjoys meeting new people from different backgrounds and cultures and spending her days doing whatever comes to mind.

**Henri Jowaisas** (he/him) is a freshman at Arcata High School. He is dedicated to playing soccer. Soccer makes him very happy and he hopes to play on the varsity team in the years to come.

**Imran Rashid** (he/him) is majoring in Environmental studies with a minor in values and ethics. He's been making art since he was a kid and enjoys trying new ways to convey meaning through digital and mixed media art forms. His inspiration ranges from Americana traditional tattoos to religious symbolism.

**Isaac Burke** (he/him) is from the Bay Area in San Rafael. He is majoring in Kinesiology with a concentration in pre-health. His interests are art and exercise.

**Isabel Sada Wedll** (she/her/ella) is from Humboldt County. She is majoring in Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies with an emphasis in Ethnic Studies, and minoring in Native American Studies. She enjoys traveling, learning, spending time with family and friends, and being creative through multiple art mediums.

**Isabelle West** (she/her) es de Eureka California. Le gusta estudiar inglés, español y escribir. Disfruta de este privilegio de publicar sobre sus hermanos y sobre sí, ya que son una parte muy importante de su vida.

**Jacqueline Alvarado Reyes** (she/her) is from San Diego. She is majoring in Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies, and trying to minor in Philosophy. In her free time, she enjoys roller skating.

**Jade Khalid** (they/them) is a Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality

Studies major from Houston, Tx. They enjoy traveling, eating spicy food, being near the water, and spending time under the warmth of the sun.

**Janet Macías** (she/her) is a Mexican-American multidisciplinary artist born and raised in East Los Angeles, California. She is currently pursuing a BFA from Cal Poly Humboldt. Janet's multidisciplinary practice centers on playful experimentation that intersects between ceramics, sculpture and painting. Her ceramic sculptures have been exhibited at Vincent Price Art Museum, The Mexican Center for Culture and Cinematic Arts, and Plaza de la Raza.

**Janie Mendoza** (she/they) is a BFA student and an art education major at Cal Poly Humboldt. She is a Chinese American transracial adoptee who was raised in Arcata, California. They enjoy the process of creating art and the connections made between the viewer and the artist.

**Jenica Huddleston** (she/her) is from Eureka, California. She is currently a senior in high school and intends to go to a four-year university after high school. She enjoys being out in nature and playing with her cat.

**Jennifer Ruiz Gómez** (she/her) tiene 17 años y es hija única. Disfruta pasar tiempo con sus amigos y familiares porque siempre se divierte y se siente feliz cuando está con ellos. Ella piensa que es muy afortunada de tener padres y amigos que la apoyan y que la aman, y por eso ella está muy agradecida.

**Joahnnna Tool** (she/ella/they) is in her third year here at Humboldt. They are a Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies major with an emphasis in Ethnic Studies and she is minoring in Spanish. They love listening to music and spending time in nature. She is also very passionate about using photography to bring light to communities and environments that are often underrepresented.

**Joleen Sánchez** (she/her) es de Eureka. Está en la secundaria, pero espera estudiar biología. Disfruta pasar tiempo con su familia y mis amigas.

**Jordan McDowell** (she/her) was born and raised in Donora, Pennsylvania. In 2020, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from CalU of PA, and her Master's in Social Psychology with a focus in Academic Research at Cal Poly Humboldt in 2023. Presently, she is the program coordinator for the Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions (DHSI) education grant at Cal Poly and serves as a community liaison for the College of the Redwoods Community College. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, singing, cooking, and doing lots of self-care.

**Jordan Pangelinan** (she/her/ella) is a first-generation student majoring in Journalism and is still considering her minor. She enjoys learning and talking to people a lot. She plans to pursue a career in music journalism as that brings her closer to her culture. She learned Spanish through music. Thank you for looking through the art in this book.

**Jordan Phanh** (he/him) is from Eureka, California. He grew up in this not well-known city for his whole life. He aspires to one day major in business at a 4-year university. He hopes that one day he will be able to look back and revisit the memories that seem ever so fleeting.

**Jorge Lopez Cortes** (he/him) is from Eureka, CA. He is majoring in Kinesiology. He enjoys hanging out with friends, working out, and playing baseball.

**Jovanna Herrera** (she/her) es de Arcata, California born and raised. She is in high school right now and she is not sure what she'd like to major in when she gets to college. She enjoys being by herself a lot and enjoying her own existence. She also enjoys spending time with her family and watching them grow and meet their goals.

**Juan Andrés Viteri Salazar** (he/his/him) es de Ecuador. Va a estudiar ingeniería industrial y disfruta jugar videojuegos y leer.

**Julio Alberto Sandoval Contreras** (he) is from Washington and he is a sophomore in high school.

**Julio Romero** (he/him) is a student at Arcata High School who enjoys sleeping and going to the gym. He is proud of his writing because it demonstrates that having dyslexia is not a barrier to becoming a published author.

**Karina Juarez** (they/she) Hello na'ra la'. Karina is a double major in Art Education and Fine Arts with a concentration in ceramics. They are an artist who focuses on reconnection through clay. Their current work is inspired by pre-Columbian pottery and indigenous aesthetics. They utilize influence from both their Zapotec ancestry and their journey as a danzante.

**Kato** (he/him) is from Venezuela and Dominican Republic. He is majoring in Psychology and Minorng in Multicultural Queer Studies. He enjoys playing different sports and hanging out with his pets.

**Kimberly Alexandra Madrigal** (she/her) is a queer Chicana multimedia journalist based out of Humboldt and Fresno County focused on learning, listening, and sharing Queer & BIPOC stories. She enjoys traveling, dancing, reading, writing, thrifting, and DJing. Check out her website: <https://kimberly-alexandra.wordpress.com>

**Levit de Jesus Cantu Castillo** (he/him) is from Mexico. He has been in the US for 7 months. He is attending Cal Poly Humboldt and studying General Biology. He enjoys reading fantastic stories, writing his own stories, playing soccer, volleyball, etc. But what he really loves is helping others.

**Madison Avila** (she/her) is from Crescent City California. She is currently a high school student in the class of 2026. She wants to major in nursing or business.



**Maria De Los Angeles Ortega Partida** (she/her/hers) es una first-generation Chicana born and raised en St. Helena, California. She is currently majoring in Studio Arts, enfocándose in Ceramics. She enjoys working with barro, cooking, and hanging out with sus friends y familia. Estoy bien agradecida to be a part of this collection of cuentos and works of arte.

**Maria Fregoso Deanda** (she/her) is from Eureka, California. She was raised in Humboldt her whole life. She plans to study to be either a pediatric nurse or a veterinarian.

**Maria I Navarro-Montes** (she/her) is from Humboldt and she enjoys learning new things.

**Maria Posos** (she/her), author of *Tener que ser, sin saber*, is from Eureka, California. She is majoring in Dental Hygiene. She enjoys being with family, baking, and reading.

**Mariela Alvarez** (she/her/ella) is a first-generation Xicana from Anaheim, Orange County who is pursuing an international studies degree and is passionate about bringing advocacy to the center of attention in all areas for the liberation of brown and black bodies. In her spare time, she loves learning, growing, and healing through poems and words. She also enjoys reading about local tribes' mythology and solo exploring in rural, almost forgotten areas of Humboldt County.

**Marisa Morales** (she/her/ella) was born and raised in Stockton, CA. She is majoring in Criminology and Justice Studies with a minor in Comparative Ethnic Studies. She enjoys exploring new places while she is with the people she cares about.

**Marisol Ruiz** (she/her) has a PhD in Language Literacy and Sociocultural Studies with an area of emphasis in Educational Thought and Cultural Studies from the University of New Mexico. She specializes in critical social justice, ethnic studies, and bilingual education which includes language education, biliteracy, multiliteracy practices, teacher education, critical

and liberatory pedagogies, youth/participatory action research, teacher action research, and youth social movements. Her research focus is on students' self-empowerment, and the reclamation and resurgence of ancestral, home knowledge in order to heal and create social changes in their community.

**Merlin Guzman** (she/her) is a Chicana from El Sereno majoring in Psychology. She has always had a passion for writing and for her cultura, and she is grateful to have this opportunity to present her work for Courageous Cuentos.

**Miguel Ramos** (he/him) is a student at Arcata High School. He enjoys playing soccer and basketball in his free time. He is very passionate about clothing and always wants to look his best.

**Mis** (they/them) is a proud Angeleno with an Interdisciplinary Studies major emphasizing in health. They navigate their world by looking at the dynamics that tether us to each other and our environment. They heal with music, dance, and spending their waking minutes around those that make them happy. They are a proud parent of gatitos who will forever be the highlights of their life.

**Naidely Gonzalez-Herrera** (she/her) is from the Bay Area here in California. Here at Cal Poly Humboldt, she is majoring in English Education in hopes of being an English teacher. She enjoys reading, writing, spending time with family and friends, and discovering new places!

**Nancy Pérez** (she/her) is from Boyle Heights in the Eastside of Los Angeles. She is an assistant professor in the Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies department at Cal Poly Humboldt where she teaches in the Ethnic Studies pathway. Nancy has a PhD in Justice Studies from Arizona State University, and also studied Chicana/o Studies and Central American Studies at Cal State Northridge. She enjoys reading, writing, art, cooking, and drinking coffee with loved ones and friends.

**Naomi Huerta** (she/her) was a senior at Fortuna High School.

She is passionate about delving into the complexities of the human mind and behavior, which is why she is excited to pursue Psychology at Cal Poly Humboldt. Her ultimate goal is to continue her studies at UC Berkeley, her dream school. Aside from academics, she has a strong affinity for art. She enjoys painting and drawing, and she has been told she has quite a knack for it. She is hoping to explore opportunities to sell her artwork soon. Additionally, she loves spending time outdoors, especially during the summer when she can go to the river with her family and friends or take peaceful walks along forest trails. In the future, she envisions herself continuing to merge her interests in psychology, art, and nature, creating a fulfilling and multifaceted life for herself in the Bay Area.

**Naomy Melecio Estrada** (she/her) is from Guanajuato, Mexico. She enjoys baking, horseback riding, reading, long walks in el campo, and spending time with her family and friends.

**Nayali Abarca-Ruiz** (she/her) is a Studio Arts major who is graduating from Cal Poly Humboldt in 2024.

**Necahual** (they/them) is from the Los Angeles area. They have a BFA from CalArts and are studying in the graduate English program at Cal Poly Humboldt. They currently reside in Willow Creek east of Arcata. They love hiking, camping, and spending time with their three dogs and partner.

**Nicole Velazquez** (she/her/they/them) is a Studio Art and Art Education major with a minor in music. She enjoys doing art and working on projects connected to their culture and background. She hopes viewers from all backgrounds can feel connected with their work and feel a sense of community and culture.

**Noemi Gonzalez Maldonado** (she/her/ella) is a first-generation high school and college graduate from a small agricultural town named Watsonville, in between Santa Cruz and Monterey. She is an English graduate student, middle child of 4, and enjoys hanging out with friends and family. She hopes

to be a breath of fresh air for the youth in her communities. Amongst her passions, her favorite is writing for and about the complexities of girl and womanhood through her personal experiences.

**Pamela Hernandez** (they/ them) is a Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies major at Cal Poly Humboldt. They enjoy spending time with their cat and in nature.

**Pat Gomez-Lopez** (he/ him) is from San Diego and is currently majoring in zoology. He is an aspiring artist and enjoys drawing, watching movies, and writing about the media that he watches. In his art, he likes to focus on his perspective as a trans Venezuelan-American.

**Peyton Leone** (he/ him) es de Bakersfield, CA. Estudia inglés y periodismo. Es de ascendencia mexicana y europea. Quiere dejar el mundo mejor de lo que lo encontró.

**PM** (any pronouns) is an immigrant, first-generation, queer Tagalog/Filipinx/a/o/ American appointed as assistant professor of Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies at Cal Poly Humboldt. They teach classes in Asian/ American Studies, transnational gender & sexuality studies, performance studies, media & cultural studies, and science & technology studies (STS). Their current scholarship translates into multiple projects that amplify underserved Asian/ American voices through ethnographic research, drag performance art as Maria Arte Susya Purisima Tolentino (Ma. Arte), and decolonial praxis in the classroom.

**Priscilla Cuellar Duarte** (they/ she), also goes by P or Pri, is from a city called Whittier in Los Angeles. They are majoring in Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies with an emphasis in Ethnic Studies. They enjoy reading, singing, playing video games and just being with their community.

**Sofia Solis** (she) is from Michoacan Mexico. She enjoys being with her family, especially on holidays. The food from Uruapan

Michoacan is what she enjoys so much, it is the best food she has ever eaten in her life.

**Tim Olson** (his/him/he) has been teaching Spanish at Eureka High School for 28 years. He has lived in Humboldt County since the age of 3. He was introduced to Spanish at the age of 15 when his soccer coach took his team to Honduras in 1986 for three weeks. It has been a part of his life ever since. Working with Marisol and his Latinx Students on writing and publishing their stories have been some of the most profound, rewarding, and inspiring moments in his teaching career.

**Venus Guadalupe Elizalde** (she/her) is majoring in Art Studio. She really enjoys making art and creating poems to get a better understanding of her own being and how she perceives herself as time progresses. All dedication goes to her loved ones. Thank you so much.

**Violet Miller-Wuest** (she/her) is a student who enjoys singing, writing, drawing, gardening, and birds.

**Yaire Barboza** (she/they) is a first-generation Xicana majoring in Native American Environmental studies. She passionately advocates for BIPOC representation in the domain of natural spaces and sciences. Drawn to the outdoors by their love for animals, her academic focus centers on the profound impacts of settler colonialism on our more-than-human relatives and our Human-Mother Earth relationships. They encourage everyone to connect with the land; it is capitalism's agenda to sever our relationship with Mother Earth. Resist.

