



Presenter: Stephanie Fayette

Session & Time: Oral I

Room/Time: GUZ 111 / 10?40-11:00

Discipline: Social Justice

Faculty Mentor: Emily Wu

Digital Portfolio URL:

Title: Othering and Belonging in the Face of Displacement

Abstract:

This project showcases the perspectives of residents in affordable housing in the Bernal Heights neighborhood in San Francisco, CA. The long-time residents share how rising housing costs, redevelopment, and neighborhood change in the community affect their sense of identity, stability, and belonging. In Bernal Heights, as redevelopment projects expand and housing prices continue to rise, long-term residents face pressures that extend beyond affordability. They face the possibility of losing not just housing, but community memory, cultural visibility, and social stability. This research seeks to understand how residents define belonging in the midst of these changes and how displacement operates not only as physical removal but as structural othering. Through interviews and content analysis of the interviews, the project will also shed light on how service providers in the neighborhood could improve their support for the community residents. While the research for this project is academically grounded, it is also

deeply shaped by the author's own experiences as a Haitian immigrant who has had to rebuild a sense of belonging in unfamiliar systems. Displacement is often discussed in economic terms. Reports measure rent increases, housing supply, and property value appreciation. But displacement is not only financial. It is emotional. It is relational. It alters how people experience safety, participation, community building, and recognition in the spaces they have long called home.