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interSEXtional pride

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interSEXtional pride

Cover Page Footnote

This poem is in honor of all the queer Chicax lives that have paved the way and have allowed me to exist openly today.

interSEXtional pride

by Damon R. Carbajal

I am from a society where being *Gay* is not okay
I am from a society where being *Chicanx* is not okay
I am from a society where being *Gay* and *Chicanx* is not okay
I am from a society where being at the interSEXtion of being *Gay* and *Chicanx* is not okay

It is at this interSEXtion where we must unite
At an interSEXtion where you are double-marginalized
But at this double-marginalization is where we thrive
An interSEXtion that is run by toxic *machismo* and masculinity

I grew up at this interSEXtion, but it is not all that defines me
I am defined by pain, love, loss, and joy

I am from the hole that was left in my family from *mi Abuelo's* suicide
I am from an accidental pregnancy that led to my existence
I am from making sure that everything I do is beyond perfect because when you are *Gay*
and *Chicanx* you are not allowed to be anything but perfect.
I am from being a light-skinned *Chicanx* who was unfriended because I am *Chicanx*

I am from the long sunny days at the park with *mi familia, mi Abuela, primos, tío y tías*. I
am from the weddings and *quinceañeras* on the weekends to the long days at school and
work I am from the *pozole y bischcocitos en mi casa* on Christmas eve con *mi Abuelita* I
am from *no es oro todo lo que reluce*

I am from working for everything I have
I am a product of many things

I am a product of APS and UNM and Albuquerque and Las Cruces and Texas and México I am
a product of being bullied because of who I am---Faggot *y jota y gay y queer y maricón* I am a
product of depression, loneliness, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts because of my orientation and
IDentity

I am a product of hard times and long nights fighting for my personal worth

I am a product of my loving and caring *familia*
I am a product of long days *con mis amigos y primos* making me laugh

I am a product of long nights making *comida con los fiestas*
I am a product of the *paletas y agua frescas y amor*
I am from a society where being *Gay* is not okay
I am from a society where being *Chicanx* is not okay
I am from a society where being *Gay* and *Chicanx* is not okay
I am from a society where being at the interSEXtion of being *Gay* and *Chicanx* is not

okay But society DOES NOT define me

I am proud to be *GAY*
I am proud to be *CHICANX*
I am proud to be *GAY* and *CHICANX*
I am proud to be at the interSEXtion of being *GAY* and *CHICANX*

Damon R. Carbajal (he/el) is a gay, queer Chicanx educator, scholar, and activist. He is an M.A. candidate in Chicana/o/x Studies and will also receive a certificate in “Race” and Social Justice from the University of New Mexico (UNM). He holds a B.A. in Secondary Education with concentrations in Communicative and Performing Arts from UNM. He is currently the Co-Chair and Policy Coordinator for Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network Albuquerque (GLSEN), sits on the New Mexico Educational Theatre Association Board, and works as the Operations Manager at Native American Professional Parent Resources, Inc. (NAPPR). His research focuses on creating and maintaining equity for LGBTQ+ Chicanx students and educators. His work aims to re-center lost voices with a focus on equity and social justice because all humans deserve to have their voice not only heard but centered. The poem collection corresponds to the inaugural theme of *Chamisa* in that it illuminates the importance of the many intersections of identity, art, and culture that should be celebrated among the diverse people of the greater U.S. Southwest. By illuminating these intersections, the poems aid in showcasing the true resilience of the people of the Southwest while speaking to the deep cultural ties that many families have had to this place for many years. For Damon, this is the intersectional queer Chicanx experience in the greater Southwest, specifically New Mexico. ¡*Sí Se Puede!*