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Epistemologías Muertas

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Epistemologías Muertas

by Luis Oswaldo Esparza

Quieres medir mi cultura
Como la suela de tus zapatos
Dependent variable, independent variable
Que basura

Mi cultura es fluida
Mi cultura es libre
None of our variables
Will ever claim it
Epistemologías muertas
Muertas del alma
Muertas del espíritu (Estribillo)

Istac, Kapostic
Así no es el mundo
Gringos, güeros!
El mundo es más profundo
Poloko, Poloko, Poloko!

Luis Oswaldo Esparza is originally from Tototlán, Jalisco, Mexico, and was raised in the Inland Empire region of Southern California. He identifies as Queer, *Joto*, Xicano, and most importantly, as a social justice warrior. Esparza's experiences as a queer person of color have ultimately shaped the direction of his research and creative works. Much of Esparza's work focuses on de-centering European ways of knowing as 'universal knowledge' and centering subaltern and indigenous epistemologies. His poem, *Epistemologías Muertas* resonates with the theme of this journal because often epistemologies of marginalized groups are ignored and/or further marginalized. Like Chamisa's goal of centering New Mexican art, culture, and identity, this poem serves as a critique of eurocentrism in the academic and art realms. *Corazón de Covid* is a poem written when Esparza was healing after a devastating break-up during the summer of 2020. Ultimately, it was because of fellow colleagues in New Mexico that he was able to heal and find himself again. Essentially, *Corazón de Covid* was inspired by several digital New Mexican healing spaces.