

TROUBLING SOVIET  
ASHKENAZI JEWISH  
WHITENESS:  
QUEER IMMIGRANT  
CONTESTATIONS  
+  
IMAGINATIONS

a dissertation by

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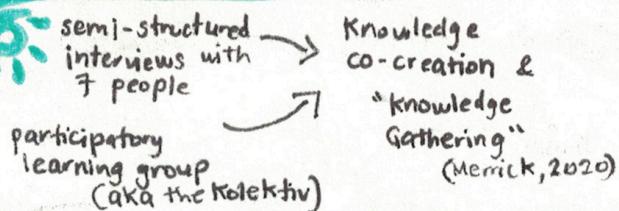
## CH 1: INTRODUCTION

- How this project found me & ongoing dilemmas
- Jewish "Barbarism" & weaponization of Jewish Whiteness
- My Qs & Chapter overview
- Focus on Ashkenazi, 1.5 gen, queer + gender marginalized, in the U.S.

## CH 2: HISTORY + THEORY

- Decolonial history of Russian Empire, Soviet Union, & U.S. (with Jewish focus)
- U.S. Immigrant whiteness anti-imperialist, decolonial & critical race
- Soviet Jewish immigrants in U.S. take!
- Abolishing whiteness; intersectionality

## CH 3: METHODOLOGY



## Emigration

- Why? (complicating dominant narratives)
- At what cost?

## Resettlement

- Refugee Status
- American Jews as bridge to Assimilation
- cultural material

## Negotiating Racialized Assimilation CHAPTER 4: as New ARRIVALS

## Navigating Schooling

- housing + schooling in U.S. racial capitalism
- Suburban moves
- Soviet Jewish motivations; white benefits

## Adverse Consequences

- cost to elders
- fractured connections
- academic pressure
- learning to be white

## CHAPTER 5: ROLE OF SHAME in Racialized Assimilation



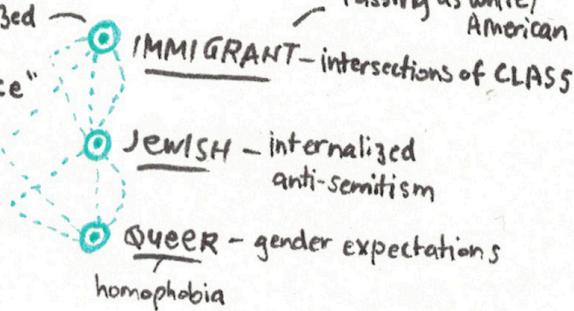
• Socialized Whiteness + SHAME

• Racism + White SHAME  
in the Family

- Soviet Orientalism, anti-Indigeneity, & Eurocentrism
- antiblackness

• Intersectional Notions of  
White Shame

the "invisibilized  
immigrant  
difference"



## • Coming into Critical Consciousness

- Ignorance & "disidentification"
- Connecting race, class & power
- historicized & decolonial analyses

## CHAPTER 6: IMMIGRANT NEGOTIATIONS of WHITENESS

## • Liberal-Saviorist Whiteness

- gendered white supremacy
- Saved to Savior
- Projecting unprocessed trauma  
- consuming "the other"

## • Navigating Critical Whiteness

- Confronting Complicity
- Wielding, Abdicating, Negotiating Power
- Alienation in white antiracist spaces
- Returning to our roots (politicized)

## MAKING A CONTESTED HOME OUT OF ALIENATION

- belonging(?)

From live, virtual Group Study to KGV

## HEALING SHAME VIA CONNECTION

- centering FSU QJ

## CHAPTER 7: KOLEKTIV GOLUBOY VAGON MOBILIZING QUEER IMMIGRANT HISTORIES

### TRANSFORMING PAINFUL INHERITANCES

- working thru familial trauma

### MOBILIZING OUR HISTORIES AGAINST PRESCRIPTIONS

- collective consciousness zine
- Re: Armenian Jews
- Contestation

### CREATING A NEW QUEER DIASPORIC CULTURE

- Cultural + spiritual reclamation + reimagining
- Toward a praxis of politicized care

## CHAPTER 8: CONCLUSION

- addressing: will we be "transformed out of existence?"

### RECAP

- Imagination & "Re-Existence"
- articulating & practicing alternative identities & modes of relating



### IMPLICATIONS

- We exist! - articulating us between Soviet & U.S. empires



- whiteness is in process, contested, not finished

- power must be studied intersectionally, in historically-located ways

- Learning & healing together - KGV as model  
Rooting & radiating

### FUTURE LIMITATIONS & DIRECTIONS

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# REFERENCES

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