

What is your name?

Cynthia Lamy

What is your gender?

Female

What ethnicity do you identify as?

Haitian

What race do you identify as?

Black

Where were you born?

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Where were your parents born?

Jeremie and Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Is your blackness unique or does it have similarities to other ethnicities?

That's not a tricky question, but it kind of is. It's my blackness. I mean, it's not unique. I mean there's other black people around, which are not Haitian but other nationalities.

Do you feel like your blackness is questioned? If so, what aspects?

My blackness is questioned because I'm not black, black. I'm a little lighter skin then just being black. And the fact that I don't have an accent speaking English. I mean some people might, think I'm from another country than Haiti. Just because I'm light skin. You know some people take me for, a Dominican person, you know, or Cuban. There's the lighter skin, but there's the education also that comes with it. There are so many others with lighter skin than I am, but they don't speak English or speak French or whatever, and you know, it just doesn't work. You have to have the education with it to have some sort of advantage. But it does work sometimes, like that you know. I mean, nothing complicated. They will take the lighter skin than the dark one.

Do you believe there to be an implicit or explicit hierarchy of blackness? i.e. Is Afro-Cuban seen as lower than African-American in society?

Of course.

Did you grow up in a house or apartment?

House.

How many people lived there?

5 people and 2 helpers

Which of the following rooms were in your living space? Bedroom, Bathroom, Kitchen, Dining Room, Living Room, Den, Foyer, Library, Office, Front Porch, Back Porch, Balcony, Basement, Laundry Room, Front Yard, Back Yard

Bedroom, Bathroom, Kitchen, Dining Room, Living Room, Den, Library, Front Yard, Back Yard, Parking Deck*

What activities did you participate or witness in the kitchen or on the porch that is unique to your culture? If you did not have a formal porch, was there a communal space that acted as a porch?

No, we only cooked food in the kitchen. But we wouldn't use the inside kitchen, we would use the outside kitchen. We had a grill that we used with charcoal, we could not use charcoal inside the house. We had a gallery that we would use for parties and dancing from time to time.

What type of non-conventional activities did you participate or witness in the kitchen, on the porch? If you did not have a formal porch, was there a communal space that acted as a porch?

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by Jennifer Lamy

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There was a large gate at the point of our entrance. It was an open space without windows. My husband worked for the government so he would have parties from time to time because things weren't that bad. We could sit on the sides and look out because we lived on a hill.

What is your relationship to water?

There's nothing in particular for me.

In what spaces do you feel liberated?

The room I prefer the most is the kitchen because I love to cook, but then I don't stay there much. But being liberated right now would be the living room. That's where the TV is, and I can watch a lot of TV.

In what spaces do you feel restricted?

I'm alone a lot now, so no I don't feel restricted.

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