L2 Process

- L1 Self-reflection on the effect of Borders on people lives
  - *And so why is it, though, that you have this dramatic difference in outcomes between two people who are genetically identical, who have exactly the same circumstances at birth, but one ends up in Mexico and one ends up in the United States? And of course, that's just a fascinating question. What drives this difference in outcomes has to be human institutions.*
    - *Enigma*
    - *Snippet 1*
- L1 Self reflection on the meaning of Borders in the past
  - And so I ask myself, having this conversation with you, how would people 50 years ago have had this conversation? How would people 100 years ago have had this conversation? How would people... Well, et cetera, right? And I think some of the elements would be the same, but I think some of them would be different, right? And I think that, and I know the United States, I know Mexico somewhat, but mostly I know the United States and its history. And I think that in the past a lot of Americans would not have been as invested in the idea of borders as symbols of a lack of change or as symbols of protection and sovereignty. We were a country that prided itself on moving westward, right, on moving a border across Indian space, across Mexico. We invaded Canada.
    - Vessel
    - Snippet 2
- L1 Self reflection on difficulty on talking about borders
  - *And so, what do they mean to me? So, I won't be as organized as you were. That was very organized and very impressive. I will just be talking kind of randomly. And I'm happy to have you ask questions if I don't make sense. Okay. So, I guess I would say a few things. I mean, I think I also pick up on the kind of paradox that borders divide and they unite.*
    - Vessel
    - Snippet 3
- L1 Political effect of Borders from historical background
  - *A similar situation is the Iron Curtain, which you alluded to earlier, in Europe. And in the Iron Curtain, you had, for example, you had Germans in East Germany, Germans in West Germany, and Germans in Austria, who were on different sides of the Iron Curtain. The Germans were in NATO, the West Germans were in NATO, the East Germans were in the Warsaw Pact, and Austria was, well, a capitalist country was politically neutral. And what were the outcomes? And what you see is that the institutions adopted by the communist system kept the East Germans from prospering economically compared to their West German compatriots and compared to Austria. And that, again, was human institutions mediated by the border.*
    - *Enigma*
    - *Snippet 4*
- L1 Economic effect of Borders from historical background
  - *There's a famous picture of a satellite. And from that satellite, taken at night over the Korean Peninsula, the South Korea is brightly lit. You can see Seoul there, and Seoul is just this huge lit-up area. And then North Korea is almost completely dark. And that illustrates the difference in the economic outcomes. Again, not genetics, not culture, but institutions are driving the difference in economic outcomes in the two countries. North Korea, if the North Koreans could freely immigrate, you know where they'd all be living. They'd all be living in South Korea. East Germans, as we famously by the Berlin Wall, were prevented from immigrating to West Germany by force of their government to prevent them from crossing the wall from east to west. And when that wall was taken down, what happened, and you saw the mass migration of people from east to west. And then that was only when the backflow only arose when economic development began in the eastern part of Europe.*
    - *Enigma*
    - *Snippet 5*
- L1 Pscyhoco-social effect of Borders from Historical background
  - *And as such, what you see are dramatic differences in wealth. between people living on the U.S. side of the border and people living on the Mexican side of the border. A story that I often talk about in my class, and this is a made-up story, it's not a true story, but I ask people to think about this, which is suppose you had twins, and for the sake of this story, let's assume that they're orphans, have no family, and for the sake of this story, let's assume that they also are mentally handicapped, so that they're not very smart. In fact, they have a difficulty functioning because of that. Not impossible, but low functionality because of that. And let's say that somehow these twins got separated at birth, and one ended up in El Paso, Texas, and one ended up on the other side of the bridge in Juarez. What would their lives be like? Well, in El Paso, Texas, the first twin would be probably working at McDonald's. They would have social services supporting them. They would have help with specialized training to allow them to achieve maximum functionality. By working at McDonald's, they're earning the U.S. minimum wage, which is $15,000 a year, which is approximately the global average. So they would be average income earners on a global scale. This is someone who is disabled. The twin who found themselves in Juarez would not have the social services the twin in the United States had, would not be earning minimum wage, and because my students in the United States are familiar with this, they would probably be selling candies on the transnational bridge that goes between the United States and Mexico.*
    - *Enigma*
    - *Snippet 6*