

## Melody Roth Raab Writing Fellows Proposal

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Project title: Across Cultures (tentative name)

Faculty Mentor: Professor Ljiljana Coklin

### Overview:

“Across Cultures” encompasses a cultural anthology of anecdotes and narratives aimed towards exploring my biracial roots and coming of age through the perspectives of my relatives and ancestors. I intend to reconcile my mixed identity with my own reality and explore how two disparate cultures from across the world can meet and amalgamate. I was inspired by reading “No Name Woman” by Maxine Hong Kingston, a story in which Kingston unveils a familial anecdote about a forgotten and disgraced aunt and relates to it in her own voice as a modern Chinese American woman. I admire the way that Kingston uses Chinese folklore and generational stories to contemplate and blend them into her own experience. In my endeavor to illustrate my origins, I also hope it will reflect on the movement of ethnic diasporas, a relevant conversation within today’s immigration phenomenon. The narratives would reflect the voice of my relatives and shed light on their lives. As such a discussion on mixed race entails, I will also remark upon both challenges of racism and triumphs of multiculturalism. I will showcase my work in the form of a family album exhibit—complete with photographic evidence, any first-person archived accounts, my own writing, and perhaps even voice recordings. I envision an interactive multimedia exhibition, with audio and visual components.

I hope to gain a more comprehensive worldview through the eyes of my predecessors and explore and confront my intersectional identity and liminality more in depth. I am a double Global Studies and Chinese major, and this project would allow me to apply my academic study to my own life and connect my own motivations and goals for the future by understanding my past. Applying past courses in Asian American studies, Judaism, and Global Studies, I can connect my studies with my own familial history. This project will allow me to freely discuss and own my multicultural experience in a creative space.

Timeline: (Supplemented by the Writing 131ABC courses)

Summer (June – September):

- Outline project, compile research and archival evidence
  - o Research would include:
    - Interviews with family members (number would range from 5-10, conducted both with near-by members and via email correspondence or phone for members abroad)
    - Archival evidence collected from family photo albums, genealogical sources from travel logs, family trees
    - Recordings from any speeches relevant to time frame (not necessarily of my family members but perhaps historical contexts)

Fall Quarter (September – December):

- Work with Professor Coklin weekly/biweekly to flesh out project, rough draft in progress.

Winter Quarter (January – March):

- Editing should be done in this time frame.
- Final draft process.

Spring Quarter (March – June):

- Final editing, printing, collection of multimedia materials to prepare for showcase.
- Perhaps a presentation at URCA Colloquium (tentative) and poster created.
- Showcase.

Costs Anticipated:

This should be a low-budget project—it should not exceed the \$750 limit. I do not expect any travel costs, as any international research would be conducted electronically. Perhaps URCA poster cost. Costs would be allocated towards refining the project (any publication/printing expenses would range at most around \$350) and, if need be, I would do my own fundraising or pay out of pocket.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Melody Roth', written in black ink.

Melody Roth