

Dafe Luna
dafeluna@g.ucla.edu

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Gender Studies with a minor in Chicana and Chicano Studies, University of California, Los Angeles

Biography & Interests

Dafne was born in Brawley, California. She was raised as a migrant farm worker child and as a border dweller in the Mexicali/Calexico border. Dafne and her family eventually settled in Delano, California, a city in Kern County. She identifies as Queer, Chicana, Fat, Femme, Feminist and prefer She/They pronouns. She attended UCLA for her undergraduate degree in Gender Studies with a minor in Chicana and Chicano Studies, in which she focused her studies on Queer women of color feminism. She were heavily involved with Queer activism on campus working with student organizations such as La Familia de UCLA and Queer Alliance. Dafne worked closely with the UCLA LGBTQ Studies Program for which she established the first annual QScholars Research Symposium. With her heavy involvement in the Queer and Trans people of color (QTPOC) community it only made sense that she'd continue doing Queer work after graduating.

Dafne has been working in Silicon Valley providing peer-support services to Queer and Transgender youth that has strongly influenced the direction of her community work. She expanded her work to providing community education to Kern and Tulare counties in California. She provides *platicas* about gender and sexuality, best practices for service providers, and LGBTQ 101 workshops and trainings. Her consecutive work in two very different communities inspired her desire to work with the Kern County QTPOC community.

As a doctoral student, Dafne would like to expand the concepts of gender, sexuality, and identity in Chicana and Chicano Studies. She want to understand how Kern County culture impacts the development and navigation of Queer and Transgender identities for Latinx* and how they perform these identities in a transphobic, sexist, and homophobic cultural environment. She hopes that her work will engender agency and empowerment in the QTPOC community to demand appropriate resources for themselves.

Dafne's additional research interest include the intersections of Latinx communities and mental health, Chicana feminism and Theory, the politics of self-care and self love, and Fat Studies.

*Latinx is used as a way to acknowledge and celebrate the gender diversity within the Latino community.

