

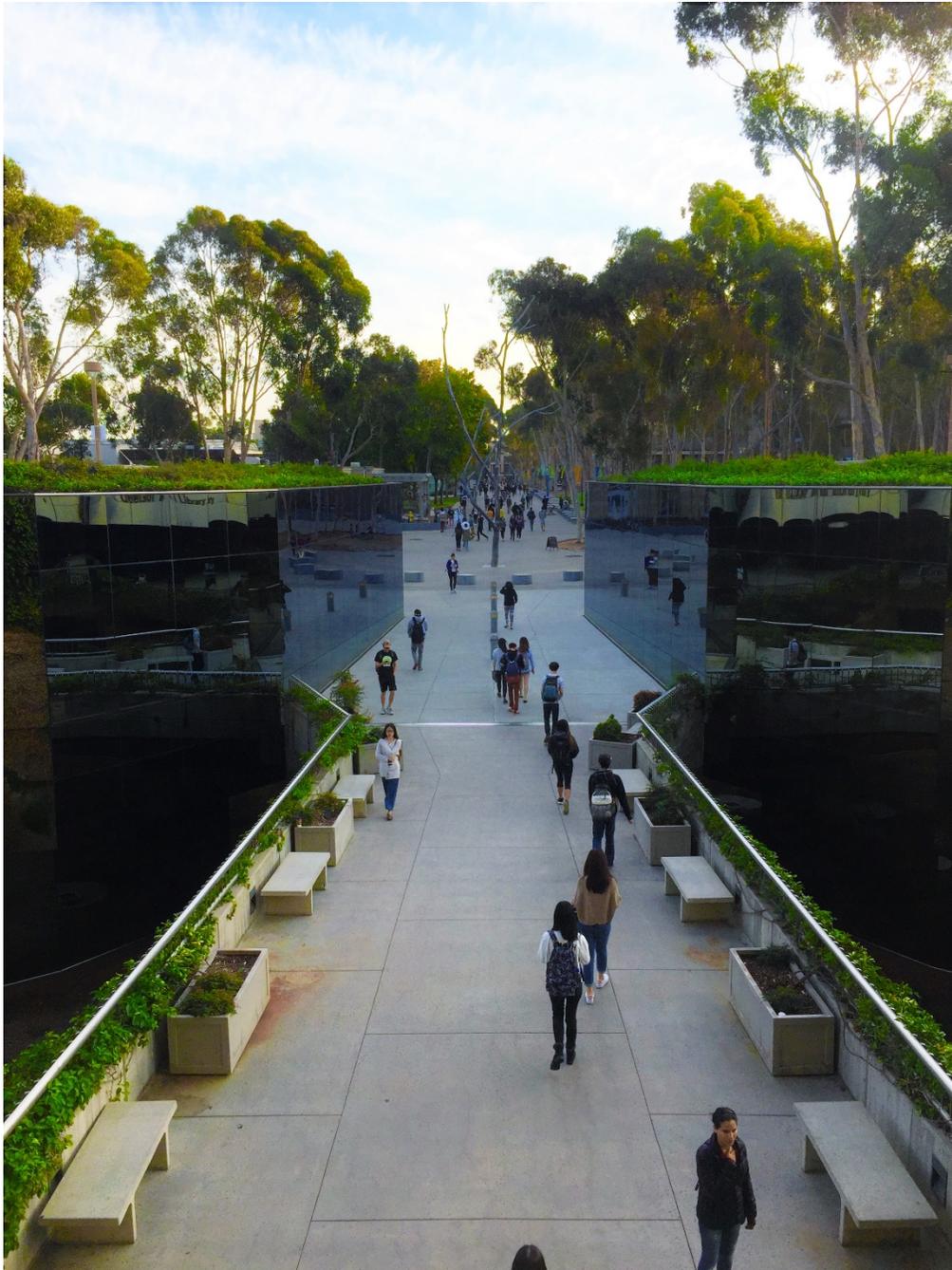
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Reading Response #5: Reflection on Kong's Fourth Chapter



Reading Kong's fourth chapter on the racial politics of the University of California San Diego really opens my eyes to a new issue that I have never really thought could happen on this campus. I am a Caucasian student from California and I have a very diverse group of friends at school as well as in my hometown, and consequently, I do not tend to focus race as a factor when choosing friends or just socializing in general. Ultimately, one's race and ethnicity do not bother me in any such way. Before reading this chapter, I believed that UCSD was a diverse campus that focuses on inclusion. But now that I am aware that this whole Compton Cookout Party and the events that followed it, I realize that not everyone has the same mindset as I do on this topic of race and ethnicity. Even though I feel that this campus does not seem to discriminate and exclude groups, I cannot ignore the fact that these events occurred only six years ago.

This chapter parallels with some recent events on campus due to the presidential election. Recently, students wrote "hate" messages in chalk outside of the Raza Resource Centro expressing their hostility towards the Chicano/Chicana and Latino/Latina community on campus. Before this event occurred, I envisioned UCSD's campus climate as peaceful and accepting. This is because of the multicultural clubs, Greek life, student orgs, and diverse community in general. But since the controversial issues discussed in the 2016 presidential debate about a stricter control on immigration, specifically across the US-Mexico border, the climate on campus has altered and still has not completely settled after the hostile chalk messages and presidential election.

Even if I would like to think that the world is a happy, peaceful place, it is not so. There will always be discrimination, oppression, and exclusion despite our best efforts to change this through the monumental progression in history. I believe that UCSD is doing everything right in

regards to inclusion and to the topic of racial politics of the university in general. In conclusion, my original view on the climate at UCSD opposed Kong's analysis of the campus climate. But after reading the chapter, I realize how prevalent her analysis is regarding the campus's racial politics as well as the United States.

Citations

Kong, Angela. "Ch 4." Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD. 2014.