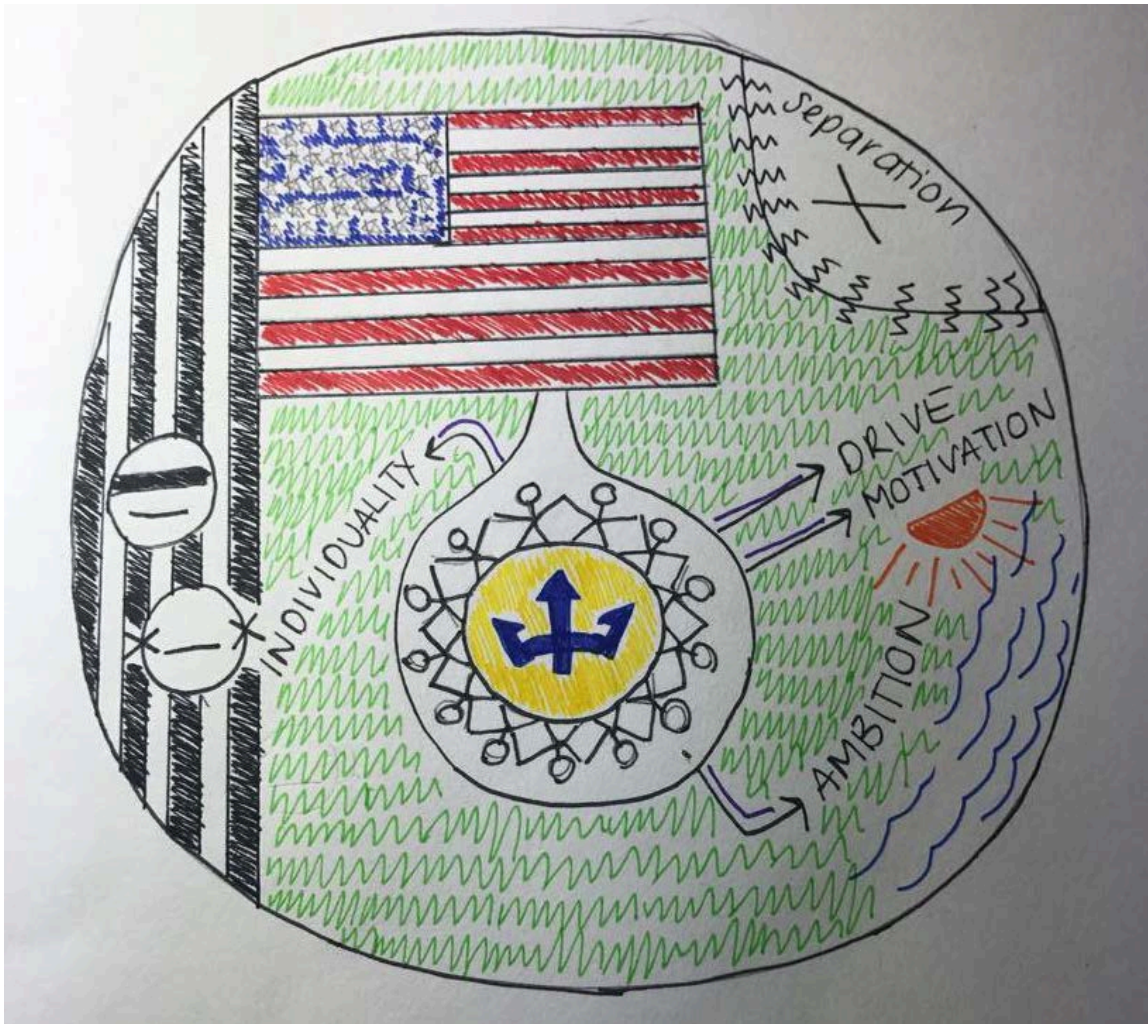


UCSD Climate



This is a visual representation of my view and experience of the UCSD campus climate. I view the climate as a unified and cohesive unit made up of a diverse group of people who are all striving for multi-faceted success. This cohort comes together as a group of multi-ethnic and multi-racial students, professors and university employees that are bonded by place and opportunity. While this is the main environment I see around me, I am also aware of the existence of close-minded people who seek to disrupt this balance and the self-segregation of groups of people based on their race and religion.

After finishing the reading by Kong my view of UCSD has not radically changed, but I feel more aware and educated about the notion of Asian-Americans as ‘model minorities’ and the need for inclusive policy at UCSD. Kong talks of the Asian-American community, in all its facets, as being ‘numerically represented but underserved’ and speaks of the struggle following the Compton Cookout and the following incidents to be heard by administration.

Upon finishing this reading, I was so engaged by the subject matter that I went to my roommate, a now close friend and Asian American student here at UCSD, in the hope of better understanding this topic in a personal regard. My roommate remarked about how she does struggle with the many stereotypes that are implicitly placed upon Asian American students and how these notions are quickly dismissed due to the large visibility of Asian students on Campus. Hearing about how someone so close to me and living under the same roof can identify with the struggle that is illustrated by Kong’s discussion of model minorities has made me realise that although to me UCSD is seemingly cohesive on the surface, I am naïve to think that just because I don’t experience any systematic oppression or underrepresentation that it isn’t a very real issue in this community today.

One of Kong’s arguments that I seek to challenge is his idea that Asian American issues on campus are equally as harmful as the struggles faced by the African American students on Campus. While I do understand that any hate crime and discrimination against any race is intolerable, I believe that historically both on and off campus have been more racially motivated incidents (ie. Events such as the Compton Cookout) towards the black community on campus and due to their underrepresentation in the campus population, there should be more of a focus on ensuring policy to counteract these problems. Kong argues that the Compton Cookout was an act of discrimination

against all races and as such there should be equal policy changes and more education and resources made available by administration, while my view is that the event was aimed at the black community and more focus should be put on preventative policies for this minority group due to their lack of numbers and support. That being said, no discrimination of any kind should be dismissed or ignored.

In this way, the campus climate of UCSD to me has the distinct atmosphere of togetherness and progression towards a unified entirety. While the views of some are hurtful and close-minded, this reading solidifies my view of the students at this school to be progressive and powerful in the way they are able to band together to achieve change, both social and institutional, and spread awareness about cultural and historical issues that apply to not only this campus but the world around us.

Additionally, for me this article echoes the words of Adichie in her TED talk when she made the point about going beyond a single story. Although UCSD is in many ways a cohesive environment, there are so many people from different backgrounds and I truly believe that people, especially the policy makers mentioned in the extract, need to be consciously aware that there is more than just 'one story' behind these individual groups. As such, decisions regarding policy need to be made after listening to and going beyond individuals' stories and experiences so that an inclusive and positive environment can flourish.