Welcome to Exploring entanglements,

a podcast brought to you by

the Center for Women & Gender equity

at West Chester University.

My name is Natalia.

I'm a second year double major

in sociology in Spanish.

And my pronouns are she

her hers for

background complex

regarding our conversation,

I am bilingual, Puerto Rican,

and cisgendered woman.

Hey everyone. I'm Dana.

I'm a senior with a major in

Psychology and a minor

in women's and gender studies.

I use she or her pronouns.

And just for a little context about

who I am and these conversations.

I'm a bisexual, cis white woman.

Hey everyone. My name is Sasha Alvarado.

I go by she her pronouns.

I me third-year political science major spanish minor

And just for a little context about

I'm bilingual strays from Guatemala.

We just wanted to give

a quick trigger warning

because in this podcast,

we will be talking about

sexual violence and assault.

We'll be analyzing and

having conversation around the book,

Sexual citizens by Jennifer

Hirsch and Shamus Khan.

This book offers a framework that

conceptualizes the factors

that enable sexual assault.

So we'd like the listeners

to be aware that we'll be

discussing potentially

triggering topics throughout the podcast.

Before we get started,

we would like to define

some terminology that we will be

using frequently throughout

exploring entanglements.

The first is sex.

Sex is an umbrella term that encompasses

a wide variety of sexual activities.

It's a fluid thing and it

looks different for everyone.

For the purposes of the podcast,

we will be defining sex,

sexual activity between

people where people's,

This includes intimate experiences between

consenting parties that

may build a connection.

This connection can be defined as intimacy.

Our next term we will be

using is sexual citizenship.

Sexual citizenship is it acknowledgement of

one's own right to sexual self-determination

And importantly, it recognizes

the equivalent right in others.

So sexual citizenship isn't

something that you are

granted when you're poor,

but something that is fostered

and something that we as

a society institutionally in

culturally have support it.

So for example, some people

don't feel entitled to their own bodies,

and some people feel

entitled to other bodies.

So how do we promote sexual citizenship?

We do this by creating conditions that

allow people to be sexually self-determined.

This means making them feel secure, capable,

and insisting that we all

recognize each other's rights.

Another frequently used term

that we'll be using

throughout exploring entanglement

is sexual geographies.

And this can be defined as

places and spaces where people meet,

folks that they might be interested

in romantically or sexually.

Sexual geography on campus could

be a dorm room, class,

or any other space where you can

get to know people or meet people.

Sexual geography is also hold

power in sexual situation.

So for example, in a dorm room,

you can usually find a bad,

an uncomfortable chair and a desk.

The presence of a bad space

might suggest that sex is an option,

giving a sexual geography power

in that particular situation.

Another term is sexual projects,

and this involves the reasons why

anyone might seek

a particular sexual interaction

or experience.

And a sexual projects can

be considered a range of

things like finding or

sexual identity you wanting to experience,

unsure, interesting,

gaining a specific experience

and even just trial and error,

finding out what you like and don't like.

Another important term.

Frequently using the term consent means

the affirmative voluntary agreement

gave specific sexual activity

during sexual encounter.

Consent can be revoked at any time.

Another term that's frequently

used with consent is coercion.

Ultimately consent as

V1 A1 coercion is present.

Coercion is unwanted sexual activity

that happens and you are pressured,

tricked, force, and non-physical way.

Coercion can make you think

you owe sexism and

another frequently used term

thought we'll be using throughout,

exploring entanglement is sexual geographies.

And this can be defined as

places and spaces where people

meet folks that they might be

interested in romantically or sexually.

Sexual geography on campus.

It could be a dorm room, class,

or any other space where you can

get to know people or meet people.

Sexual geography is also hold

power in a sexual situation.

So for example, in a dorm room,

you can usually find a bad,

an uncomfortable chair and a desk.

The presence of a bad space

might suggest that sex is an option,

giving a sexual geography power

in that particular situation.

Another term is sexual projects,

and this involves the reasons why

anyone might seek

a particular sexual interaction

or experience.

And a sexual project can be considered

a range of things like

finding your sexual identity,

wanting to experience harsher, interesting,

gaining a specific experience

and even just trial and error,

finding out what you like and don't like.

The correlation between unisexual soul

and communities of color in college.

Based off of what I've read from

the sexual citizens text,

is they mentioned a story about a woman

who went to a PIWI,

who went to a predominantly

white institution.

And there wasn't

a safe place where there wasn't

an environment where she felt

comfortable whenever she wants to parties,

people always regulated her as hadn't drugs,

as a black woman

who came to the party and, you know,

basically who was a dealer, which,

you know, was not the case.

And you would go to

parties for the sake of meeting people,

meeting friends, having like

growing to have a close friend group.

And her experiences every

time are very difficult.

And she found that the more she

drank or more comfortable she felt.

And ultimately, this led

to her one day falling

unconscious and and her

unfortunately getting

sexual sexually assaulted.

And and there's a,

there's a correlation there

between this because these are

external pressures that that made her drink.

The reason why entrepreneurs drinking in

the first place wasn't because she wanted

to drink alcohol or she had drank

our Kwan the pastor had

experience with alcohol in the past.

It was because she felt

uncomfortable in

the higher education system that she was in.

And this is explicitly

written in the text as well.

She felt uncomfortable and

the institution as she was in the PWM

and found comfort in

the alcohol and it made

her feel more welcome.

And ultimately, you know,

there's a correlation there

because of these external pressures,

because it's not uncommon that

people feel uncomfortable or

people of color feel excluded from

different parties

and different experiences in

college because of their identities,

because of their race, their ethnicity,

their nationality, the

languages that they speak,

and they find comfort

in in alcohol and drugs.

And although I personally,

I'm not like a heavy drinker,

I can definitely attest to the the,

the feeling of discomfort NLP Wi,

and the feeling of not

being accepted and included.

And some experiences because

of my ethnicity and,

and you know, my nationality and the language

that I speak so I can

access that these pressures are real.

Right? There. There's another story

here of I'm

non-binary individual named Liu Bei and it's

very similar story where

they attended a white institution, it says.

And they felt uncomfortable in

this small community and

the larger white community. It's solid wood.

They left campus to

try and get away from the quote,

\*\*\*\*\*\* white music that was

being played at student events.

So they left campus,

try and find comfort in

some sort of outside environment.

And they ended up at a bar where they were,

they were alone there and

they we're offered a drink

by someone and they refused.

And then they're offered again.

So they took it because I guess

it says up drinks in New Yorker,

very pricey and whatnot.

So they just accepted

the drain because I mean, who would enter.

And then it turns out that

the drink was or that they had gotten drugs,

that it was something was put in the dream.

And then again, ultimately

it results in them being halted.

So I definitely think that there

is a correlation between

the individuals feeling comfortable

on their campus and

feeling accepted and included

on the campus environment.

Where one

side. But yeah,

like if an individual does not

feel comfortable in a campus environment,

they might seek other environments that are

off campus where things might go awry.

Unfortunately, it didn't happen like that.

And lipase keys where the I guess you it's

heterosexual geography that they were

in Watson and great for them in either case,

whether it was at the bar that they ended up,

or whether they are on campus.

Just like I didn't have a place for them.

So I think that having a safe space and

an inclusive space for people of color and

other minorities is really important.

But I specifically relate to one

of these stories because I used to

go to university and I ended up

transferring my sophomore year to

Westchester because of

the lack of minority students.

Could champs can't miss.

An ad, would often feel like when I would go

out to know these white parties,

I felt like, well,

I don't like this music.

First of all, I don't feel comfortable here.

First of all, yeah,

maybe I'm going to get a drink

to make me feel a little bit more

loose and make myself feel like, okay, well,

you know, let me just try to

have whatever and I, you know,

and sometimes you feel that alcohol

can make you have fan or help you have fun.

So I definitely agree that lay,

just be a part of a community of color,

like a minority student at

a predominantly white institution,

you can like,

make you feel so

uncomfortable and places where,

you know, where you're

really supposed to have.

And so like, I think

it's important to acknowledge

that in a lot of universities, for example,

Westchester university, There are

different spaces for different communities.

Like for example, on West testers Canvas,

we have two different tail gaze.

And to put it bluntly,

one of them is for the white students and the

other till date is for the minority students.

And so I think it's

really important to acknowledge

that depending

on what community you come from,

you're going to have different spaces

for you to feel safe at.

And sometimes because of this,

because of your multiple identities,

you might feel like you have to JSON

to allow yourself to be

comfortable and allow yourself to have fun.

And it's really unfortunate that because of

our multiple identities and because we

don't feel comfortable and other species,

sometimes it can result in

unfortunately experiences.

But yes, asha, honestly,

that reminds me of

an experience I had as

soon as I got into high school.

My mom, like Joe to into my head,

like to never ever go to any like

frat parties because of of, you know,

her background experience,

knowing other women of

color who have gone to these, you know,

whitespaces and and and

have been sexually assaulted.

And she always drilled into my head like,

never go to any fat parties,

don't drink any frat parties.

I don't take a drink from

anyone that you like,

what interests with your life.

And, you know,

like she ingrained into my head that I

still to this day like I've

gone through a few frat parties.

But like I haven't really like, you know,

had more than one drink that I brought,

like myself over there.

I've never had to drink

from from a frat party that like,

you know, that was

actually like providing the liquor.

So that just goes

to show that like, you know,

this type of a fear

that That some people of color

and communities of color have

when it comes to these whitespaces

and this mistrust this up.

And that is extremely valid.

And that's an experience

that I had growing up.

My mom like really warned me

about these about these spaces

and really ingrained into

me and I and I listen to them

Tuesday and I don't I

don't drink at frat parties at all.

Yeah. And I would never

consider a frat party to be a safe space.

And especially at Wash us or

at least I know a lot of

the mainstream France

are predominantly white.

And that is never really

a safe space or people of color.

And I think it's honestly so important to

be like if you're gonna be drinking and

if you're going to be under the influence,

it so important to be

around people that you feel comfortable

with and people that

share the same values as you like.

If you feel like you need to leave,

they'll leave with you when you

need and things like that.

And I feel like a majority of frat spaces and

things like that and other like

predominately white spaces

for people of color.

It's just not ideal.

Something really important to think about

because personally I have,

you know, gotten to

like a free drink stay at parties.

And I always knew that

I had a group of friends with

me than either one might say,

okay, well, like, you know,

I'm going to make sure you're okay

or leaving this thing together.

And I'm telling you right now,

I don't want to leave anybody else, but you.

So I think it's really

important that, you know,

obviously you are careful

when you are going to be shrinking.

But I also think it's important

to have like a person,

like a designated person

or a partner that you're going to be like,

Okay, we're leaving this thing to get there.

Really we, it's safely and,

you know, we're just going to

look out for each other.

I'm going to be drinking.

I think number one, just for comfortability,

it would be just

much better for you and you would

probably have more fun if you drink with

somebody or a group of

people that you feel safe with.

And obviously if you're going into

a place where you already

don't feel comfortable,

you know, it's really important,

especially in those spaces.

People that you know,

are going to be there for you and aren't

going to watch out for you.

And you'll just have each other's back.

Because there's

so many Unfortunately experiences

that so many people have

had where they haven't been able to rely

on somebody or a group to really look out.

And so I think it's really important

that when we are drinking,

drinking species where we

feel safe and comfortable.

Yeah. And I feel

like almost like with we're talking

about like having a group

of people that we can

trust and that how

like our best interests in mind,

I think maybe like even setting

boundaries are expectations for

the night before you go out,

just like before anyone

starts drinking or anything,

just be like, Hey guys,

this is my intention for the NIH.

I want to go out,

have fun and I leave with you guys like,

I don't.

I guess, setting boundaries and

expectations

for how you want the night to go.

So everybody's on the same page

and like if for whatever reason,

like if you say like,

I just want to come with you guys,

leave with you guys on.

But then there's somebody who

maybe that you meet when you

are out that is having a different idea

about what the rest of

the night might look like if

they might want to like,

go home with you or something like that,

your friends will know that

that was not something that

you had intended to

do so that they can kind

of stuff and you're like,

hey, like checking your k with this.

Like how are you feeling

about it type of thing.

So that just take everyone's on the same page

and everyone kind of has

the same idea of what's

going to go on for the NIH?

Yeah. I honestly feel like that the a lot of

of of questions

regarding like consent regarding,

you know, how to drink.

If you choose to drink, how to drink safely,

you know where the people that

you can confide in,

you know, what do you consider ofs a splay,

a safe space and you know,

how do you go about like if you

are drinking and you have a friend

who is drinking and your friend

decides that she wants to

go inside of a room with with someone else,

you know, or he, you know.

How do you how do you navigate, you know,

telling your friends that

you want to go

and you're under the influence,

which means that you're

not able to give consent.

How do you go about

like telling your friend like,

hey, you know, I know

you want to go into this room with this guy.

And, you know, right now, you know,

you may want to have

sex with with him or her.

So how do you go about

navigating that and telling them that,

hey, you're nine, the right mind space of,

of, of having sex right now you're not in

the right mind space

a good consent and you're

not able to get consent.

And if you know the other person

which you're engaging

in sexual activity with,

they're not in the right mindset either to,

to to give consent either.

So how do you how would you go

about would you guys go about

navigating a situation

like that where you have to

kind of be the

middleman and tell you personally,

tell your friend no.

I feel like almost like what

you said about like,

hey, you're not I don't

think you're in

the right mind space for this.

I don't think maybe the other person

is in the right headspace for this,

either maybe suggest staying,

you get their Snapchat or

you've got their phone number or something

and then you can kind of set something

else up for another time or like,

I guess just being

there for your friend and offering me

the other options could be helpful in

that situation just to

make sure that everything's all good,

everything is still safe and whatnot.

But again, like giving them that option

still and kind of putting in their head like,

oh, maybe this isn't the best choice.

Like I know you told me like,

if you set the expectation,

I want to come with

you guys and then leave with you guys.

Like, kind of bring

that back up and be like, okay,

this is what you told me earlier and this is

a little different from

what's going on right now.

Like maybe do you want to stick to

that plan and then we

can figure something else out for

an hour time for you guys

or something like that.

And I've been in situations like that where,

you know, we have been at a party.

One of my friends have been I'm about to head

out with this guy and they're clearly drunk.

So in that situation,

what I did was I

went to him and I was like, yeah,

she's drunk, she's not leading with

you at all. And that's it.

And so I think that lake,

you know, it also

does depend on the situation.

Like, for example, like Dana said,

you can always just be like, shrunk.

She's not leaving with you tonight,

but you can hear her Snapchat.

I'll give you that much. And you

can text her tomorrow.

But, you know, I think it's

more just another person

knows that there's a person that

is looking out for that person,

specifically like in this situation,

my friend.

So he knows that I'm

there with my friend and

looking out for her and say,

yes, leave it with you.

They're gonna be more alike. Are cool.

I was not that

serious for me to leave with her anyways.

So I feel like once they see that there's

somebody there with you,

that's like, yeah, no,

I'm not letting her leave.

Then, you know, then they're going to

be less pushy and aggressive.

Because sometimes it does get to

that point where you gotta be like,

OK, wow, which I'm not leaving my,

You have to get away from us.

And so I feel like the best

thing that you could do in those situations

is just be honest.

Like you just look at

the other person and say, they're drunk.

They're not leaving with you

and they're coming home when

me and so I think that just being blunt,

Basically, it's just better for me.

At least. I think that's what gets people,

what gets other people more.

So like, okay, that's cool.

Rather than like all come on, come on.

Like, you know, she's not that draw.

Like, you know, they always try to

say something like that.

So I think just the implant

will just erase all of

that type of Smalltalk.

And that's I think what I would do.

Yeah. Honestly, I would do the same thing.

I will put my foot

down and I would tell them,

you know, right now,

she's not in the right mindset of, you know,

of having sex, of

engaging in any type of sexual activity.

And ultimately she's, you know,

she's under the influence so

she can not give you consent.

So anything that happens okay.

Will ultimately be your responsibility

because you are the one trying to engage.

You're the one who is engaging

in and trying to get her to go with you.

And I I feel like putting

your foot down and showing

like yo like you're about to take my friend,

you know, if this is

somebody that you really want

to have future relations with,

then you can talk to her when she's

at an appropriate mindset where

she is not under the influence,

where she can give her consent

and she couldn't make

a rational decision about like whether

or not she wants to engage in anything.

You even if it's

conversation ultimately, you know,

this reminds me of a ramp step up and

how we had

these community guidelines to

stick up for each other.

And it goes beyond that because there's

some women who go to these parties alone,

who get themselves

into situations sometimes are,

are are in situations are put into situations

sometimes where they have

friends who they don't know anyone to,

to stick up for them in and say like,

How No, there's no way you're

leaving with this individual.

No. I was under the influence.

There's no way that, you know,

I'm going to allow you to put them

into this situation is predicament.

And ultimately ramps that both the program

actually goes over the situation chips and,

and these community guidelines

that wishes to university tries

to stick by so that we

could prevent some of these,

you know, sexual souls and

these rapes that happen.

I definitely think like with

what the RAM step up

with the bystander intervention.

I think it's so

important that everybody kind of takes,

even if you're not in

a group of people like say you go out by

yourself or loop-based story

that we had mentioned earlier where

they had left campus on their

own and they went out like,

I feel like everybody can

share this responsibility of kind

of keeping an eye on each

other in these situations where,

you know, there's, there's drugs,

there's substitutes, there's alcohol,

there's things like this.

I feel like I feel Haig in loop-based story

where they left campus on

their own and they went out to a bar.

And they didn't really have anyone with

them to kind of step in or intervene.

And that's where the whole idea of

bystander intervention

with Rem step up comes in

where everyone should kind of

accept this responsibility for

the other people that are out.

Where if you see something,

you should say something

or if you see somebody

that looks uncomfortable or is alone,

like, I know I would keep

an eye on anyone if I see any of the Hang on.

I'm always just a

little suspicious and always just

want to know what's going on and make sure

everyone is safe and stuff.

So I feel like

with the community guidelines of RAM step up,

it's kind of we've made it into

a shared responsibility for

the safety of everyone around.

Like I feel, hey,

we need to do

our own heart and helping each other out and

really just preventing

any experience sexual assault from happening.

And so I just wanted to end this with

a reminder about some of

the resources that we offer.

Unless justice campus, in case you know,

anybody that has experienced harm or you

yourself have a serious harm.

You are not along.

You have support spaces here on campus.

So you can visit WC

UPA.edu slash sexual misconduct.

You can also visit counseling center

that is so open for students virtually.

You can visit there, say,

or call to setup an appointment.

And the Center for Women

and Gender Equity does

offer not confidential survivor support.

Our listening from

another university or city.

You can call the national

sexual assault hotline

at 1806 5-6 for 673,

and that is available 24 hours a day.

So please do not feel like you're

alone in any of these situations.

We are always here to help

as a center, as a friend.

And we offer various

we offer various support spaces on campus.

So just reach out and

know that somebody will be

there to support you through this.