

“Hm, an experience where I have felt moved? When I’m interviewing somebody, I often leave feeling like that. This is what I should be doing. There is nothing else... Many, many times. Interviews about all kinds of things. Engaging with a person directly about a thing and being shocked at how much they are willing to tell me. And seeing something in a whole different way.”

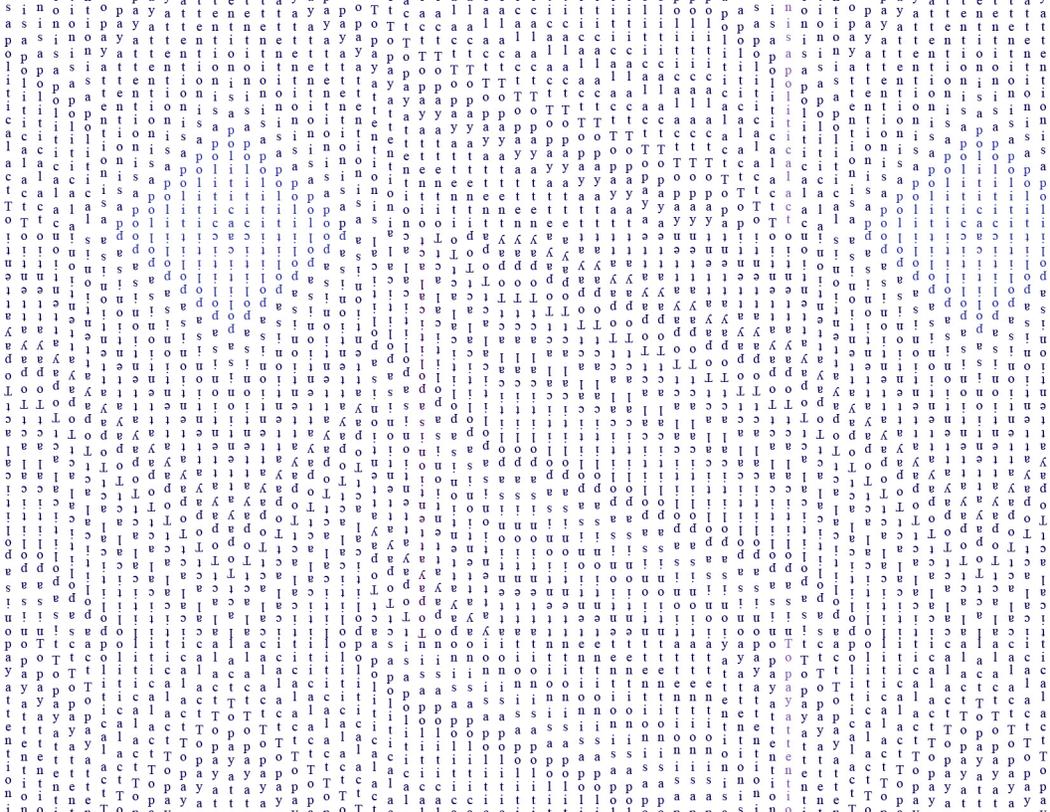
“There is something about being a writer, maybe it’s like making art, where you’re back and you’re observing, and you’re very involved with what is happening, but it’s almost just totally private, and maybe you’d rather it be that way. And then you produce this public thing... From the other side people assume you wrote it so they could read it and that was what you wanted. But it isn’t always true. There is the process of producing the thing that feels like what it is about... I think part of why I care so much about access to education is because it seems like the process of learning and understanding is so transformative, that it seems so cruel that people don’t get to have it.”

The quotations in this book are excerpted from a conversation with R on January 24, 2013 at my home in San Francisco. The transcript is archived as an entry in *An Encyclopedia of Embodied Politics*. This intimate encyclopedia takes the form of written texts, articles, and public programming. If you would like to receive information about future events, please email tali.weinberg@gmail.com

Movement Epistemology
R (unnamed)
Excerpt from
An Encyclopedia of Embodied Politics
first edition

edited by Tali Weinberg

R is a geographer and professor of urban affairs. She writes about race and resistance to gentrification in *South San Francisco*. Our conversation touched on the power of story telling: access to education; subaltern knowledge; violent police encounters; and the relationships between spiritual and political, writing and activism, and the personal body and the activist body.



“When you have a politics that lacks beauty and lacks love—that was MLK’s working on my dissertation was: I have to tell it in a way that people will really want to read about it, because nobody cares about Bayview. So it does seem like it matters... I think it is ok for there to be both of those concerns: how do I do a beautiful thing and how do I do a thing that matters? Not like beauty wouldn’t matter—but a beautiful thing with a political edge... do a beautiful thing about unnoticed people, or under noticed people, is a political act. To pay attention is a political act.”

“The stories I pick are stories I think people really need to hear. So part of working on my dissertation was: I have to tell it in a way that people will really want to read about it, because nobody cares about Bayview. So it does seem like it matters... I think it is ok for there to be both of those concerns: how do I do a beautiful thing and how do I do a thing that matters? Not like beauty wouldn’t matter—but a beautiful thing with a political edge... do a beautiful thing about unnoticed people, or under noticed people, is a political act. To pay attention is a political act.”

