The DREAMERS and the artivism of Julio Salgado
The backdrop for Julio Salgado’s work

- Members of the US Congress offer a new policy proposal for undocumented youth called the “DREAM Act”
  - the possibility of obtaining provisional legal status and a pathway to citizenship by, among other things, attending college or serving in the US military
  - “… the stalled legislation helped forge a community, an identity and a political youth movement…” (Puga and Espinosa 282)

- When the latest version of the DREAM Act didn’t pass in 2010, the Obama administration enacts an executive order called the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in 2012
  - to protect undocumented youth from deportation and to allow them to work legally. No path to citizenship.
What tactics did the DREAMERS use to protest?

What do you see in these photos?
“My Name is Julio: A Short Film by His Best Friend Jesús Iñiguez”

• According to Salgado/the video, what is the relationship between art and politics?

• What are the space and media in which he Works?

• What comparisons or contrasts can we establish between Salgado’s tactics and those of the DREAMERs?
“Time takes on a more complex meaning depending on one’s legal status. For undocumented immigrants... we are rarely fully in the present. While we are aging on a linear path, there are various layers of “growing up” that may be contingent on documentation. Driving, working, education, traveling, voting, and so on depend on documentation” (Monroy, citado por Puga y Espinosa, 284)

“Despite their physical presence ..., the U.S. legal system forces migrants into a kind of nonexistence in which they are not recognized as fully present” and “are often imagined to dwell in metaphorical spaces constructed as clandestine: outside, underground, in the shadow, separate, and excluded from mainstream society” (Puga y Espinosa, 285)

“UndocuSpace

Alejandro Monroy
AM’17, 2017

“UndocuTime”
The webseries *Undocumented and Awkward*

- How does episode 2 explore the experience of undocumented youth?
- Does it explore *undocutime* or an *undocuspace*?
- Other observations?
Salgado responds to a corporation’s promotion of diversity

California is about diversity, and at American Apparel we like to celebrate that. Our two million square foot operation is based in the heart of downtown LA, right in the hub of it all. At our primary factory we produce 50 million garments a year and employ 7,000 fair wage workers, a medley of LA natives and immigrants from all over the world. We craft our clothing with pride, Sweatshop Free in the USA, so you can feel confident and proud to wear it.

We embrace the eclectic community right in our backyard, which leads us to the Cali girl and the Cowboy. Robin is a student at neighboring USC. She’s also a pole vaulter, photographer, karaoke singer, and lover of bon fires and dogs. Raul is an immigrant from Mexico. He used to make his living picking strawberries on a farm, but now works at a nearby nursery preparing the seeds for farmers. This unlikely pair is what we’re all about, bringing people together and making things happen.

Support your local economy, our workers, social progress and immigration reform. Shop American Apparel.
**Undocumented Apparel**

"You went to an Occupy protest because you have a bachelor's and can't find a job? My parents had masters and worked at gas stations. We are the 0%.”

"You backpacked across Europe and they called you adventurous. I crossed a border to save my daughter's life and they call me a criminal.”

Alaa is an undocumented activist from Illinois.

Minhaz is in an ambiguous state of “legality”. He is a writer and a science and popular culture enthusiast.

Esperanza is a courageous and responsible mother. Claudia is her daughter, who is now 24 years old.
Undocumented Apparel

“The 1% types are living their lives with the security of trust funds. We are working hard to trust our funds. At least enough to live out our DREAMs.”

Jesus is a media-maker and the co-founder of DreamersAdrift.com.

Undocumented Apparel

“Getting arrested wasn’t a choice. It was a need to show my community that we can’t live in fear. That it’s time to fight back.”

Tania is an undocumented student at the University of Pennsylvania and an organizer with DreamActivist Pennsylvania.

Undocumented Apparel

“I didn’t get arrested for a movement. I was arrested to be free. Finally.”

David is an undocumented activist from Chicago.
Salgado’s “I am Undocuqueer” series:
Crowd-sourcing and community-building
"Coming out of the shadowy closet: undocumented and queer, join me!"

-Reyna W.

"Just like being queer has allowed me to say forget the norms, I want to be able to say forget the laws (immigration laws specifically) and start living."

-Ireen

"To borrow shamelessly from Audre Lorde, as a queer undocumented person, I know that there is no such thing as single issue struggles because we don't lead single lives."

-Prerna
Imagining a different world without borders
Comparisons and Final Reflections

• Argentina (1990s-2000s) vs. US (2010s-present)
• Collective vs. individual (in collaboration)

What is the role of the body in today’s youth activism?
What is the role of ludic play in today’s youth activism?