

Felipe:

In legal empowerment... we put a lot of emphasis on communities, but not that much on the judicial system itself. The judicial system needs to adapt to these kinds of demands to make changes... That what's interesting to think about, about how are we making the system react to the *community demands*...The system has to be transformed. It can't just be communities, making demands, and then being channeled into the system, because that just basically disempowers the community. And so that dynamic with legal empowerment is just so crucial.

Shreya:

In the lab, we can see the common thread of the need for power to shift, taking place not just in spaces of organizing and advocacy, but also in spaces of research and academia. This commonality is refreshing and important.

Aakanksha:

In this space beginning to appreciate the need to capture the insights and information generated by communities - especially through informal channels- which aren't recognized by traditional "research" practices or "data" collection methods.

Antonio:

In the Legal Empowerment lab I have appreciated learning how to be flexible. Seeing the connections between popular education and participatory action research. Learning how we can use that process to empower individuals at the same time that they are also learning how to do this way for themselves. I learned a lot this week.

Luciana:

It is fascinating to see how easy we can connect even when online. We are working in different scenarios, different countries, we never met each other - well some of us - and yet we can go deep in conversations and support each other through the details. At the Legal Empowerment Lab, we were able to go very deep - it fascinates me.

Tom:

The calls left me energized. We asked tough questions, we asked uncomfortable questions, we touched on uncomfortable things and went deeper to try to find a better question and learn so much from the violence things. And I feel the solidarity that so present. It's just so rich, and I'm so inspired the way it's being facilitated, carefully thought through and really inspired me. I told my team we need to try to go deeper.

Erin:

The sense of connection has been so valuable. Particularly at this moment to be in solidarity with each other and the amount of time we've taken for that, and it made me think a lot about how I will enter into and facilitate future workshops and spaces for community building.

We're just sort of grappling with the question of how do we take the richness of this approach and share it with others. We want to expand access to this orientation to research and some of the practical tools we talked about at the Lab that legal empowerment organizations in particular might need to take it up a notch in their work.

Bethany:

It's just been really a pleasure to be in this space where we're actively analyzing power, and how to shift power. It actually feels very healing for me to see this happening, and in a space with so many people who are part of academic institutions, because especially here in Texas and Austin, specifically right now, we're seeing a lot of academic institutions really aiding and further just furthering prisons and policing. Here in this space, you know, where that is happening is, it's just been really, really a pleasure to be here this week.