# Barriers to Ethical Research and Activism for the Transgender Immigrant Community

## Background

Humanities and social sciences research and activism have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is little mainstream overlap in advocacy for immigrants and transgender communities.

In order to continue serving vulnerable communities we must:

- Acknowledge and problematize power structures exposed by the crisis
- Examine the struggles of these communities throughout history
- Develop a multifaceted approach to evaluating needs and priorities

## Research Questions

1. What do we know about the transgender immigrant community?
2. What barriers need to be scaled + how do we develop the tools to scale those barriers?
3. How do health crises disrupt this work?

## Methodology

1. Review what limited research exists on the transgender immigrant community
2. Examine archival journal entries and interpersonal correspondence from significant 20th-century transgender public figures
3. Reflect upon what I have learned from activists in Houston’s current transgender immigrant population

## Summary of Findings

**Barriers** include:

- Sensitivity and legality of information
- Stigma around residency status and sex work
- Lack of consideration within academic circles

Activism is occurring within these communities, but researchers are not paying attention.

![Activism vs Academia](image)

It is critical that we set aside what we think marginalized communities need and listen to what they have been telling us for decades.

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