

Writing from *un lugar negro*: A call towards healing *fantasmas chingadas*

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In this article, I weave personal recollections as a sexual abuse survivor with a selected review of the empirical literature on Latinas and sexual violence in order to begin a discussion towards the need to go beyond the “sharing our experiences” as a healing technique. As daughters of *Malinche* our project should be devoted to investing our energies into the de- and re-construction of those discourses that have made us into objects of sexual prey and shame. In doing so, we can truly transform our communities ideas about *mujeres* and gender. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2011 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

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Audre Lorde encourages us to write from a dark place “within where hidden and growing our true spirit rises” (2000:125). Pollock introduces performative writing as a way for “writing/textuality speak to, of, and through...pain” (1998:79). It is from *un lugar negro* where I endeavor to perform memories arising from past patriarchal abuses. It is from *un lugar negro* where my newfound strength resides. This paper serves both as a personal cathartic performance and a empirical point of departure towards a yearning for building models of collective healing among

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