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Bleach:
A short digital video

Saddled with California liberal baggage, I returned to white, middle class Massachusetts to take a snapshot of family history. A snapshot of my grandfather's movement from India, my grandmother's movement away from a German-American patriarchy and their culture clash. A snapshot of racism that has crisscrossed three generations living the American Dream. Looking back from the "advanced" position, I thought I was exposing the "primitive" in a traditional ethnographic video.

What resulted was a much more nuanced and varied understanding of family, origin and the process of Americanization. Bleach, a 15 minute domestic ethnography, explores the borders between parents, children and cultures and the walls which prevent communication. It investigates the formation of racial and gender structures behind the white suburban façade. Americaness and the desire to beach away a harmful "minority" past becomes a border between generations and reinscription of racist and sexist discourses.

Still snapshots are interspersed throughout the video and reveal the way each medium, film and photography, can represent historical time differently. Audio montage also constitutes several key segments of the video and points towards an inability of documentary and ethnography to ever really capture the Other. What is the border of the medium between the "white" producer and racial subject, queer producer and Republican subject, feminist producer and patriarchal family?