Sophia Cruz’s Voice and Lived Experience with LD

Being LD: Sophia’s Emotional Sense-Making
The Hegemony of Smartness (Leonardo & Broderick, 2011):

- **Example 1:** It feels that some person is better than you because [you] don’t understand something or you don’t know how to solve it that fast like other people do and learn it fast . . . and they think that they’re better than you just because they’re smarter than you, they learn everything fast (Sophia, 9/17/14).

Disability Micro-aggressions (Dávila, 2011):

- **Example 2:** “That’s only when you’re at home doing homework or like your cousins are here and they ask you for a problem or they show you this problem and they say, “Do you have a learning disability or something?” and you’re like, “No.” (Sophia, 10/14/14).

What is LD? A unitary and fragmented notion for Sophia
LD as Double-Edge Sword:

- **Example 3:** “Well for me, I think that special ed is something that you struggle . . . but when you go to special ed, the class thing, then you get more help, then what you usually do in the other classes, you don’t get help sometimes (Sophia, 10/14/14).

The Polysemic Nature of LD:

- **Example 4:** “Probably like am slow or something...I don't know… That other kids can learn it really fast, like for say a math problem they can learn it really fast and if I have a Learning Disability, I can’t learn it that fast, I have to learn it really slow” (Sophia, 10/14/14).

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Education Summit, Inclusive Praxis for 21st Century Education: Advocacy, Challenges, and the Public Good, 10:20am-11:30am Concurrent Sessions 2, Elm Room