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I learned to read and write inside the end of World War II, grew up in the Viet Nam War, and I am present during my country’s invasion of Iraq. These are personal. They make me who I am. They are my obligations, whether I like it or not. They are the monster from which I have tried to build kin group of feminist figures. My hope is to guide us to a more livable place, one that I have called “elsewhere.”

Figures collect up hopes and fears. Both imaginary and material, figures figure them to histories. Stories are always more important than ideologies; in that fact is one of the ways to inhabit histories and stories. We must know how critically to live both inhabit histories and build ongoing stories rather than let them end in neither of condemnation nor celebration. But figures help us to build ongoing stories rather than historical narratives that are their members and turning lines into pedigrees into affinity groups.

My kinships are made up of the entities with which we share the earth. They are part of bumptious life, and it would be a shame to think of anthropomorphically or anthropocentrically.