

National Science Foundation (NSF) – Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)
Site Program on Immigration Policy and Border Communities

Summer 2021
May 17-July 24, 2021

Co-Principal Investigators:

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Program Overview

Welcome! We are very excited to host the NSF-REU Site Program on Immigration Policy and Border Communities in Summer 2021. This summer we will continue to hold most of the program online due to the ongoing restrictions regarding travel and face-to-face interactions. However, we will hold a two-week session in person for the last two weeks of the program (July 10-24).

We will again work with a variety of community partner organizations in Las Cruces, El Paso and Ciudad Juárez and Las Cruces, including Advocate Visitors with Immigrants in Detention (AVID), Hope Border Institute and the Leona Vicaria migrant shelter. You will also attend workshops on research methods in the social sciences and discuss assigned readings on community-based participatory research, ethnographic and qualitative studies of migrant experiences and critical analyses of the institutional practices that have sought to normalize the militarization of the US-Mexico borderlands.

Assignments:

- 1) **READINGS AND WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS**: In Weeks 2, 3, 4 and 5 only we will post a discussion prompt (on Monday morning) for the week's assigned readings. You will post a short response to this prompt as well as respond to another student's post. We will use these discussion board posts as the basis for our discussion meetings each Friday at 2-5 pm. Those meetings will be dedicated to discussion of the readings but also to sharing updates and reflections on the work you have been doing with your projects. Our hope is that you will build connections between the readings and what you are finding, as well as learn more about the value of various methods used in social science research on migration and borders. We will continue with our Friday zoom meetings in Weeks 6, 7 and 8 but there will be no assigned readings in those weeks. We will instead just focus on the progress you are making in your research projects.
- 2) **CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS**: You will all be asked to produce a final product that will reflect and contribute to the educational and advocacy work of our community partners. Your final products will be submitted to your community partners and reflect the work that is decided through dialogue with your partners. Due July 24, 2021.
- 3) **REFLECTIVE ESSAY**: You will also write a reflective essay on your own individual experiences and main insights that you gain this summer (10-12 pages, double-spaced). Due July 24, 2021.
- 4) **FIELD NOTE JOURNAL**: Finally, you will keep a daily log of activities (use a Word document that you can save each day on your computer). This will be your field note journal in which you can

summarize daily work activity as well as your thoughts and ideas about the readings, workshops, project activities and interactions with other members of the team. This journal will be very helpful when writing your final reflection essay and is a good way to make connections and draw out important themes from the wide array of issues that you will engage with during the summer. You will submit an electronic copy of this journal at the end of the program on July 24.

The overall learning outcome of this program is students' ability to gain and apply research skills and social scientific knowledge in ways that contribute to greater awareness of the impacts of immigration policy on migrants and residents of border communities, as well as supporting the ongoing efforts of community partners to advocate for humane immigration policies and respect for the dignity of migrants.

We look forward to discussing the above details more when we meet on zoom for our first session on Friday, May 21, at 3.00-5.00 pm.

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Program Schedule

Week 1: May 17-21

Creation of CANVAS website for program materials and discussion board – invitations to join will be sent by Wednesday, May 19

Friday May 21: 3.00-5.00 Introduction meeting (overview of the program)

Zoom Meeting ID: 981 7755 2523

Week 2: May 24-28

Assigned reading: Community-Based Participatory Research (see articles in CANVAS Files Tab)

Stephen Schensul et al. "Conceptual and Methodological Approaches to Collaborative Community-Based Transformational Research for Change"

Saldana Chapter 1, "An Introduction to Codes and Coding", *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers* (see the PDF of just this chapter as it is from an updated edition of this book; see the other Saldana PDF for the whole book) – try to read this chapter before Tuesday May 25 at 10 am.

Tuesday, May 25: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Workshop on NVIVO (software package for qualitative research, with Dr. Mary Alice Scott, NMSU Anthropology Dept). On Zoom. Meeting ID: 951 6393 7560

Weekly Friday Discussion Meeting

Friday May 28: 2.00-5.00 pm Zoom: 942 6515 9837

Week 3: May 31-June 4

Assigned reading: Aaron Bobrow-Strain, *The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez: a Border Story*

Weekly Friday Discussion Meeting

Friday June 4: 2.00-5.00 pm Zoom: 942 6515 9837

Week 4: June 7-11

Assigned Reading: Jeremy Slack, *Deported to Death: how drug violence is changing migration on the US-Mexico border*

Weekly Friday Discussion Meeting

Friday June 11: 2.00-5.00 pm Zoom: 942 6515 9837

Week 5: June 14-18

Assigned reading: Miguel Diaz Barriga and Margaret Dorsey. *Fencing in Democracy: Border Walls, Necro-citizenship and the Security State*

Weekly Friday Discussion Meeting

Friday June 18: 2.00-5.00 pm Zoom: 942 6515 9837

Week 6: June 21-25

Weekly Friday Discussion Meeting

Friday June 25: 2.00-5.00 pm Zoom: 942 6515 9837

Week 7: June 28-July 2

Weekly Friday Discussion Meeting

Friday July 2: 2.00-5.00 pm Zoom: 942 6515 9837

Week 8: July 5-9

Weekly Friday Discussion Meeting

Friday July 9: 2.00-5.00 pm Zoom: 942 6515 9837

Week 9: July 12-16 (i- person projects and meetings in El Paso: arrivals on July 10)

Week 10: July 19-23

Final Presentations, Part I: July 20 at UTEP

Final Presentations, Part II: July 21 at NMSU