

The Immigration and Border Community Research Experience for Undergraduate
(REU) Site Program

National Science Foundation – Award # 1659195

May 21-July 28, 2018

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces and University of Texas-El Paso

Overview

This REU program is a unique opportunity for students to learn social science research methods while collaborating with local organizations to conduct in-depth research about the unique challenges faced by border communities in the Paso del Norte region of southern New Mexico, El Paso and Ciudad Juárez. This is a collaborative program between researchers at New Mexico State University (NMSU) and the University of Texas-El Paso (UTEP), fully funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

By collaborating closely with organizations already involved in advocacy for civil and human rights, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the Hope Border Institute and the Border Network for Human Rights, students' work will have a greater impact.

Sample topics include:

- The impacts of Operation Streamline on the processing of unauthorized immigrants
- Alleged abuse and mistreatment of migrants and community members by law enforcement
- Asylum seekers in the borderlands: Access to due process and human rights
- "Know Your Rights" campaigns
- The history of community organizing and leadership development in the borderlands

This program is funded until September 1, 2020. Most work will be conducted in three 10-week summer sessions of 2018, 2019 and 2020. Participants must be enrolled as undergraduates in order to participate in this program.

Students will attend and participate in the activities noted below. They will also complete and submit to Dr. Harvey and Dr. Slack three products by July 28, 2018:

1. A journal of daily reflections on their experiences of program activities
2. An individually authored reflection paper on the main lessons to be taken from this program
3. A group project that demonstrates collaboration with the assigned community partner through the use of community-based participatory research (CBPR)

Contact information:

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Program of activities

Week 1:

5/21 Arrival and Welcome

Arrival to El Paso airport and transport to Las Cruces (NMSU campus accommodation) for those students traveling from outside the region. Settling in to accommodation. Welcome Meal in Las Cruces for all ten students.

5/22 Introduction to community partners in Las Cruces

In this introduction, you will meet representatives and members of the groups that we will be working with and get to know the NMSU campus, the city of Las Cruces and its surrounding area.

9,00 am - Breland Hall 179. Introductions; Overview of program, logistics, paperwork, etc.

Presentation and discussion with Guendi Casto and Gabriela Castaneda, representatives of the Border Network for Human Rights, at 10.00 am - 12.00 pm, Breland Hall, room 179 (NMSU campus)

2.00 pm presentation and discussion with Jorge Rodriguez and Nea, ACLU-Regional Center for Border Rights, Las Cruces, and Camilo Perez Bustillo and Edith Tapia, Hope Border Institute, El Paso, at Breland Hall room 179

6.00 pm Breland Hall, room 179 (NMSU campus) - showing of film "Fire at Sea" (on migrant crisis in Europe - with discussion with NMSU students and faculty mentor, Dr. Sabine Hirschauer, who will be travelling to Munich in July in a service-learning program to work with local NGOs responding to the arrival of migrants in Germany.

5/23 Workshop 1: Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and meeting with faculty mentors (UTEP and El Paso)

In this workshop, you will learn about Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR), its history and application in social science. The workshop will also allow for discussion of why CBPR is central to this REU project on the impact of immigration policies in border communities. Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Slack, UTEP. (UTEP campus. 9.30 am-12.00 noon)

Confirmation of assigned project groups and faculty mentors.

Confirmed project groups:

BNHR: Carlos Espina, Nancy Mateo, Sandra Dominguez, Mayra Diaz

ACLU: Miriam Lopez, Zaira Martin, Kely Cortes

Border Hope Institute: Brian Elizalde, Mariana Maranon-Laguna, Estrella Loreda

Lunch at Cafe Mayapan, El Paso, 1.00 pm to welcome all student participants and team members. Introduction of all faculty mentors to their assigned students.

Dr. Joe Heyman: Sandra Loreda, Brian Elizalde

Dr. Cristina Morales; Miriam Lopez, Mayra Diaz

Dr. Gina Nunez: Estrella Loreda, Nancy Mateo

Dr. Sabine Hirschauer: Mariana Maranon-Laguna, Carlos Espina

Dr. Cynthia Bejarano: Zaira Martin, Kely Cortes

5/24 Workshop 2: Immigration Policy (NMSU, Las Cruces)

In this workshop, you will learn about the history of US immigration policy since the nineteenth century and up to the present day. The workshop will allow for discussion on continuities and change in immigration policy, especially with regard to how the border is defined in different ways, the nature and consequences of immigration policy in two recent phases: 1994-2001 (border enforcement phase) and 2001-present (national security phase) as well as an overview of asylum policy. Instructors: Dr. Neil Harvey, Kelsey Bowman (TA), NMSU and Dr. Jeremy Slack, UTEP (10 am -12.20 pm). Breland Hall, 179, NMSU.

5/25 Introduction to community partners in El Paso

In this introduction, you will meet representatives and members of the groups that we will be working with and get to know the UTEP campus, the city of El Paso and its surrounding area.

11.00 am - 1.00 pm Meeting with the team of the Hope Border Institute, El Paso

Week 2

5/28 Memorial Day: no workshops. Visit to White Sands National Monument

5/29 Responsible Conduct of Research

2.00 -5.00 pm class on ethics of research and CITI certification for human subjects research (SBE), in Breland 175, NMSU.

5/30 Meeting with community partners BNHR and ACLU in El Paso

12.00 noon - meeting with Cynthia Pompa (Advocacy Coordinator) and staff at ACLU Border Rights Center, 109 N. Oregon, Suite 600, El Paso;

2.30 pm - meeting with Fernando Garcia (Director) and staff at BNHR offices, 2.30 pm, 2115 N. Piedras St., El Paso

NOTE: Carpool pick up at Vista del Monte (VDM) apartments at NMSU, departing at 10.30 am

5/31 Meetings with other local organizations

Meeting at 2 pm with NM CAFE in Las Cruces (420 W. Griggs Ave). Pick up at VDM apartments at 1.30 pm. See website beforehand to become familiar with this organization. <http://www.organizenm.org/>

6.30-8.30 pm potluck at Casa de la Paz (1003 Upson Drive (pink door), El Paso), with volunteers of Border Servant Corps. Pick up at 5.00 pm at VDM apartments. See website beforehand to become familiar with this organization and their service sites in El Paso and Las Cruces: <http://www.borderservantcorps.org/>

6/1 Study day (work on reading and writing assignments)

Week 3

6/4 Workshop 3: Survey Research

In this workshop you will learn how to conduct survey research and review examples of how survey research has been used to study enforcement and impacts of US immigration policies in the US-Mexico borderlands. Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Slack, UTEP. Time: 10.0 am - 12.00 noon. Location: Seminar Room, Dept of Sociology & Anthropology, UTEP. Ground floor of the Old Main building.

6/5 Workshop 4: Activist and Participatory Research

In this workshop, you will learn how to conduct activist and participatory research and examine how such research has been used in the study of immigration in the US-Mexico borderlands. Instructor: Dr. Joe Heyman, UTEP.

Time: 10.0 am - 12.00 noon. Location: Seminar Room, Dept of Sociology & Anthropology, UTEP. Ground floor of the Old Main building.

6/6 Study day (work of reading and writing assignments)

6/7 Workshop 5: Qualitative Research Methods (2 parts)

Part I: In this workshop, you will learn about a variety of qualitative research methods and how they are used in the study of the nature and impacts of immigration policy and border enforcement in the US-Mexico borderlands. Instructor: Dr. Neil Harvey, NMSU.

Professor Molly Molloy (Library Reference and Research Services, NMSU) will also provide an overview of resources for conducting library research and use of online article databases regarding immigration and US-Mexico border studies.

This workshop will meet at 10 am - 12 pm in Branson Library, NMSU, ground floor, room 125. See: <http://nmsu.libguides.com/border>

Part II: Workshop on participant observation/ethnography/field notes and organizational analysis. Instructor: Dr. Guillermina Gina Núñez-Mchiri, Director of Women's and Gender Studies, Associate Professor of Anthropology, UTEP.

Location: Breland Hall, Room 179, NMSU

Time: 1.00-3.00 pm

6/8 Workshop 6: Oral History and Use of Video

In this workshop you will learn about how to carry out oral histories and use video to document personal experiences of immigration and border enforcement policies in the US-Mexico Borderlands, with examples of collaborative work with former braceros and their organization in Ciudad Juárez. Instructor: Dr. Luis Alfonso Herrera Robles, UACJ. Time: 10.0 am - 12.00 noon. Location: Seminar Room, Dept of Sociology & Anthropology, UTEP. Ground floor of the Old Main building.

Week 4

6/11 Finalize Research Plans and Presentation on Photovoice

Finalizing research plans:

Hope Border Institute group: Monday, June 11, 10 am at Hope Border Institute, El Paso

BNHR group: Monday, June 11, after the 12 noon press conference at BNHR offices, El Paso

ACLU group: Tuesday, June 12, 2 pm at ACLU offices, Las Cruces

In addition: Monday, June 11 in El Paso:

3.00-4.30 pm presentation by Dr. Eva Moya (Interim Head and Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, College of Health Sciences, UTEP) on the use of Photovoice in community-based participatory research to be held at the Seminar Room, Dept of Sociology & Anthropology, UTEP (Old Main building)

6/12 Finalizing Research Questions and Goals of Projects

BNHR project student group to meet with BNHR staff 9 am - 2 pm, El Paso

ACLU project student group to meet with ACLU staff 2 pm - 5 pm, Las Cruces

Hope Border Institute project student group to meet with HBI staff, 10 am – 5 pm, El Paso

6/12 and 6/13 Discussion with Co-PI's

NSF=REU Co=PI's Dr. Neil Harvey and Dr. Jeremy Slack meet with each of the three groups to firm up the research projects' goals and main research questions.

6/13-15 Students work on research projects with community partners

Week 5

6/18-22 Students work on research projects with community partners

Week 6

6/25-29 Students work on research projects with community partners

Week 7

7/2-6 Students work on research projects with community partners

Week 8

7/9-11 Data analysis and drafting of final products

Students will examine their findings, learn about coding, analysis and presentation of results, and produce drafts of their final products.

7/10 Workshop 7: Coding, Analysis and Presentation of Results

In this workshop, students will learn how to code, analyze and present the results of their research. Examples of border-related social science research will be discussed. Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Slack, UTEP.

Time: 10.0 am - 12.00 noon.

Location: Seminar Room, Dept of Sociology & Anthropology, UTEP.

Ground floor of the Old Main building.

7/12-15 Field trip to Tucson and Nogales

Depart for Tucson, Arizona; meet with NGO's and scholars documenting migrant deaths in Nogales and Tucson area; meet with staff of Casa del Migrante in Nogales, Sonora

Week 9

7/16-18 Complete trip to Nogales and Tucson; return to Las Cruces and El Paso on 7/18

7/19 Debriefing from Arizona trip

Week 10

7/23-27 Completion and presentation of findings to community (dates and places to be determined)

7/27 End of program social event

7/28 Departures

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Reading and Writing Assignments

NOTE: If you are unable to print and make copies for review on Friday, June 8, please send each of your four answers by no later than 5 pm on June 7 to Kelsey Bowman (TA) for her to print and make the necessary copies in the Department of Government at NMSU. Thanks, Kelsey!

NOTE: Your final versions (due on Sunday, June 17) should be 4-5 pages in length for each of the four answers, but the drafts (due on Friday, June 8) can be shorter, so long as you have read the articles and are able to express your main ideas in no less than three pages per answer.

Assigned readings:

Payan, Tony. *The Three US-Mexico Border Wars* (especially Chs. 1, 3 and 5)

Plascencia, Luis. "Where is the 'border'?" ..(in files tab, "articles" folder of CANVAS)

Gomberg-Munoz, Ruth "Beyond il/legality: persistent inequality and racialized borders of US citizenship" (in files tab, "articles" folder of CANVAS)

Dorsey, Michael and Diaz-Barriga, Miguel "Exceptional states and insipid border walls" (in files tab, "articles" folder of CANVAS)

Newell, Gomez and Guajardo "Sensors, Cameras and the new "normal" ... (in files tab, "articles" folder of CANVAS)

Martinez, Daniel, Slack, J. and Martinez-Schuldt. "Repeat Migration in the Age of the 'unauthorized permanent resident' ..." (in files tab, "articles" folder of CANVAS) (or book *The Shadow of the Wall*)

Videos (available on Kanopy via lib.nmsu.edu)

Out of Reach
Sin Fronteras

In addition to: links to videos on the border wall: <https://www.usatoday.com/border-wall>

<http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-ln-binational-park-20171104-story.html> (Links to an external site.)
Links to an external site.

Review also:

Colibri Center for Human Rights Fact Sheet:

http://www.colibricenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Fact-Sheet_Edited-7_17_17.pdf

For Friday, June 8, 2 pm (El Paso), please bring a draft of your answers to four of the following questions (one from each Section). Each answer should be typed and double-spaced and between 4 and 5 pages in length. Bring two copies of each answer, one for the other student in your faculty mentor group, and one for a graduate assistant and Dr. Harvey and Dr. Slack. Please also share via email or CANVAS a copy with your faculty mentor if your faculty mentor is unable to be present that same day. You will then revise and edit your answers as necessary and submit the final versions to Dr. Harvey and Dr. Slack no later than Sunday, June 17, 10.00 pm (via CANVAS).

Answer one question from each section:

Section A: Trends in immigration laws and policies (Payan; Plascencia; Gomberg Munoz)

1. What were the main differences between the Bracero Program, the 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act and the IRCA Act of 1986? In your opinion, how did the IIRIRA Act of 1996 respond to the political debate regarding undocumented immigrants in the 1990s?
2. What are some of the limitations people may face in exercising their 4th amendment rights in border zones and their functional equivalents? How does the border zone become a zone of exception? What challenges do you think the 100-mile border zone designation creates for advocates of civil liberties such as the ACLU?
3. What is the “bed mandate”? How are private corporations involved in the detention of undocumented immigrants? In your opinion, what factors have led the federal government to contract with private corporations to establish detention centers? What arguments are there for or against the establishment of more private detention centers?

Section B: Changes in border crossings and migrant deaths (Payan; Colibri Center)

4. How has the 'funnel effect' led to more deaths of migrants crossing into the US? Provide examples from the video clip "Shocking: Bodies of migrants found daily on US-Mexico Border." In your opinion, how have "circular migration," human smuggling and migrant deaths been impacted by the "funnel effect"?

5. Who are UBC's? What do you find most striking about the Colibri Center for Human Rights fact sheet? What steps do you think could be taken to respond to the risk of death faced by undocumented migrants in border areas?

Section C: Border narratives and zones of exception (Payan; Dorsey and Diaz Barriga)

6. Provide two examples of militarization of the border on the US side of the US-Mexico border. To what extent do these examples illustrate how the border zone has increasingly been seen as a war zone? In your opinion, how are residents of border communities (such as members of the Border Network for Human Rights) affected by militarization and how may they best respond to the narrative that they live in a war zone?

7. What do Dorsey and Diaz-Barriga mean by "zone of exception"? In your opinion, how applicable is this concept to the realities of the US-Mexico border? Refer to scenes from the video of the helicopter trip along the entire length of the US-Mexico border, (at <https://www.usatoday.com/border-wall>) and provide examples of the problems that you see with regard to the further construction of a border wall.

Section D: Border security, migration and human rights (Payan; Newell et al; Slack et al)

1. What were the immediate and long-term impacts of 9/11 on border security? In your opinion, what challenges do residents of US border communities now face as a result of the development of border security policies since 9/11/? How might residents of border communities best respond to these challenges today?

2. What is meant by the term “Ban-optican”? How can it be used to analyze the technologies of border security? How can migrants still find ways to cross the border, despite the presence for the Ban-optican? What do you think the Ban-optican will look like in five years from now? Why?

NOTE: The following question was added after I distributed the handout of this reading and writing assignment. You can choose to read and answer the question on that handout relating to Dr. Slack et al's article on the geography of border militarization, or the following question, relating to the article on repeat migration. Both articles are included in the photocopies I gave you all on Friday. You may also want to answer both questions if you have time.

3. What evidence do Martinez, Slack and Martinez-Schuldt provide to support their argument regarding the repeat migration? To what extent do you agree with their analysis? How do you think advocacy groups such as the Border Hope Institute, might best respond to the data and analysis provided by Martinez, Slack and Martinez-Schuldt?