

**ELIZABETH M. LARSON, PhD**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE & WORK HISTORY**

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**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND and DEGREES**

- 1991 Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, focus on Latin American Social Geography.  
Dissertation: *Nicaraguan Refugee Absorption in Costa Rica, 1980-1990: A Structurationist Perspective*.
- 1986 M.A. Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, Latin American Studies with major focus in Geography, minor in History. Thesis: *Population Change in Quintana Roo, Mexico: Pioneer Settlement of Cancun*.
- 1980-81 Year Abroad at the Universidad de Las Americas, Cholula, Puebla, Mexico
- 1983 B.A. University of Wisconsin - Green Bay, Humanistic Studies - co-majors in Spanish Language and Literature, and History, minor in International Studies

**TEACHING POSITIONS and COURSES TAUGHT**

- 2013 – Upcoming - Summer Study Abroad Program in Brazil, 6 credits in Geography or Urban Planning
- 2013 – Promotion to Senior Lecturer, School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning
- 2012 – Fall Semester – Piloted (with Kevin McHugh) “Journey Stories”, a course submitted for a Student Success Grant, for courses that crossed disciplinary boundaries – Social Sciences and Humanities
- 2012 – Summer Study Abroad Program in Brazil, 6 credits in Geography or Urban Planning
- 2003 – Present – Lecturer, School of Geographical Sciences, Arizona State University (ASU) - Courses Taught: GCU-494 – Medical Geography; GCU-424 – Geography of Middle America; GCU-361 – Urban; GCU-351 – Population Geography; GCU-350 – Geography of World Crisis; Geography; GCU-328 – Geography of the Middle East and North Africa; GCU-323 - Geography of Latin America; GCU-121 – World Regional Geography; GCU-102 – Human Geography; GPH-210 – Society and Environment; GCU, GPH, and PUP 485 International Field Studies: Brazil, Language, Culture, and Place; GCU-394 Journey Stories
- 2002 – May – China Study Abroad/Service Learning Program, faculty co-coordinator and group leader, for Mesa Community College/City of Mesa Sister Cities at Kaiping & Jiangmen, Guangdong Province, China
- 2000 – Summer – MLS-599 Civil Society and Place, NAU’s Masters of Liberal Studies Program; Fall – MLS-602 Community, Values, and Technology
- 1996 - 2004 - Adjunct Faculty in Geography at Mesa Community College, Mesa, Arizona, courses taught: GCU-121 & 122 - World Regional Geography: Eastern Hemisphere / Western Hemisphere; GCU-102 – Human Geography; GCU-221 – Geography of Arizona
- 1996 - 1997 - Adjunct Faculty in Spanish at Rio Salado Community College, Tempe, Arizona, courses taught: SP-115 & 116 - Conversational Spanish & 202 - Spanish Grammar
- 1995 - Instructor - English and Life Skills at *Unlimited Potential* (program for Hispanic immigrants) Phx.
- 1994-1995 – Fall – Spanish Language & Culture (non-credit) at University of Wisconsin Center-Barron County, Rice Lake, Wisconsin
- 1993-1994 - Visiting Assistant Professor of Geography at St. Norbert College, DePere, Wisconsin, courses taught: 120 - Physical Geography, 140 World Regional, and 225 - Social Geography
- 1991-1993 – Temporary Assistant Professor of Geography at Central Michigan Univ., Mt. Pleasant, MI, courses taught: 120 - Environmental Geography, 323 - Advanced Cultural Geography, and 373 - Latin American Geography

1990-1991 - Instructor in the Geography Department at CMU, courses taught: 120 - Environmental Geography, and 575A  
- Refugees: The Geography of Exile

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- SAFE Models of Civic Engagement: Sustaining Service Learning**, available only on CD, editor, publication of Community College National Center for Community Engagement, October, 2006.
- SAFE Connections through Community Colleges**, available only on CD, editor, publication of *Community College National Center for Community Engagement*, October, 2005
- Community Awareness Enhances the Quality of Life**, available only on CD, editor, publication of *Community College National Center for Community Engagement*, October, 2004
- These White Walls: The Dialectic of Retirement Communities**, with Kevin McHugh, in *Journal of Aging Studies*, summer 2004.
- We Are All Related: Service Learning, Civic Engagement, and Connectedness**, editor, publication of *Community College National Center for Community Engagement*, October, 2003
- Global Civic Engagement: Building an Ethic of Commitment to Service through Human Geography**, *Journal for Civic Commitment*, issue #1, 2003
- Through Whose Eyes: Service-Learning and Civic Engagement from Culturally Diverse Perspectives**, editor, publication of *Campus Compact National Center for Community Colleges*, October 2002
- Arizona September 11<sup>th</sup> Community Conversations: A Resource for Librarians and Teachers**, editor, publication of the *Arizona Humanities Council*, March, 2002
- Scottsdale Meets Citizens Where They Live**, for *The New Public Innovator: The Official Publication for the Alliance for Redesigning Government*, Spring, '99
- Articles on “**Voices from Communities in Transition**,” in *Arizona Insight*, quarterly newsletter of the Arizona Humanities Council, 1995-1997.
- Through the Eyes of the Media: Perceptions of Nicaraguan Refugees in Costa Rica in the 1980s**, Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers' *CLAG Yearbook*, 1995.
- Nicaraguan Refugees in Costa Rica from 1980-1990**, Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers *CLAG Yearbook*, 1993.
- Costa Rican Government Policy Modifications Regarding Refugee Employment and Integration, 1980-1990**, *International Journal of Refugee Law*, Fall, 1992.
- XVI Century Perceptions of Latin America: Civil or Savage?** A curriculum video produced by the Center for Latin America, UW-Milwaukee, July 1988.

### **GRANTS and AWARDS**

- 2012 – Student Success Grant, from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at ASU, for *Journey Stories: People and Place in Motion*, \$29,910, with Kevin McHugh
- 2011 – State Scholar of Arizona, for the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum on Main Street’s Travelling Exhibit, *Journey Stories*, through 2014.
- 2011 – Sept – 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation as Keynote Speaker for the *National Society of Collegiate Scholars* (NSCS)
- 2011 – Arizona Geographic Alliance *Certificate of Appreciation*
- 2010 – Sept. -- Distinguished Member (and Keynote Speaker) *National Society of Collegiate Scholars* (NSCS)
- 2002 – October – 12<sup>th</sup> Annual *Distinguished Public Scholar Award* from the Arizona Humanities Council
- 2002 – May – *Outstanding Adjunct Faculty of the Year* at Mesa Community College
- 1998 – August – 3CMA (*Connect, Communicate, Celebrate Marketing Association*) *Savvy Communications Award of Excellence* for “Scottsdale Voices: Community Visioning Process.”
- 1998 – June – *City Hall Communications Award of Merit* for “Scottsdale Voices: Strengthening the Quality of Community Dialogue.”

- 1997 - September - *Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize for Excellence in Public Programming*, awarded annually by the NEH, for "Voices from Communities in Transition," conducted by the Arizona Humanities Council, through a grant funded by the NEH.
- 1993 - January - *CMU's Faculty Research and Creative Endeavors (FRCE) Award for Premier Display* at the AAG Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia for paper: "Absence of Place: Identity, Values, Readjustment, and Integration of Nicaraguan Refugees in Costa Rica."
- 1993 - January - *CMU's Faculty Research and Creative Endeavors (FRCE) Award for Research* on "Nations within Us: Perceptions of Homeland among Exiled Latinas"
- 1992 - October - *CMU's Faculty Teaching and Program Development Award for Premier Display (FTPD)* in Atlanta, Georgia for the Southern Historical Association meeting, for "Some Things Never Change: Perception, Reality, and 500 Years of the Encounter"
- 1991 - November - *CMU's Faculty Research and Creative Endeavors award for Premier Display (FRCE)* at the AAG conference in San Diego, California for paper: "Nations within Us: Perceptions of Homeland among Exiled Latinas"
- 1991 - September – Grant for "*Geography, Ecology and Economic Development in the Dominican Republic*," Partners of the Americas and the Michigan Geographic Alliance (co-authored with Michael Libbee and Virginia Wazny)
- 1985 - *Organizational Relief Fund Foreign Country Travel Grant*, Louisiana State University (LSU)
- 1985 - *Latin American Studies Travel Grant*, Louisiana State University (LSU)

#### **PAPERS, PANELS, TALKS at ACADEMIC MEETINGS**

- September, 2011 – Panel member of 'Where are the Undergraduate Women in Geography' at the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (APCG) meeting, San Francisco
- April, 2008 – Session Chair for ASU Conference: The Rhetoric of Peace.
- November, 2005, Session Chair: Latin America, Arizona Pacific Coast Geographers meeting, Phoenix, Arizona
- November, 2005, Presenter for Center for Transatlantic Relations, The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, The Johns Hopkins University, "Changing Societies: Rethinking Social Security and Pensions" A *European-American Dialogue on Local Issues - Global Solutions*, Dialogue Series Pilot Program, Phoenix, Arizona – presentation titled: "Arizona's Changing Demography: Implications for Social and Policy Change"
- June, 2005, Keynote Speaker, Statewide Faculty Training Institute at Howard Community College, Columbia, Maryland, "Local to Global Perspectives on Community, Civic Engagement, and Service Learning"
- November, 1996, National Council on Geographic Education (NCGE), Santa Barbara, CA, invited paper: "Voices from Communities in Transition"
- May, 1996, Presenter on "Sun City: Community in Transition or People in Transition?" at Governor's Council on Aging, Mesa Conference Center
- March, 1994, Panel Organizer on Latin American Exiled Women, Latin American Studies Association Congress (LASA), Atlanta, Georgia
- April, 1993, Association of American Geographers, Atlanta, Georgia, invited paper: "Absence of Place: Identity, Values, Readjustment, and Integration of Nicaraguan Refugees in Costa Rica"
- November, 1992, Southern Historical Society, Atlanta, Georgia, invited paper: "Some Things Never Change: Perception, Reality, and 500 Years of the Encounter"
- October, 1992, East Lakes Division Association of American Geographers (AAG), Mt. Pleasant, MI, "Parallels in the Conquests" in XVI and XX Century Latin America"
- September, 1992, Quincentennial Encounter Conference at UW-Stevens Point, invited paper: "Some Things Never Change: Perception, Reality, and 500 Years of the Encounter"
- April, 1992, Association of American Geographers (AAG), San Diego, California, invited paper: "Nations within Us: Perceptions of Homeland among Exiled Latinas"
- April, 1990, Association of American Geographers (AAG), Toronto, Canada, "Nicaraguan Refugee Absorption into the Costa Rican Economy."

- April, 1988, Latin American Studies Association (LASA), presented video: "*XVI Century Perceptions of Latin America: Civil or Savage?*"
- January, 1987, Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers, Merida, Yucatan, "*The Internal Structure of the Three Cancuns: Aspects of Isla Cancun, Ciudad Cancun, and Colonia Puerto Juarez.*"
- October, 1986, West Lakes Division of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), UW-Green Bay, WI, "*Establishment and Development of Cancun as a Major Tourism and Economic Center.*"

**PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, SYMPOSIA and WORKSHOPS (conducted &/or attended) – from 2000**

- September 2012, GeoFest – Arizona Geographic Alliance – presentation on Journey Stories – the Smithsonian Exhibit
- October 2011, GeoFest – Arizona Geographic Alliance – presentation on US/Mexican Border Issues
- October 2010, GeoFest – Arizona Geographic Alliance – presentation on Global Water Issues
- October 2009, GeoFest – Arizona Geographic Alliance – presentation on Demography of Europe
- June 2009, Az Geographic Alliance Summer Institute – presentation on “Working Towards Solutions to Human Rights Violations”.
- October 2008, GeoFest – Arizona Geographic Alliance – presentations on “Indigenous Rights in Latin America” and “Geography of Latin America”.
- Feb. 2008, GeoDay Trip for the Arizona Geographic Alliance – presentation on “Human Rights in Asia”.
- June, 2008, Participated in Educator’s Study Tour to Honduras, Central America, with Heifer International, a non-profit organization that works toward poverty eradication and sustainability among poor rural villagers and urban dwellers
- October, 2007, GeoFest – Arizona Geographic Alliance – co-presentation on the United States Institute of Peace “High School Peace Essay Contest”, with 2007 national contest winner, Wendy Cai, high school senior from Tempe.
- July 2007, Attended Faculty Summer Institute “Global Peace and Security from Multiple Perspectives” at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Washington, DC.
- Feb, 2007, Africa GeoDayTrip for the Arizona Geographic Alliance – presentation on Human Rights in Africa
- Feb, 2006, Latin America GeoDayTrip - Arizona Geographic Alliance – presentation on Human Rights in Latin America
- June, 2005, Keynote Speaker - *Local to Global Perspectives on Civic Engagement, Service Learning, and Community*, at Howard Community College, Columbia, Maryland, for Learn and Serve America.
- June, 2005, *Workshop on Reflection* for state-wide conference on service learning at Howard Community College, Columbia, Maryland, for Learn and Serve America.
- October, 2004, Arizona Geographic Alliance presenter – presentation on Arizona’s Changing Demography
- March, 2004, Keynote speaker for the Arizona Library Association – presentation on Arizona’s Changing Demography
- November, 2001, *Participacion Ciudadana: El Motor del Desarrollo Local* (Citizen Participation: Motor of Local Development) for the International City Managers Association (ICMA-Mexico City), November, 2001, Mexico City, Mexico.

**COMMUNITY and UNIVERSITY SERVICE from 2000**

- Supporting Faculty** on the *Brazilian Studies Certificate* program committee, ASU, beginning fall, 2012
- Facilitator** for *Literature & Medicine*, a monthly book and poetry discussion series sponsored and funded in-part by the Arizona Humanities Council, Phoenix VA Hospital, and the Maine Humanities Council, September 2009 – March 2011
- Talks** presented for the Arizona Humanities Council Speakers Bureau – presentations on the *Geography of Southwest Asia*, and *Arizona’s Changing Demography* – several per year throughout Arizona since 2001- present
- Keynote Speaker**, Sept 2011 – NSCS – National Society of Collegiate Scholars – talk titled: *Beyond ‘Return to Normal’: Presence, Compassion, and Humility*, ASU, Tempe Campus
- Keynote Speaker**, Sept 2010 – NSCS – National Society of Collegiate Scholars – talk titled: *Each in Our Own Way: Practicing Civic and Humanitarian Service in Our Daily Lives*, ASU, Tempe Campus

- Advisor for Campus Student Organization: Stand Up for Kids**, a service organization serving homeless kids in the Valley, 2009-present
- Advisor for Campus Student Organization: Coalition for Outreach and Advocacy for Refugees**, the ASU branch of a national action organization devoted to assisting homeless kids in the Valley, 2010-present (second time as advisor after two years hiatus)
- Advisor for Campus Student Organization: Nourish International**, the ASU branch of an international student fundraising and action organization devoted to ending poverty on the planet, 2010-present
- Advisor for Campus Student Organization: Student Social Network for Global Education** – a student service and action organization dedicated to keeping local kids in school, and ultimately to build schools in post-war Sudan, 2010
- Talk** for St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Moon Valley, AZ, on Global Poverty and the Work of Heifer International in Honduras, Central America, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- Keynote Speaker** on “*Geography and Demographic Profile of Human Trafficking*” for *Action and Awareness: A Human Trafficking Workshop*, sponsored by the International Rescue Committee and Paradise Valley Community College, January 7, 2009.
- Talk** for Friendship Village Kaffee Klatsch – on “*Afghanistan Before and After September 11, 2001*” November 2008
- Keynote Speaker** at Rhodes Junior High –for “*Mapping the Americas: Geography Awareness Week, 2008*” – presentation on “Indigenous Rights in Latin America, and Heifer International in Honduras” Nov, 2008
- Advisor for Campus Student Organization: COAR (Community Outreach and Advocacy for Refugees)** (2008), a well-established campus organization that has acquired non-profit status and works with ASU students and refugee families in the Valley.
- Advisor for Campus Student Organization: Global Outreach** (2007), a student group dedicated to raising awareness and funds for small-scale projects in developing world countries, specifically in the areas of education and health.
- Member of ASU Faculty Committee** working on the establishment of a multi-disciplinary Peace Studies Certificate, spearheaded by the Center for Religion and Conflict at ASU (2007-2008)
- Member of Search Committee** for the Executive Director of the Arizona Humanities Council, state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (2008)
- Facilitator** for *Literature & Medicine*, a monthly book and poetry discussion series sponsored and funded in-part by the Arizona Humanities Council, St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center, and the Maine Humanities Council, September 2006 – May 2007
- Talks** presented for the Arizona Humanities Council Speakers Bureau – presentations on Arab-Americans, Cultural Geography of Afghanistan, and Arizona’s Changing Demography – several per year throughout Arizona since 2001
- Talk** on Arab-Americans before and after 9-11, at Grandview Terrace, Sun City West, May, 2005
- Talks** on *Afghanistan*, and *A Westerner’s Perspective of the Geography of China*, at Wu Yi University, Jiangmen, Guangdong, China, May, 2002
- Facilitator** for One Book Arizona, sponsored by the Maricopa County Library Council, the Arizona Humanities Council, Arizona State Library; Perennial Books, and the Arizona Republic. Lead two book discussions in Guadalupe and Mesa around the book *Animal Dreams*, by Barbara Kingsolver, April, 2002.
- Humanities Scholar** for *Cultural Geography of Afghanistan*, and *American-Arabs in the Aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup>*, for the *Arizona September 11<sup>th</sup> Community Conversations*, for the Arizona Humanities Council, November, 01 – March, 02; delivered 9 talks throughout Arizona between November, 2001 and March, 2002 on Afghanistan, and on Arab-Americans.
- Talk** on *Afghanistan: Geography and Humanitarian Situation*, with Steve Bass and Lara Merriam, Mesa Community College, October 11, 2001
- Presentation** on *Afghanistan: Geography, Politics and Humanitarian Situation*, with Steve Bass, Lara Merriam, and Brian Dille, Mesa Unified School District, November, 2001
- Scholar/Speaker** for “*The Role of the Citizen in American Democracy*,” Teacher-Training Summer Institute sponsored by the Center for Civic Education and the Arizona Bar Foundation’s Law-Related Education, Flagstaff, AZ, July, 2001

**Humanities Scholar** for, *Stories of Love, Life, and Work: A Bilingual Book Discussion Series*, funded by Human Pursuits: The Western Humanities Division, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Desert Sage Public Library, Phoenix, AZ. March-July, 2001

**District Coordinator** (AZ-CD5) for *We the People...the Citizen and the Constitution* funded by the Arizona Bar Foundation and the Center for Civic Education 2000 – May, 2002.

**Judge**, for *We the People...the Citizen and the Constitution*, National High School Competition, Washington, D.C., May, 2000

**Judge**, for *Project Citizen*, Middle School Competition, sponsored by the Arizona Bar Foundation and the Center for Civic Education, April, 2000

**Speaker**, for Phoenix Public Library Luncheon Series, on *Healing Choices*, March 2000

**Speaker** on *Diversity* for ASU's School of Business, Diversity in the Workplace 2000, conference, Feb. 2000

**Moderator** for *Panel Discussion on Diversity* for Volunteers Plus, Inc. of Scottsdale, Arizona, February 2000

**Judge** for “*We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* State-level high school student competition sponsored by the Arizona Bar Association, January 2000

### LANGUAGES

**Spanish:** fluent in reading, writing, speaking  
**Portuguese:** moderate comprehension/writing; beginning speaking

### SPECIAL INTERESTS

**Cultural & Social Geography; Diversity; Civic Engagement; Study Abroad; Service Learning; Peace Studies**

### OVERSEAS RESEARCH, TRAVEL, and WORK EXPERIENCE

2012, **Brazil**, co-director (with Clarice Deal – Portuguese) Summer Study Abroad Program

2008, **Honduras**, Central America, educators’ study tour to Heifer International-assisted sites

2005, **Egypt & Jordan** to gain perspective on a world region I teach, yet had not previously visited

2004, **Mexico**, Interpreter for Flying Samaritans (Phx Branch) medical personnel

2004, **U.S. Virgin Islands**, St. Thomas and St. Croix; **Puerto Rico**, for Community College National Center for Community Engagement, conducted Service Learning Workshops

2003, **Peru**, South America

2002, **China & Hong Kong** for Mesa Community College & City of Mesa, Service Learning and Study Abroad Programs

2001, **Mexico City** for the IMMAC Conference for Mexican Mayors on behalf of the International City Managers Association (ICMA), consultant/speaker

1999, September, Zapotlanejo, **Mexico** with International City Managers Association / City of Scottsdale Partnership to train Zapotlanejo city staff in citizen participation methods

1994, March, election monitor in **El Salvador**

1993, Summer, field research in **Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Chiapas, Mexico**, interviews conducted with refugee and repatriated women

1992, September, fieldtrip / workshop for Geographic Alliance K-12 teachers, **Dominican Republic**

1992, August, planning for teacher fieldtrip during National Council on Geographic Education (NCGE) Conference in the **Dominican Republic**

1992, March, site visit to language institute in Merida, **Venezuela**

1991, summer, site visits to cooperating institutions (Study Abroad) in **England and Scotland**

1990, summer, field research in **Costa Rica**

1989, summer-fall, Dissertation field research in **Costa Rica**

1986, January, research in **Honduras**, research on dooryard gardens in Masca, a Garifuna village

1984-85, December-January, research in **Quintana Roo, Mexico** for M.A. thesis

1982, January, research trip to the **Dominican Republic**, research on the rural poor women