

GABRIELLA SOTO
Curriculum Vitae
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Mailing Address
Arizona State University
Barrett, The Honors College
Sage Hall North, Room 110E
751 East Lemon Mall
Tempe, Arizona 85281

Email: gabriella.soto@asu.edu

Professional Websites
[ASU Profile](#)
[Google Scholar](#)
[Academia.edu](#)
[ResearchGate](#)

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT AND AFFILIATIONS

- 2025-** Associate Teaching Professor and Honors Faculty Fellow, Barrett Honors College, **Arizona State University**
- 2025-** Affiliate Faculty, School of Interdisciplinary Forensics, **Arizona State University**
- 2021-2025** Assistant Teaching Professor and Honors Faculty Fellow, Barrett Honors College, **Arizona State University**
- 2024-** Affiliate Faculty, Latinx Oral History Lab, **Arizona State University**
- 2024-** Affiliate Faculty, New College Global Human Rights Hub, Migration Working Group, Forensic Interest Group, **Arizona State University**
- 2023-** Affiliate Faculty, Migrant Death Working Group, **International Committee of the Red Cross**
- 2021-** Affiliate Faculty, School of Transborder Studies, **Arizona State University**
- 2020-2021** Visiting Faculty Fellow, Barrett Honors College, **Arizona State University**
- 2018-2020** Postdoctoral Fellowship for the Graduate Program in American Studies, **Trinity College** (Hartford, Connecticut)
- 2018-** Affiliate Faculty, Binational Migration Institute, **University of Arizona**

EDUCATION

University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona
Ph.D., Anthropology. 2018

Dissertation: *The Border Enforcement “Funnel Effect”: A Material Culture Approach to Border Security on the Arizona-Sonora Border, 2000-Present*

Committee: Drs. James T. Watson, T.J. Ferguson, Raquel Rubio-Goldsmith, Lindsay M. Montgomery

University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

M.A. with Distinction, 20th Century Conflict Archaeology, 2011

Thesis: *The Undocumented Landscape: Transience and Survival on the Border*

Advisor: Dr. Nicholas Saunders

Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts

B.A., History and Political Science, 2008

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Undocumented Migration	Ethics of Care
U.S.-Mexico border	Non-governmental politics
Infrastructure	Heritage
Materiality	Ruins
Migrant death and disappearance	Contemporary Archaeology
Postmortem Care	GIS

MANUSCRIPTS

2026 *Border Afterlives: Migrant Deaths, Forensic Investigations, and the Politics of Haunting*. Solicited by the University of Arizona Press for the series, BorderVisions.

PEER-REVIEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

2026 **“Homicide”:** Towards an applied anthropology of death records. *Critical Criminology*. (pre-print online)

2025 **Geographies of intent: The bodily implications of border surveillance technologies.** *Political Geography*. 120. **Second author** with Samuel Chambers.

2024 **The Weight of Numbers: Counting border crossing deaths and policy intent.** *Journal of Migration and Human Security*. 12(3): 290-309.

2022 **The Time of Agony: Abjectivity politics and the investigation of migrant deaths along the US-Mexico border.** *Current Anthropology* 63 (3): 239-250. Discussion article with scholarly responses from Zoe Crossland, Alexandra Délano Alonso and Benjamin Nienass, Alethia Fernández de la Reguera, Francisco Ferrándiz, Alfredo González-Ruibal, Yannis Hamilakis, Josiah Heyman, Ieva Jusionyte, Rachel Kiddey, Susan Pollock, Robin C. Reineke, and Layla Renshaw.

2022 **Response to Comments.** *Current Anthropology* 63 (3): 262-269.

2020 **Absent/Present: Biopolitics and the materiality of body counts on the US-Mexico border.** *Journal of Material Culture*. 26 (1): 43-63.

2018 **Banal materiality and the idea of sovereignty: The migration funnel effect and the policing of the U.S.-Mexico border, 2000-2016.** *Political Geography* 66 (1): 113-129.

- 2018 **Object Afterlives and the Burden of History: Between “trash” and “heritage” in the footsteps of migrants.** *American Anthropologist* 120 (3): 460-473.
*Cover article and recipient of the 2018 Dozier Paper Prize and 2019 American Anthropological Association Archaeology Division Gordon R. Willey Paper Prize
- 2017 **Place-Making in Non-Places: Migrant Graffiti in Rural Highway Box Culverts** *Journal of Contemporary Archaeology* special migration issue: 174-195.
- 2016 **Migrant Memento Mori and the Geography of Risk.** *Journal of Social Archaeology* 16(3): 335-358.
- 2014 **Expanding Toolkits for Heritage Perpetuation: The Western Apache Ethnography and Geographic Information Science Research Experience for Undergraduates.** *Journal of Applied Geospatial Research* 6(1): 59-75. **Fourth author** with K. Hoerig, J. Welch, and T.J. Ferguson.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND EDITED MONOGRAPHS

- Forthcoming **Antigone on the border: Violence, damage, and desire in the US-Mexico borderlands.** Invited submission for the *Handbook of American Violence*. (Eds. S. Gac and C. Lightfoot). Routledge.
- 2026 **Migration heritage, on-the-move: A Chicax perspective.** Invited chapter for edited volume, *Archaeologies of Contemporary and Political Global Settings* (Eds. D. Angelo and A. Zarankin). Springer.
- 2018 **Place-Making in Non-Places: Migrant Graffiti in Rural Highway Box Culverts.** In Y. Hamilakis (Ed.) *The New Nomadic Age: Archaeologies of Forced and Undocumented Migration*. (pp. 58-79). Equinox: Sheffield, UK.
- 2017 **The Geography of Death: Implications for Policy and Forensic Science** In K. Latham and A. O’Daniel (Eds.) *Sociopolitics of Migrant Death and Repatriation: Perspectives for Forensic Science*. Springer: New York. **First author** with D. Martínez.
- 2016 **Trauma, Things, and Collective Action: An Informal Survey of the January 8, 2011 Vernacular Shrine at University Medical Center.** *Arizona Anthropologist*, Discourses on Death Edition: 76-99.
- 2016 *Arizona Anthropologist*. Discourses on Death Edition. **Co-editor** with D.O. Phelps.
- 2015 **Dear Gang: A History of the Atlatl and 100 Years of Anthropological Community.** *Arizona Anthropologist*, Centennial Edition: 1-20.
- 2015 *Arizona Anthropologist*. School of Anthropology Centennial Commemoration Monograph. **Co-editor** with D.O. Phelps.
- 2015 *Arizona Anthropologist*. Notes from the Field Edition. **Co-editor** with D.O. Phelps and A. Storey.
- 2014 **The U.S.-Mexico Border Wall.** In A. Ochoa O’Leary (Ed.) *Undocumented Immigrants in the United States Today: An Encyclopedia of Their Experiences*. ABC-CLIO Greenwood: Santa Barbara, CA.
- 2012 **Beneath the Waves: Conflict Landscape of the Baltic Sea.** In N.J. Saunders (Ed.) *Beyond the Dead Horizon: Studies in 20th Century Conflict Archaeology*. Oxbow Press: Oxford.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

- 2021 **Migrant Deaths in Southern Arizona: Recovered Undocumented Border Crosser Remains Investigated by the Pima County Office of the Mexican Examiner, 1990-2020.** Binational Migration Institute, University of Arizona. **Tenth author** with D.E. Martinez, R.C. Reineke, G. Boyce, S.N. Chambers, B.E. Anderson, G.L. Hess, J.M. Vollner, B.O. Parks, C.C.M. Vogelsberg, M. Kreyche, and R. Rubio-Goldsmith.
- 2019 **Cartographic Research.** In T.J. Ferguson, M.P. Hopkins, M.C. Spears, and S. Hart (Eds.) *O'odham Trails and Roads on Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument*. Report prepared on behalf of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, National Park Service. Tucson, Arizona: School of Anthropology, University of Arizona. Pp. 41-51
- 2017 **Documentation and Condition Assessment: Compound A, Casa Grande Ruins National Monument.** Project No. UAZDS-410. Report prepared on behalf of Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, National Park Service. Drachman Institute, University of Arizona. **Third author** with L. Jensen and G. Miller.
- 2015 **Protocol Development for the Standardization of Identification and Examination of UBC Bodies Along the U.S.-Mexico Border: A Best Practices Manual.** Report prepared on behalf of the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance by the Binational Migration Institute, University of Arizona. Grant No. 2010DDBX0716. **Contributor** to report issued by the Binational Migration Institute.

BOOK REVIEWS AND DEBATE ARTICLES

- 2023 **Debate Article: Historical Erasure and Archaeological Possibilities.** *Antiquity* 97 (394): 1020-1022.
- 2020 **Book review for *Threshold: Emergency Responders on the US-Mexico Border* by Ieva Jusionyte.** *Journal of Latin American Geography*. 19(3): 365-368.

PUBLIC WORKS AND DIGITAL PROJECTS

- 2026 **True crime and border deaths.** *Migration Scholars Solidarity and Resistance Network*. <https://migrationscholarsmobilize.org/blog-posts-2/true-x>
- 2025 **The dead are coming: Border memorials, desire, and the possibility of justice.** Invited submission for the *LASA Forum*. <https://forum.lasaweb.org/articles/56-2/the-dead-are-coming-border-memorials-desire-and-the-possibility-of-justice/>
- 2020 **The dead must be counted.** *Sapiens.org*. <https://www.sapiens.org/culture/migrant-death-counts/>
- 2019 **Material traces of life and death on migrant trail.** *Sapiens.org*. <https://www.sapiens.org/culture/mexico-border-migrant-trails/>.

DRAFTS IN PROGRESS

- Submitted **Abjection and Catharsis**. Invited commentary for the article, “The making and unmaking of an accidental monument: from ‘pollution’ to informal migrant heritage at the Lifestone Cemetery on Lesbos” by Y. Hamilakis, D. Hackley, M. Rothenberg, A. Bekele, and G. Tyrikos-Ergas for *Current Anthropology*.
- In prep **The materiality of ambiguous loss: Open wounds along the US-Mexico border**. Article targeted for the *International Journal of Heritage Studies*. **First author** with Abby Wheatley. Planned submission, Summer 2026
- In prep **Object afterlives revisited: Conceptualizing materiality and memory in the context of the border’s missing**. Article targeted for *American Anthropologist*. Planned submission, Summer 2026.
- In prep **Protocol Development for the Standardization of Identification and Examination of UBC Bodies Along the U.S.-Mexico Border: A Best Practices Manual, Second Edition**. Report solicited by the Binational Migration Institute, University of Arizona and the South Texas Human Rights Center. Planned, Winter 2026.
- In prep **Forensic Intervention and the Structural Violence of Migration**. Invited book chapter for *Forensic Anthropology in a Changing World*, edited by R. Parra, G. Garizoain, and L. Luna. **Third author** with T. Redeker-Hepner and S. Fox. Submission due November 2027.

PRESS COVERAGE OF RESEARCH AND MEDIA COLLABORATIONS

Tracey, C. featuring **G. Soto** (2026, 18 April) “A Q&A with Human Rights Archaeologist Gabriella Soto.” *The Border Chronicle*. <https://www.theborderchronicle.com/a-q-a-with-human-rights-archaeologist-gabriella-soto/>

Dingman, S. featuring **G. Soto** (2026, 30 March) “ASU professor details the haunting consequences of migrant deaths in ‘Border Afterlives’” for KJZZ’s *The Show*. <https://www.kjzz.org/the-show/2026-03-30/asu-professor-details-the-haunting-consequences-of-migrant-deaths-in-border-afterlives>

Malekmian, S. (2026, 18 March) “Gardaí likely knew Kurdish woman, whose body was returned to Turkey, wished to be buried in Ireland.” *Dublin Inquirer*. <https://www.dublininquirer.com/gardai-likely-knew-kurdish-woman-whose-body-was-returned-to-turkey-wished-to-be-buried-in-ireland/>

Foulis, E. featuring **G. Soto** (2026, January 11) “Border Afterlives” in *Latine Stories* (Episode 308) a production of Ohio State University’s Ohio Habla. https://soundcloud.com/ohiohabla/latine-stories-episode-308-border-afterlives/s-KcyJ7ouArYi?si=0e1d6c7300bb442e9b6902aded3c7880&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

“Migrant Trail Walk spotlights ‘profound tragedy’ of deaths in borderlands.” (2024, 31 May) *Arizona Daily Star*. https://tucson.com/news/local/border/us-mexico-border-arizona-sonora-migrants-deaths-desert/article_91460a48-1dfe-11ef-9bb9-9b10179011aa.html

"ASU Honors Faculty Fellow awarded fellowship for U.S.-Mexico borderlands research" (2023, June 26). *ASU News*. <https://news.asu.edu/20230626-asu-honors-faculty-fellow-awarded-fellowship-usmexico-borderlands-research>

Stonebreakers (2022) Director, Valerio Ciriaci; Cinematographer, Isaak Liptzin. Awen Films. <https://awenfilms.net/Stonebreakers>

*Interviewed concerning border walls and monuments to migrants.

"ASU faculty member examines deaths along the US-Mexico border." (2022, August 26). *ASU News*. <https://news.asu.edu/20220826-asu-honors-faculty-member-gabriella-soto-examines-deaths-along-usmexico-border-journal>

Paynter, E. featuring M. O'Toole, **G. Soto**, and A. Wheatley (2021, December 8). "Waiting at the Border" in *Migrations: A World on the Move* (Episode 1, Season 2), a production of Cornell University's Migrations: A Global Grand Challenge <https://migrations.cornell.edu/podcast/waiting-border>

Miroff, N. (2021, June 3) "Huge border influx brings fears of grim summer for migrant deaths." *Washington Post*. https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/summer-migrant-deaths-southern-border/2021/06/03/a03d7bb8-c3a6-11eb-8c34-f8095f2dc445_story.html

Rouhandeh, A.J. (2021, May 4) "Migrant Border Deaths Surge with 'Increased Enforcement and Militarization,' Expert Says." *Newsweek*. <https://www.newsweek.com/migrant-border-deaths-surge-increased-enforcement-militarization-expert-says-1588463>

"Migration report shows change in the demographic of border crossing deaths" (2021, May 3). *Arizona PBS*. <https://azpbs.org/horizonte/2021/05/migration-report-shows-change-in-the-demographic-of-border-crossing-deaths/>

"More migrants dying since push into remote, hostile regions" (2021, April 4). *AP News*. <https://apnews.com/article/arizona-immigration-824f1630eeb5972e1cb41454cd4c25cf>

Trevizo, P. (2015, June 7) "UA researchers seek standard in handling border deaths." *Arizona Daily Star*. http://tucson.com/news/ua-researchers-seek-standard-in-handling-of-border-deaths/article_df35a0af-fe2a-50f7-9873-9b6f157e9b63.html.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS

2026 Principled Innovation Grant. Barrett, The Honors College, Arizona State University. **Co-PI** with Tricia Redeker-Hepner and Sherry Fox. \$12,000

2023-2024 Fellow. American Council of Learned Societies. \$67,500

2023/2024/2025 Drescher Research Grant. Barrett, The Honors College, Arizona State University. \$4,750, \$3,600, \$2,323

2022 Award Finalist. "Barrett Borderlands Initiative." Woman and Philanthropy Grant. Arizona State University. **Project Director:** Abby Wheatley.

2022 Drescher Research Grant. Barrett, The Honors College, Arizona State University. \$4,900

2019 Faculty Research Grant. Trinity College. \$2,888

- 2019 Gordon R. Willey Paper Prize for “Object Afterlives and the Burden of History: Between ‘trash’ and ‘heritage’ in the footsteps of migrants.” Archaeology Division, American Anthropological Association. \$1,000
- 2019 Post-Ph.D. Research Grant. Wenner Gren Foundation. \$19,680.
- 2018 Faculty Research Grant. Trinity College. \$3,363
- 2017 Dozier Paper Prize for “Object Afterlives and the Burden of History: Between “trash” and “heritage” in the footsteps of migrants.” School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (UA). \$500
- 2017 Traditions, Transitions and Treasures Funds. School of Anthropology, UA. \$100
- 2017 William and Nancy Sullivan Scholarship Fund. School of Anthropology, UA. \$800
- 2017 Marshall Foundation Dissertation Fellowship. Graduate College, UA. ~\$20,000
- 2016 Traditions, Transitions and Treasures Funds. School of Anthropology, UA. \$717
- 2016 William and Nancy Sullivan Scholarship Fund. School of Anthropology, UA. \$700
- 2016 School of Anthropology Tuition Scholarship. School of Anthropology, UA. \$812
- 2015 Binational Migration Institute Recognition Award for Excellence in Migration Research. Binational Migration Institute, UA.
- 2015 William and Nancy Sullivan Scholarship Fund, School of Anthropology, UA. \$100
- 2015 Traditions, Transitions and Treasures Funds. School of Anthropology, UA. \$1,500
- 2015 Richard Diebold and The Salus Mundi Foundation Research Award. Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology, UA. \$500
- 2015 Honorable Mention. Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, National Academy of Sciences.
- 2013 Commins Fellowship Fund. School of Anthropology, UA. \$600
- 2012 Alternate Awardee and Honorable Mention. Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, National Academy of Sciences.
- 2012 Riecker Research Grant. School of Anthropology, UA. \$700
- 2012 Emil W. Haury Education Fund for Archaeology. School of Anthropology, UA. \$700
- 2011 Louie and Frances Schiffer Scholarship, School of Anthropology, UA. \$200
- 2011 Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology Postgraduate Dissertation Prize—Nominee for the University of Bristol, Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology.
- 2011 Eligibility Access Fellowship. Graduate College, UA. ~\$20,000
- 2011 Clifford D. Clark Minority Fellowship. Binghamton University. (Declined). \$135,000

SCHOLARLY CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS (* indicates invited)

- * (Upcoming) roundtable discussion participant for “Heritage, memory and the politics of commemoration: Perspectives on America250” for the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. (St. Louis, Missouri)
- * (Upcoming) roundtable discussion participant for “Tourism in the crosshairs of war: Memory, mobility, money, and geopolitics” for the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. (St. Louis, Missouri)
- * (Upcoming) roundtable discussion participant for “A sea change in the anthropology of death?” for the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. (St. Louis, Missouri)
- * 2025. “Conceptualizing heritage on-the-move” paper for “Looking elsewhere: Understanding contemporary mobility and migration beyond the South to North axis” panel session for WAC-10 (World Archaeological Congress). (Darwin, Australia)
- * 2025. “Looking elsewhere: Understanding contemporary mobility and migration beyond the South to North axis” panel session for WAC-10 (World Archaeological Congress). Panel convenor with Fernando Castro and Dante Angelo. (Darwin, Australia)
- * 2025. “Climate and conflict: Measurement challenges with forced migration” roundtable discussion for the University of Michigan’s Presidential Initiative on Democracy, Civic Empowerment, and Global Engagement. (Ann Arbor, Michigan)
- 2024. “Materializing the Missing: Search and Recovery for Long-Term Missing Migrants in the US Southwest Borderlands” paper for Unearthing, Unseeing: Archaeology, Heritage, and Forensics in the Shadow of State Violence organized by Cornell University Institute of Archaeology and Material Studies. (Ithaca, New York)
- * 2023 “Migration, Borders and Human Rights: Transnational Strategies from Civil Society to Save Lives and Locate Missing Migrants” Workshop organized by the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. (Mexico City, Mexico)
- * 2023 “Materializing Ambiguous Loss: Heritage, Memory, and Uncertainty in an Occupied Border Zone” invited paper and panel discussion in Death, Remembrance, and Cemeteries in the US West at the Western History Association Annual Conference. (Los Angeles, California)
- * 2023 “Migrant Deaths Along the US-Mexico Border” Workshop organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Binational Migration Institute. (Tucson, Arizona)
- 2022 “The Spirit of Human Rights: Practices of Remembrance in the Arizona Sonora Borderlands” submission for the annual meeting of the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. (Hybrid conference at Kitchener Waterloo, Canada)
- * (Conference cancelled) “Picking up the pieces: Salvage politics in response to border security” invited submission for Disrupting Narratives of Risk and Rescue in Migration at the annual meeting for the Society for Applied Anthropology. (Albuquerque, New Mexico)

- *2019 “Communities of care and grief: Research and activism for postmortem care of undocumented migrants on the US-Mexico border” invited submission for Experts as Activists, Activists as Experts panel, at the annual meeting for the American Anthropological Association. **First author with A. Ochoa O’Leary and R. Rubio-Goldsmith.** (Vancouver, Canada)
- *2019 Panel Discussant for Methodologies for the Study of Migration in Contexts of Violence, at the annual meeting for the Latin American Studies Association. (Boston, Massachusetts)
- *2019 “Uneven efforts to identify and enumerate migrant deaths along the U.S.-Mexico border” invited submission for Methodologies for the Study of Migration in Contexts of Violence panel, at the annual meeting for the Latin American Studies Association. **Second author with A. Ochoa O’Leary.** (Boston, Massachusetts)
- *2019 “Migration Materiality and New Heritage in Southern Arizona” for Migration Materialities mini-conference at Trinity College. (Hartford, Connecticut)
- *2019 “Migration materialities” mini-conference at Trinity College. **Co-organizer** with Timothy Landry and Jane Nadel-Klein; Event co-sponsored by the Graduate Program and the Department of Anthropology at Trinity College. (Hartford, Connecticut)
- *2019 “Migration, Materiality, Survivance” invited submission for Chicana Archaeology, at the annual meeting for the Society for American Archaeology (Albuquerque, New Mexico)
- *2018 “Uneven efforts to identify and enumerate migrant deaths along the U.S.-Mexico border” invited submission for Border Deaths and Migration Policies: State and Non-State Approaches, hosted by the International Organization for Migration, Médecins San Frontières and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions. **Second author with A. Ochoa O’Leary.** (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
- *2018 “The Border Enforcement ‘Funnel Effect’: A material culture approach to border security on the U.S.-Mexico border, 2000-2016.” The McDonald Institute of Archaeology, Cambridge University. (Cambridge, United Kingdom).
- *2017 "Local Laws/Foreign Bodies: Postmortem care for undocumented migrants in the United States" invited submission in Law and the Public-Private Dichotomy: Rights, at the annual International Meeting on Law and Society. **Second author** with R. Rubio-Goldsmith. (Mexico City, Mexico).
- 2017 “Microhistories of the ‘Funnel Effect’: Tracing the banal materialities of U.S. border enforcement, 2000-present” at the annual meeting for the Society of American Archaeology (Vancouver, Canada).
- *2016 “The Lives of Others: On Traces Left Behind in the Arizona Borderlands, 2007-present.” Invited paper and panel discussion in The dialectics of power and points of escape: refugees, undocumented migrants, and survivors at the American Anthropological Association Annual Conference (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- 2016 “The dialectics of power and points of escape: refugees, undocumented migrants, and survivors” panel and discussion session at the American Anthropological

- Association Annual Conference. **Co-organizer** with Abby Wheatley (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- 2016 “Enunciative Walking: Illegality, Prevention through Deterrence, and the Arizona-Mexico Border, Results from Phase 1” at the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Conference (Vancouver, Canada)
- 2016 “Problematizing Resistance: A Multidisciplinary Workshop on Informal Political Action and Scholarly Praxis.” Workshop and panel discussion in Resistance: Borders and Power, Social Justice and Community at the 44th Annual Conference of the National Association for Ethnic Studies. **Co-organizer** with Sophie Alves, Jesus-Jaime Díaz, and Sofia Gomez (Tucson, Arizona)
- *2015 * “Socioeconomics and Death Investigation on the U.S.-Mexico Border: The implications of social vulnerabilities for identification of undocumented border crosser remains” invited paper presentation and panel discussion in The Geographies of Civic Engagement: Mapping Community Organization and Collaboration in Efforts to Identify and Enumerate the Dead Along the U.S.-Mexico Border at the annual meeting of Rocky Mountain Association of Latin American Scholars (Tucson, Arizona)
- *2013 “When Death Comes Knocking: The role of geography and civic engagement in efforts to identify and enumerate the dead along the U.S.-Mexico border” Invited paper presentation and panel discussion at the annual meeting of the Latin American Studies Association **Second author** with A. Ochoa O’Leary (Washington, DC)
- *2013 “Contested Space: Materiality of an undocumented journey” invited paper and panel discussion in “Aqui Estamos...”: Interdisciplinary perspectives on transborder places and transnational spaces as sites of resistance at the annual meeting of the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Scholars (San Antonio, Texas)
- 2012 “Archaeology in Clandestine Spaces: A case study at the U.S.-Mexico Border” paper presentation at the annual meeting of the Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory Group (York, United Kingdom)
- *2012 “When Death Comes Knocking: The Role of Geography and Civic Engagement in Efforts to Identify and Enumerate the Dead Along the U.S.-Mexico Border” Paper presentation and panel discussion at the Conferencia Binacional de Globalización y Inmigración. **Second-author** with A. Ochoa-O’Leary. (Mexicali, Mexico)
- 2012 “Crossing the Line: Considering undocumented migration as collective action” paper presentation and panel discussion in The Archaeology of Contemporary Protest Movements at the annual meeting of the Theoretical Archaeology Group – USA (Buffalo, New York)
- *2012 “What’s Left: An Archaeology of Undocumented Migration at the U.S.-Mexico Border” invited paper presentation in Putting People in Places: Negotiating Tenuous Relations in Space at the annual meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology (Baltimore, Maryland)

- 2012 “Practical Politics on the Migration Trail” paper presentation in the General Session: Below the Surface and Beyond the Stereotype at the annual meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology (Baltimore, Maryland)
- 2011 “The Undocumented Landscape: Transience and Subsistence on the Border” paper presentation and panel discussion in Archaeologies of the Post-Industrial at the annual meeting of the Theoretical Archaeology Group—USA (Berkeley, California)
- 2011 “The Undocumented Landscape: Transience and Subsistence on the Border” paper presentation in Historical Ecology and Anthropogenic Change in the Americas at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (Sacramento, California)
- *2009 “Architectural Styles and Designs as Indicators of Community at the site of PVN647, Northwest Honduras” paper presentation and panel discussion in Communities Across Space and Through Time: Investigations into Southeast Mesoamerica at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (Atlanta, Georgia)

PUBLIC LECTURES

- Upcoming “Care and Migration: Border crossing deaths and a framework for changing the narrative.” Keynote lecture for “Care in Passage: Deliberations on Life in Migrational, Relational Worlds” sponsored by Comparative Culture and Language Program and the Department of English at Arizona State University. (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2026 “Death by design: Border crossing mortality and the concept of ‘homicide.’” Invited book talk sponsored by the Binational Migration Institute, Coalición de Derechos Humanos, and the Little Chapel of All Nations. University of Arizona. (Tucson, Arizona)
- 2026 “(In)conclusion: Searching for missing migrants in the US Southwest.” Public lecture for the annual 2026 Drescher Lecture for Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University. (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2025 “Border Afterlives: Migrant Deaths, Forensic Investigations, and the Politics of Haunting.” Invited book talk for Migration Working Group, Global Human Rights Hub, Arizona State University. (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2025 “Legalized Abuses: Border crossing deaths and a framework for changing the narrative.” Invited lecture for the “Unraveling state abuse lecture series” to promote dialogue and collaboration between community advocates and academic researchers, sponsored by the Abuse Documentation Committee, Coalición de Derechos Humanos, Defensa y Resistencia. (Tucson, Arizona)
- 2025 “Death on the border: In search and in doubt of best practices.” Lecture for the Department of Anthropology, Grinnell College. (Grinnell, Iowa)
- 2025 “Materializing the Missing: Search and Recovery for Long-Term Missing Migrants in the US Southwest Borderlands” Public lecture for the annual 2025 Drescher Lecture for Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University. (Tempe, Arizona)

- 2023 "To go missing in Brooks County: In search and in doubt of best practices to care for the dead." Department lecture in the School of Transborder Studies, Arizona State University. (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2023 "Forensic investigation as humanitarian care: Migrant fatalities in southeast Texas." Public lecture for the annual 2023 Drescher Lecture for Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University. (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2023 "The Anthropology of Death Certificates: Haunted Archives at the US-Mexico Border" Public lecture at University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology's Monday Seminar. (Chicago, Illinois)
- 2022 Faculty panel for TRIO Student Support Services at the Polytechnic Campus, Arizona State University. (Mesa, Arizona)
- 2022 Moderator and panelist for expert panel of virtual film screening, *Missing in Brooks County*, Sponsored by Project Humanities at Arizona State University and PBS' *Independent Lens*. (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2021 "Forensic Investigation as Care in the Context of Migrant Deaths and Disappearances Along the US-Mexico Border" Public lecture at Arizona State University, Barrett Honors College's "Scholars Series for Hispanic History Month." (Mesa, Arizona)
- 2021 Expert panelist for public film screening of *Missing in Brooks County*. Loft Cinema. Sponsored by DocScapes and the University of Arizona's School of Sociology; School of Theatre, Film, and Television; College of Fine Arts; the Binational Migration Institute; and the Hanson Film TV Institute. (Tucson, Arizona)
- 2021 "Counting the dead as activism: The border and beyond" Invited public paper and discussion for the panel, "Death and Disappearance in the Borderlands: Recent Research in Undocumented Border Crosser Deaths in Southern Arizona" at the Binational Migration Institute, University of Arizona. (Tucson, Arizona)
- 2020 "Towards an anthropology of body counts" Public lecture at Arizona State University, Barrett Honors College's "Scholars Series for Hispanic History Month." (Mesa, Arizona)
- 2019 "Mapping the unmappable: A social archaeology of border enforcement through attrition in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands" Public lecture at Brown University, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology. (Providence, Rhode Island)
- 2016 "Best Practices for the Standardization of Examination and Identification of UBC Remains Along the U.S.-Mexico Border." Invited paper for panel discussion, "Life, Death, and Mass Incarceration at the Border" sponsored by the Binational Migration Institute and Coalición de Derechos Humanos (Tucson, Arizona)
- 2014 "Archaeology and Activism at the U.S.-Mexico Border: The role of archaeological mapping and survey to facilitate migrant search and rescue" invited for the Migration Research Dialogues lecture series, sponsored by the Binational Migration Institute (Tucson, Arizona)

INVITED COURSE LECTURES

- 2026 "Death by design: Border crossing mortality and the concept of 'homicide.'" For HON 394: Special Topics (Transnational Migration and Mobility in the 21st Century) at ASU Barrett, The Honors College. (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2023 "The Anthropology of Death Certificates: Haunted Archives at the US-Mexico Border" for the meeting of the ASU Polytechnic Campus Writing Colloquium. (Mesa, Arizona)
- 2022 "The Time of Agony: Abjectivity politics and the investigation of migrant deaths along the US-Mexico border" for HON 394: Special Topics (Transnational Migration and Mobility in the 21st Century) at ASU Barrett, The Honors College. (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2021 "Migration Hauntologies and the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act" for the meeting of the ASU Polytechnic Campus Writing Colloquium. (Mesa, Arizona)
- 2021 "The Time of Agony: Abjectivity politics and the investigation of migrant deaths along the US-Mexico border" for HON 394: Special Topics (Transnational Migration and Mobility in the 21st Century) at ASU Barrett, The Honors College. (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2019 "Ethical and Methodological Issues for the Contemporary Archaeology of Forced and Undocumented Migration: Experiences from the Arizona-Sonora Border" for ARCH 1797: A Migration Crisis? Displacement, Materiality, and Experience at Brown University. (Providence, Rhode Island)
- 2018 "Materiality, Heritage, and Contemporary Migration Issues." Invited lecture for ANTH 301: Ethnographic Methods at Trinity College (Hartford, Connecticut)
- 2018 "Postmortem care for undocumented migrants along the U.S.-Mexico border." Invited lecture for HISP 353: Narratives of Border Identity at Trinity College (Hartford, Connecticut)
- 2012 "Ethnoarchaeology of Transience and Migration: A Case Study" invited lecture for ANTH 200: Cultural Anthropology at the University of Arizona (Tucson, Arizona)
- 2012 "Undocumented Archaeology: Research to Date" invited lecture for the Frontera Border Health Scholars Summer Field Program (Tucson, Arizona)
- 2011 "Contemporary Archaeology in Action" invited lecture for ANTH 235: Principles of Archaeology at the University of Arizona (Tucson, Arizona)

EVENTS ORGANIZED AND FACILITATED BY ME

- Upcoming **Co-Organizer and Facilitator**, "Humanitarian Forensics: A conference, workshop, and resource fair / Advocating for the living, the dead, and the missing in Arizona and beyond" sponsored by the Barrett Principled Innovation Grant; Barrett, The Honors College; and the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. (Glendale, Arizona)
- 2025-26 **Co-Organizer and Facilitator**, "Unraveling state abuse lecture series" to promote dialogue and collaboration between community advocates and academic researchers, sponsored by the Abuse Documentation Committee, Coalición de Derechos Humanos, Defensa y Resistencia. (Tucson, Arizona)

- 2026 **Co-organizer and Facilitator**, “Beyond Documentation: Working Together for Community Defense,” Community Dialogue in partnership with the Tucson’s Defensa y Resistencia, Coalición de Derechos Humanos and the ASU Art Museum (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2025 **Organizer and Facilitator**, “Fostering Welcoming Communities: The ASU Charter and Immigration Politics,” Community Dialogue in partnership with Aliento Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2024 **Organizer and Facilitator**, *Stonebreakers* film screening and panel discussion with the film-makers, Valerio Ciriaci and Isaak Liptzin. ASU Art Museum, Arizona State University (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2023 **Organizer and Facilitator**, “Woodstock at Barrett.” Film screening for Barrett Poly Campus. Arizona State University (Mesa, Arizona)
- 2022, **Organizer and Facilitator**, “Monstrous Possibilities: Using Horror Fantasy to Confront and Survive Lived Horror.” Film fest and mini-conference for OUT @ ASU and Hispanic Heritage Month featuring Dr. Camilla Fojas, Dr. Clarissa Goldsmith, and Abigail Waldron. Arizona State University (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2022, **Organizer and Facilitator**, “*Queer Screams: A History of LGBTQ+ Survival Through the Lens of American Horror Cinema*—Lecture and Q&A with author, Abigail Waldron.” Barrett, The Honors College Lecture featuring Abigail Waldron. Arizona State University. (Mesa, Arizona)
- 2021 **Organizer and Facilitator**, *Missing in Brooks County* virtual film screening and panel for Hispanic Heritage Month featuring documentary co-director Lisa Molomot, Justices of the Peace for Brooks County Nora Salinas and Oralía Morales, and South Texas Human Rights Center director, Eddie Canales; Arizona State University (Tempe, Arizona)
- 2020 **Organizer and Facilitator**, “Postmortem Lives: The Corpse and Evidence in the Forensic Imaginary” Graduate Program Annual Lecture featuring Dr. Zoe Crossland, Trinity College (Hartford, Connecticut)
- 2019 **Organizer and Facilitator**, “Migration Materialities” mini-conference featuring migration scholars Dr. Sophia Balakian, Dr. Abby Wheatley, myself, and keynote speaker, Dr. Yannis Hamilakis; Trinity College Graduate Studies Program (Hartford, Connecticut)

COURSES TAUGHT

Instructor of Record, Arizona State University, Barrett Honors College, 2020-

The Human Event: Envisioning the Apocalypse. 2025-26 Two-semester first-year seminar. 3 sections.

The Human Event: Ghosts and the Rights of the Dead. 2024-25 Two-semester first-year seminar. 3 sections.

The Human Event. 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 Academic Years. Two-semester first-year seminar. Up to 4 sections per semester.

Bodies on the edge: Death, grief, corpses, and culture. Spring 2022. Upper division undergraduate seminar.

Lost or Disappeared: Searching, Uncertainty, Politics, and Poetics. Spring 2025. Upper division undergraduate seminar.

Instructor of Record, Trinity College, Department of American Studies, 2018-2020

Capstone in American Studies. Fall 2018. Graduate seminar

Space, Sovereignty, Security: The U.S.-Mexico Border. Spring 2019. Advanced undergraduate and graduate seminar.

American Ruins. Summer 2019. Advanced undergraduate and graduate seminar.

Political Bodies: Contemporary Issues in Death and Dying in the Americas. Spring 2020. Advanced undergraduate and graduate seminar.

*This course shifted to a virtual format from March-May 2020 to accommodate COVID-19 emergency conditions

Curating the Present: Ethics, Imperatives, Practice. Summer 2020 (Cancelled). Mid-level undergraduate hybrid lecture and seminar course.

*Virtual course, accommodating COVID-19 emergency conditions

Teaching Assistant. University of Arizona, School of Anthropology, 2011-2015

Border Race Theory. Spring 2016. Graduate Seminar. Instructor of Record: Raquel Rubio-Goldsmith.

Art History of the Cinema. Spring 2015. Upper Division Undergraduate Course cross-listed in Art History and Classics. Instructor of Record: David Soren.

Native Peoples of the Southwest. Spring 2014. Upper Division Undergraduate Course. Instructor of Record: Thomas Sheridan.

Patterns in Prehistory. Fall 2013. General Education Course. Instructor of Record: David Killick.

Patterns in Prehistory. Spring 2013. General Education Course. Instructor of Record: Steve Kuhn.

Human Evolution. Fall 2012. Upper Division Undergraduate Course. Instructor of Record: David Wang.

Patterns in Prehistory. Spring 2012. General Education Course. Instructor of Record: James Watson.

Principles of Archaeology. Fall 2011. Upper Division Undergraduate Course. Instructor of Record: David Soren.

OTHER ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Graduate Research Associate. University of Arizona, Drachman Institute, Fall 2015–Spring 2017

Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Arizona Anthropologist* graduate student journal
University of Arizona, 2013-2016

Graduate Research Associate. University of Arizona,
Binational Migration Institute, 2012-2018

Graduate Research Associate. University of Arizona
School of Anthropology, August 2014-May 2015

Graduate Teaching Assistant. NSF Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates
Ethnography and GIS Field School, Fort Apache, Arizona, Summers 2012 and 2013

Archaeological Field Technician. Harris Environmental Group
Tucson, AZ. November 2010–February 2011

Museum and Archival Intern. Pima Air and Space Museum
Tucson, AZ. March–May 2010

Graduate Archival Intern. University of Arizona Special Collections Library,
Tucson, AZ. September 2008–May 2009

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Barrett, The Honors College, Arizona State University
Principal Investigator, 2024-

Mapping uncertain geography: Search and recovery for the border's long-term missing migrants is a archaeological and ethnographic project taking place across the US southwest comparatively assessing governmental and non-governmental projects to search for long-term missing undocumented migrants in areas of US border wilderness. While there are efforts to quantify the death toll associated with unauthorized border crossing in the US Southwest, this project will provide data to understand the scope of the border's missing persons crisis.

Department of American Studies, Trinity College / **Barrett, The Honors College,**
Arizona State University

Principal Investigator, 2019-present

The Contradictions of (In)security: Rescue beacons in the south Texas borderlands is an ethnographic and archaeological case study on non-governmental and border enforcement rescue beacons erected to serve migrants who may experience emergency medical need while transiting the remote borderlands on foot. This research asks questions about the social and material meanings of rescue-based humanitarian interventions in a field where migrant deaths are frequent.

School of Anthropology, University of Arizona

Principal Investigator under the supervision of Dr. James Watson, 2011-2017

Dissertation research continuing from pilot stages to present, documenting social and material outcomes of prolonged engagement between undocumented migration and current border security in southern Arizona

Drachman Institute, University of Arizona

Research Assistant, 2015-2017

Principal Investigator: R. Brooks Jeffery

Documentation and assessment of current stabilization condition of ruins at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument on behalf of the National Park Service

School of Anthropology, University of Arizona

Research Assistant, 2014-2015

Principal Investigator: Dr. T.J. Ferguson

Cartographic research and archaeological survey of Tohono O'odham Salt Pilgrimage trails through Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument on behalf of the National Park Service

**Binational Migration Institute, Mexican American Studies, University of Arizona
Research Assistant, 2012—ongoing**

Principal Investigators: Drs. Anna Ochoa O'Leary and Raquel Rubio-Goldsmith

Department of Justice funded research of protocols and practices among local jurisdictions for postmortem investigation of undocumented migrants who die within 100 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border

School of Anthropology, University of Arizona**Teaching Assistant, Summers 2012 and 2013**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Karl Hoerig

National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates Ethnography and GIS Field School at Fort Apache, Arizona, with student-driven community-based participatory research to build a White Mountain Apache cultural atlas

Department of Anthropology, University of Bristol**Principal Investigator under the supervision of Dr. Nicholas Saunders, 2010**

Undocumented Migration Survey Project in southern Arizona constituting the field research for my Masters thesis

Harris Environmental Group, Tucson, Arizona**Cultural Resource Monitor, 2010-2011**

Contract-based projects involved cultural resource monitoring of historic mine closures on National Park Service lands across Arizona, with final reports issued after each closure event

Durand Group**Field Technician, 2010**

Principal Investigator: Andy Hawkins

Maison Blanche Cave Excavation near Neuville-Saint-Vaast, France, preserving and recording modern site graffiti, especially that associated with World War One era Canadian soldiers

Department of Anthropology, Kenyon College**Undergraduate Field Technician, 2008**

Principal Investigators: Drs. Edward Schortman and Patricia Urban

Proyecto Valle de Naco, in the Naco Valley of Honduras, an archaeological field school with the Kenyon College Honduras Program

STUDENT COMMITTEES (Degree completed only)

Doctoral committee: Jesús Villa (Ph.D. 2026, ASU)**Masters Thesis Chair:** Maria Tuckler (MA 2019, Trinity College)**Masters Thesis Committee:** Fernando Yuzon Castro Aguilera (MA 2026, Universidad de Tarapacá); Sarah Wolcott (MA 2019, Trinity College); Steven Wapen (MA 2019, Trinity College); Ashley Esposito (MA 2020, Trinity College)

Senior Thesis Chair: Maria Cornejo-Terry (BA 2023, Arizona State University), Malak YoussefArafat (BA 2023, Arizona State University)

Senior Thesis Committee: Diane Solorio (BA 2022, Arizona State University)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Reviewer, *Latino Studies*, 2025

Member, Abuse Documentation Committee, Coalición de Derechos Humanos, Defensa y Resistencia. 2025-

Associate Director, Barrett Writing Center, Barrett, The Honors College, Arizona State University, 2024-

Member, Community Dialogues Committee, Barrett, The Honors College, Arizona State University, 2025-

Member, Admissions Committee, Barrett, The Honors College, Arizona State University, 2022-2023, 2024-

Member, Curriculum Committee, Barrett, The Honors College, Arizona State University, 2022-2023

Facilitator, Experimental Pedagogy Works-in-Progress Series, Barrett, The Honors College, Arizona State University, 2022-2023

Reviewer, *Journal of Contemporary Archaeology*, 2025

Reviewer, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 2022

Facilitator, The Poly Campus Barrett Book Club, ASU 2021-

Reviewer, *The Geographical Journal*, 2021

Reviewer, PBS *Independent Lens* Discussion Guide for the Film: *Missing in Brooks County*, 2021

Reviewer, *Forensic Science International*, 2021

Member, Barrett Borderlands Initiative Working Group, Arizona State University, 2021-2023

Reviewer, *World Archaeology*, 2021

Member, Indigenous Studies Faculty Working Group, Trinity College, 2018-2019

Graduate Program Faculty Council, Trinity College, 2018-2020

Reviewer, *Field Methods*, 2020

Reviewer, *American Ethnologist*, 2020

Reviewer, *Politics and Space*, 2019

Reviewer, *PLOS One*, 2019

Reviewer, *GeoJournal*, 2019

Reviewer, National Science Foundation Scholars Awards, 2018

Co-editor-in-chief, *Arizona Anthropologist*, School of Anthropology, University of Arizona, 2014-2016

Staff, *Arizona Anthropologist*, School of Anthropology, University of Arizona, 2011-2014

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Co-chair, Latin American Studies Association, History and Archaeology track, 2024-2025

Member, American Anthropological Association, 2016-present

Member, Society for Applied Anthropology, 2012-2020

Member, Latin American Studies Association, 2012-present

Member, National Association of Chicana and Chicano Scholars, 2012-2013

Member, Society for American Archaeology, 2009-present

Member, Theoretical Archaeology Group—USA, 2011-2013

Member, Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory, 2011-2012

RELEVANT CERTIFICATES

Wilderness First Responder, National Outdoor Leadership School

Active dates: August 2023-August 2025