

Scott D. Warren
Ajo, Arizona
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Interests

Cultural and historical geography, U.S.-Mexico borderlands, environment, North American Southwest, group facilitation

Current roles

Speaker and Facilitator for public engagement tour on the topic of 2017-2020 arrests and prosecutions of border humanitarian aid volunteers.

Research Associate with The Southwest Center, University of Arizona. Since 2024.

Humanitarian Aid Coordinator in Ajo, working with various humanitarian and human rights organizations in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. Since 2014.

Secretary to the Western Pima County Community Council. A regional advisory board. Since 2017.

Cartography, Geospatial, and Consultation for private sector clients. Since 2020.

Previous positions

Speaker with Arizona Humanities. Presented on topics related to immigration, the Mexico-U.S. border, regional economic development, and the Southwest from 2018-2025.

Adjunct Instructor for Inside-Out: Prison Exchange Program at University of Oregon, from 2021-2024.

Adjunct Instructor in School of Geography, Development and Environment at University of Arizona from 2020-2022.

Postdoctoral Researcher in the School of Geography, Development and Environment at University of Arizona in 2020.

Adjunct Instructor in the Studies in Indigenous Borderlands Program at Tohono O'odham Tribal Community College in Spring 2018.

Lecturer in the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning at Arizona State University from 2015-2017.

Adjunct Instructor in the Maricopa County Community Colleges, Arizona from 2012-2015.

Degrees earned

Ph.D. Geography, Arizona State University, 2015. Dissertation title: Across Papaguería: Copper, Conservation and Boundary Security in the Arizona-Mexico Borderlands. Daniel D. Arreola, Chair.

M.S. Earth Sciences with emphasis in geography, Montana State University, 2008. Thesis title: Landscape and Place-Identity in a Great Plains Reservation Community: A Historical Geography of Poplar, Montana. William K. Wyckoff, Chair.

B.S. Geography, University of Nevada, Reno, 2006.

Current Projects and Funding

2024 Association of American Geographers Research Award for project titled, *Border Landscapes: Copper, Land Tenure, and Militarization in Southwestern Arizona*.

2023 Arizona Historical Society Fellow for project titled, *Land Tenure in Arizona's Southwest Desert: Border Security, Conservation, the Military, and Mining in an O'odham Landscape*.

Publications

2020. "Virtually Uninhabited." *Dear America: Letters of Hope, Habitat, Defiance, and Democracy*. Eds. Simmons Buntin et al. San Antonio: Trinity University Press, pp. 84-88.

2019. "A Desert Oasis and Border Walls." *La Frontera Newsletter*. Vol. 40, no. 1.

2019. "A New Kind of Company Town." *Journal Latin American Geography*. Vol. 18, No. 3, pp. 1-4.

2019. "Borders and the Freedom to Move." *Progress in Human Geography*. Vol. 9, No. 3, pp. 223–225.

2019. "I Gave Water to Migrants Crossing the Arizona Desert. They charged me with a Felony." *Washington Post*, 28 May. See <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/05/28/i-gave-water-migrants-crossing-arizona-desert-they-charged-me-with-felony/>

2017. "In Defense of Wilderness: Policing Public Borderlands." *South Atlantic Quarterly*, Vol. 116, No. 4, pp. 863-872.

2015. Scott Warren, Kevin E. McHugh, and Jason Roehner. "After the Crossing: Afterlives of Found Objects in the Sonoran Desert Borderlands." *Journal of the Southwest*, Vol. 57, No. 2/3, pp. 503-516.
2015. Scott Warren, Wan Yu, and Donna Ruiz y Costello. "La Chinesca: The Chinese Landscape of the Mexico-U.S. Borderlands." *APCG Yearbook*, Vol. 77, pp. 63-79.
2015. V. Kelly Turner, Karina Benessaiah, Scott Warren, and David Iwaniec. "Pluralism, Unity, and Essential Tensions in Interdisciplinary Environment-Society Research Centers." *Higher Education*, Vol. 70, No. 4, pp. 649-655.

Book Reviews

2016. Review of *Mapping Wonderlands: Illustrated Cartography of Arizona, 1912-1962*, by Dori Griffin. *Association of American Geographers Review of Books*. Vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 65-66.
2014. Review of *Why Walls Won't Work: Repairing the U.S.-Mexico Divide*, by Michael Dear. *Journal of Regional Studies*. Vol. 54, No. 2, pp. 342-343.

Other writing, exhibits, and maps

2019. "Ajo Context," in Sue Lebvre's, *No More Deaths: Humanitarian Aid is Never a Crime, Saving the Lives of Migrants*. Sue Lefebvre: USA.
2015. "The Alps: An Enviro-Cultural Region." Map drawn for Andrew Denning, *Skiing Into Modernity: A Cultural and Environmental History*. Davis: University of California Press.
2014. Scott Warren, Donna Ruiz y Costello, and Wan Yu. "La Chinesca: A Chinese Community in the Mexico-U.S.-Borderlands." *Eye Magazine*, No. 4, pp. 34-35. See <https://think.iafor.org/author/scott-warren-donna-ruiz-y-costello-and-wan-yu/>
2012. "After the Crossing." Photography exhibit of objects left by migrants in Arizona desert. At Eye Lounge Gallery. With photographer Jason Roehner. See www.phoenixtransect.org.

Mentoring

Adviser and Chair to undergraduate Gabriel León. León's undergraduate thesis is titled "The Status of Water Sources in Cabeza Prieta," and it explores water availability along key routes used by undocumented migrants in the Arizona desert. 2017-2018.

Academic adviser to No More Deaths—Arizona State University. No More Deaths-ASU is a student group that provides humanitarian aid to undocumented migrants in the Arizona-Mexico borderlands. 2015-2018.

Courses taught (selected)

Cartography as Art and Science (prison correspondence). Upper-division course that introduces students to the study and practice of cartography.

Global Change (in-person and online). Upper-division course that explores human-environment interactions and resulting biophysical changes to the earth.

Geography of Arizona and the Southwest (in-person and online sections). Upper-division course that explores the physical, cultural, social, and economic geography of the region.

Geography of the Mexican-American Borderland (in-person). Upper-division field course that explores the region through classroom lectures and visits to locations in Mexico, the U.S., and the Tohono O’odham Native American reservation.

Geographic Field Methods: Desert Aid (in-person). Upper-division and graduate field course that brings students together to organize and carry out a humanitarian aid action in the Mexico-U.S. borderlands. Students learn geographic field methods and a variety of legal, medical, and historical considerations while providing direct humanitarian aid to undocumented border crossers in the Arizona desert.

Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean (online). Lower-division community college course that explores the physical, cultural, social, and economic geography of the region.

Introduction to Human Geography (in-person). Lower-division human geography survey course.

Urban Geography (online). Upper-division course that explores the geography of world cities.

Introduction to Geographic Information Technologies (online). Upper-division course that introduces GIS, GPS, remote sensing, cartography, and other geographic tools and data collection technologies.

Presentations

Invited academic presentations (selected)

University of Oregon. 2020. "A New Kind of Company Town: Resistance and Perseverance in the Borderland," Eugene.

Maricopa County Community Colleges Global Dialogue. 2019. "The State of the Border," Tempe.

American Pacific Coast Geographers Meeting Keynote Address. 2019. "USA vs. Scott Daniel Warren," Flagstaff.

University of Nevada. 2019. "A New Kind of Company Town," Reno.

University of New Mexico. 2018. "Migrants and Humanitarian Aid in the Fractured Landscape of the U.S.-Mexico Borderland," Albuquerque.

Montana State University. 2018. "Land Use, Smuggling, Interdiction, and Humanitarian Aid at the U.S. Mexico Border," Bozeman.

School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning. 2016. "The Humanitarian Crisis at the Border: Views from Ajo and ASU." Arizona State University.

Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications. 2015-2017. "Humanitarian Aid on the Arizona-Mexico Border." Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship program, Arizona State University.

Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference. 2016. "A Cultural Crossroads in a Deserted Wilderness: the border security frontier in Arizona's Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument." Kent State University.

Conference presentations (selected)

Asian Conference on Asian Studies, "La Chinesca of Baja California: A Chinese Community in the Mexico-U.S. Borderlands." June 2014, Osaka, Japan.

Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (APCG), "A Spectre is Haunting the Despoblado: Affective Afterlives of Found Objects in the Mexico-U.S. Borderlands." With Kevin E. McHugh, September 2013, Lake Tahoe, California.

Arizona Historic Preservation Conference, "Understanding Places Through Performance and Historical Re-Photography: Recent Work from the Phoenix Transect." With Jennifer Kitson and Jason Roehner, June 2012, Prescott, Arizona.

Fences, Walls and Borders—A State of Insecurity, "Conservation Lands and the Security Apparatus on the U.S.-Mexico Border: A Southwestern Arizona Case Study." May 2011, University of Quebec at Montreal.

American Society of Environmental History, "Landscapes of a Border Highway: Exploring Perceptions of Nature in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands along Arizona State Route 85 and Mexico Federal Route 8." April 2011, Phoenix.

Association of American Geographers (AAG), "Indian and non-Indian Place-Identity in a Declining Great Plains Community: The Case of Poplar, Montana." April 2008, Boston.

Awards and honors (selected)

Solidarity Award from the Socialist and Critical Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers, 2019.

Richard Morrill Public Outreach Award from the Political Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers, 2018.

Nominated for College of liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding Lecturer Award, Arizona State University, 2017.

Richard Hann Collegiate Award from the San Diego and Imperial Counties Congress of History for project titled, "Mexicali Chinese Revisited." Co-PI's Wan Yu and Donna Ruiz y Costello, 2012.

Professional Memberships

American Society for Environmental History, 2011-present
Association of American Geographers, 2006-present
Association for Borderland Studies, 2010-present
Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, 2010-present
Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers, 2012-present.
Regional Studies Association, 2017-present

Media coverage (selected)

Todd Miller. 2025. "Humanitarian Aid Is Never a Crime: A Podcast with Scott Warren." The Border Chronicle Podcast. 25 September. See <https://www.theborderchronicle.com/humanitarian-aid-is-never-a-crime/>.

Mike DeVivo. 2024. *Conversations with a Geographer: Scott Warren*. Grand Rapids Community College. 27 August. Access: <https://music.youtube.com/podcast/6jCUz0OdnSU>.

Emily Lynn Saunders and Max Granger. 2019. "The Trials of Scott Warren." *The Baffler*, 5 December. See <https://thebaffler.com/latest/the-trials-of-scott-warren-saunders-granger>.

Andrew Sisk. 2019. "Jury Acquitted Scott Warren on Harboring Charges." *Ajo Copper News*. 26 November, p. 2. See <http://ajo.stparchive.com/>.

Ryan Devereaux and Laura Saunders. 2019. "Bodies in the Borderlands." *The Intercept*, 5 May. See <https://theintercept.com/2019/05/04/no-more-deaths-scott-warren-migrants-border-arizona/>.

Adrian Skaeblund. 2017. "The Graveyard in Arizona's Borderlands," *The Lumberjack*, 2 March. See http://www.jackcentral.org/features/the-graveyard-in-arizona-s-borderlands/article_23aa1c70-fe14-11e6-be67-b704545900e4.html.

Steve Goldstein. 2017. "ASU Class Teaches Students How To Help Those Crossing Desert." *NPR*, 18 April. See <http://kjzz.org/content/462351/asu-class-teaches-students-how-help-those-crossing-desert>.