

Lucas Belury

Tucson, AZ • (512) 944-6968

Lucasbelury.com • lbelury@arizona.edu

EDUCATION

PhD, Geography: University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ December 2026 (expected)

Dissertation: *“The Politics of Spatial Knowledge Production; Information Systems & Latinx Testimonios along the Texas-Mexico Borderlands”*

- **Methods:** Co-production, participatory action research, institutional ethnography, remote sensing, machine learning, *testimonios*, oral history, and focus groups.
- **Themes:** Environmental justice/racism, LGBTQ history, participatory research, science and technology studies (STS), borderlands studies, and social vulnerability
- **Outcomes:** Developed two initiatives: FLUJOS - RGV(Flood Justice Utilizing Satellite Observation in the Rio Grande Valley) and the Latinx Queer History of South Texas.

MS, Geography: George Washington University, Washington, DC August 2020

Thesis: *“Precarity, Poverty, and Predatory Lending: Post-Flood Survival in the Colonias of the Rio Grande Valley”*

- **Methods:** Spanish-language household interviews and focus groups, key informant interviews, institutional ethnography; and performed logistic, logarithmic, and linear multivariate regression
- **Themes:** Informal and predatory lending, flood vulnerability, precarity, and environmental racism
- **Outcomes:** Analyzed a critical form of climate finance to understand survival adaptation with informal communities in the colonias of the Texas-Mexico border.

BA, Urban Studies/Latin American Studies: Trinity University, San Antonio, TX May 2014

Capstone: *“Urbanism & Queer Aesthetics in South Texas; Architecture, Sexuality, Performance”*

- **Methods:** Participant observation, interviews, archival analysis
 - **Themes:** Queer urbanism, queer archives, LGBTQ+ studies/history
 - **Outcomes:** Examined LGBTQ+ South Texas history through a mixed-methods approach.
-

PUBLICATIONS

Belury, L. (2022). [Poco a Poco: Post-Flood Survival in the Colonias of the Rio Grande Valley](#). *Geographical Review*.

Belury, L. (2021, August 27). *Community support and creativity are key to survival in the Rio Grande Valley*. NACLA. <https://nacla.org/rasquache-community-support-and-creativity-key-to-survival-in-rio-grande>.

Belury, L. (2021, February 11). *Flooded: How Natural Disasters Lead to Predatory Lending in the Rio Grande Valley*. Shelterforce. <https://shelterforce.org/2020/11/06/flooded-how-natural-disasters-lead-to-predatory-lending-in-the-rio-grande-valley/>.

Belury, L. (2020). [Precarity, Poverty, and Predatory Lending: Post-flood Survival in Colonias of the Rio Grande Valley](#) (Master’s Thesis, The George Washington University).

Under Review & Forthcoming

Roque, A., Wutich, A., Shah, Sameer., Workman, C., Mendez-Barrientos, L., Choueiri, Y.,

Belury, L., Mitchell, C. (Accepted for Publication) Water Security Environmental Injustices in MAD (Modular, Adaptive, Decentralized) Water Systems. *Water Security*

Belury, L. (Under Review) Architecture and Homonormativity; Expanding and Decolonizing the Aesthetic of Queer Urban Space. *Urban Studies*

Belury, L. (forthcoming). FEMA and the Racial Landscape of Texas Floods.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Race, Ethnicity and Place Early Career Scholar (\$1,250) | October 2023 |
| • NASA Space Graduate Fellowship (\$55,750) | 2023-2024 |
| • Environment & Society Fellowship (\$4,500) | 2023-2024 |
| • Carson Scholar (\$5,000) | 2023-2024 |
| • University of Arizona Access Fellowship (\$8,000) | 2022-2023 |
| • Association for Collegiate Schools of Planning Student Award (\$600) | Fall 2022 |

GRANTS

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • *Mellon Fronteridades Digital Humanities Grant (\$8,000) | 2023 – 2024 |
| • **Climate Change Artificial Intelligence Innovation Grant (\$140,000) | 2023 – 2024 |
| • **Humanitarian Assistance Technical Support Grant (\$2,200) | 2023 – 2024 |
| • **Graduate Student Professional Opportunities Grant (\$1,500) | 2023 – 2024 |
| • **Research, Innovation, and Impact Grant (\$25,000) | 2023 – 2024 |
| • *The Gay & Lesbian Review Writers and Artists Grant (\$3,374) | 2023 |
| • *Campbell Research Grant (\$1,880) | 2018-2019 |
- *Sole authored **co-authored

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| Race Ethnicity & Place Conference (Washington, DC) | October 2023 |
| “The Environmental Racism of Data Availability in the Texas-Mexico Borderlands” | |
| American Association of Geographers 2023 Annual Meeting (Denver, CO) | March 2023 |
| “Problematizing Environmental Racism in the Colonias of South Texas” | |
| Conference of Latin American Geographers (Tucson, AZ) | January 2022 |
| “Rasquache Urbanism: Subaltern Housing in the Rio Grande Valley” | |
| Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (Toronto, CA) | November 2022 |
| “The Racial Landscape of Texas Floods” | |
| AAG Annual Meeting (virtual) | April 2020 |
| “Geographers in Nonprofit/NGO Careers” | |
| American Geographic Society 2021 Annual Meeting (New York, New York) | November 2021 |
| “Environmental Racism and Racialized Financing in the Rio Grande Valley” | |

Invited Speaker

- | | |
|--|------------|
| Stockholm Resilience Centre: Stockholm University (virtual) | April 2023 |
| “Flood Justice Utilizing Satellite Observation in the Rio Grande Valley” | |
| Society for Applied Anthropology 2023 Annual Conference (Cincinnati, OH) | April 2023 |
| “Environmental Racism & Absence: Flood Data in the Texas-Mexico Borderlands” | |

Humanitarian Assistance Technical Support Project (Tucson, AZ) "Recovery or Survival? Flooding in South Texas Colonias"	September 2022
Arizona State University's Water Equity in Colonias (virtual) "Flood Survival in the Colonias of the Rio Grande Valley"	September 2021

PEDAGOGICAL EXPERIENCE

Course Instruction and Curriculum Development

"Mapping, Data and Analysis for Community Development"	2020 - 2022
"Visualizing Impact and Telling Your Story with Data"	2017 - 2019
"Measuring the Impact of our Community Development Efforts"	2017 - 2019
"Exploratory Data Analysis and Visualization"	2017 - 2019

Guest Lecturer

Geog 265: Introduction to Urban and Regional Development "Environmental Racism in the Texas-Mexico Borderlands"	September 2023
Geog 305: Water Justice "Water Justice in the Colonias of the Texas-Mexico Borderlands"	March 2022

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 9+ years of professional experience with community-based, national, and international mission-driven nonprofits, local and federal government, and higher education. Topic issues include affordable housing, race equity, and environmental justice.
 - Projects: equity assessment, impact measurement, curriculum development, grant writing, qualitative thematic coding, and survey instrument development.
 - Research skills: Spanish/English translation, facilitation, archives, grant writing, data visualization (Tableau, advanced Excel, R, Stata, Python), inferential statistics, remote sensing.
-

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- Flood Justice Symposium organizer, panelist, and facilitator (April 2023)
- Colloquium Committee Chair (2022-2023; 2023-2024)
- Water Justice Knowledge Exchange co-founder and organizer (2023-2024)
- SAGA (Southern Arizona Geographical Association) Representative (2023-2024)