

Lucas Belury

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EDUCATION

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.

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.

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

Dissertation: “The Politics of Spatial Knowledge Production in 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, participatory research, science and technology studies (STS), borderlands studies, and social vulnerability
 - **Outcomes:** Developed FLUJOS – RGV (Flood Justice Utilizing Satellite Observation in the Rio Grande Valley) to support community-based environmental justice organizations.
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PUBLICATIONS

Under Review & Forthcoming

Belury, L. (Accepted with revisions) Expanding Queer Architectural Theory: Towards an Intersectional and Decolonial Framework of Urban Spaces. *Progress in Human Geography*

Belury, L. (forthcoming). Quantifying the Racial Landscape of Disaster Recovery in Texas.

Popular Publications

Belury, L. (2024). Safety on Trial in San Antonio. *Gay & Lesbian Review Worldwide*, 31(4).

Sullivan, J. A., Friedrich, H. K., Tellman, B., Saunders, A., & **Belury, L.** (2024, February 13). *Five key needs for addressing flood injustice*. Eos. <https://eos.org/science-updates/five-key-needs-for-addressing-flood-injustice>

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/>

Book Reviews

Belury, L. (2024). *Scales of Resistance: Indigenous Women’s Transborder Activism*: By M. Blackwell, 2023, Durham and London, Duke University Press, 357 pp., ISBN: 9781478017967 (paperback).

Peer Reviewed Publications

Roque, Anais Delilah, Amber Wutich, Sameer H. Shah, Cassandra L. Workman, Linda E. Méndez-Barrientos, Yasmina Choueiri, Lucas **Belury**, and Charlayne Mitchell. "Justice and injustice in “Modular, Adaptive and Decentralized” (MAD) water systems." *Water Security* 20 (2023): 100151.

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

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).

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- One Health Graduate Fellowship (\$50,000) 2024-2025
- American Geophysical Union Student Travel Award (\$1,000) December 2023
- 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

- *Tinker Research Grant (\$1,500) Summer 2024
 - *Lewis and Clark Research Grant (\$5,000) 2024-2025
 - *Mellon Fronteridades Digital Humanities Grant (\$8,000) 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
 - **Google Environmental Justice Fund (\$50,000) 2022 - 2023
 - *Campbell Research Grant (\$1,880) 2018-2019
- *Sole authored **Co-authored

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

Conference of Latin American Geographers (San Juan, PR)

May 2024

“Autogestión to Rasquachismo; Examining Community-Based Flood Resilience/Resistance Strategies in the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Delta”	
American Association of Geographers 2024 Annual Meeting (Honolulu, HI)	April 2024
“Flood Justice en las Fronteras; Flood Injustice in the Mexico/US Borderlands”	
American Geophysical Union (San Francisco, CA)	December 2023
“The Environmental Racism of Flooding in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas”	
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	
Pathways: Workshop on Environmental History	March 2024
“The Environmental Racism of Flooding; Geospatial Data and Knowability in the Colonias of the Rio Grande Valley”	
Legal Services Corporation’s Innovations in Technology Conference	January 2024
“FLUJOS Rio Grande Valley: Building Legal, Academic, & Community Partnerships”	
American Geophysical Union (San Francisco, CA)	December 2023
“FLUJOS (Flood Justice Utilizing Satellite Observation) Rio Grande Valley (Texas)”	
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)	September 2022
“Recovery or Survival? Flooding in South Texas Colonias”	
Arizona State University’s Water Equity in Colonias (virtual)	September 2021
“Flood Survival in the Colonias of the Rio Grande Valley”	

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	

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.

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

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