



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

School of Geography,
Development & Environment

The School of Geography, Development & Environment
with support of the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy present
the annual **My Arizona** lecture

Absence and Loss – What comes next for the Arizona-Sonora borderlands?

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The border wall may largely be a discursive symbol in national politics, but in local places the wall being built by the current Presidential administration is devastating. In Arizona, federal conservation lands once thought of as the most protected are, ironically as it turns out, the most vulnerable to wall construction. An overwhelming sense of grief is one response to the project and its attending destruction, disconnection, and loss.

It should be said that previous governments helped usher in our current situation and that borderlands people have seen their fair share of crises before. For generations, on a daily basis, people have been left devastated and grief-stricken due to the policies implemented by distant government decision-makers. And for decades, land and wildlife have suffered greatly at the expansion of the border security industry. But the last four years have been especially hard.

This presentation is a geographer's reflection on the last four years of living and working in the borderland. The story will be told in three parts, with both images and words.

“What comes next for the borderlands?” is the shared question we might consider together.

Scott Warren is a cultural geographer who lives in Ajo, Arizona. He teaches and writes about the border and currently holds a position as a post-doctoral researcher in the School of Geography, Development, and Environment at the University of Arizona. He also volunteers with a number of organizations that work to alleviate suffering in the borderland and bring attention to policies that negatively impact the region. He spent much of 2019 in federal court and was recently acquitted on felony harboring and conspiracy charges, along with other misdemeanor charges, related to his work on the border.

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 | 3:30-5:00 pm MST | Online via Zoom

Join the Zoom Meeting here: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/87097818484>

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