SOCIAL IMPACTS OF NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION
IN TEXAS’ COLONIAS

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Eagle Ford Shale Play | Texas

- Second highest producing shale region of the country (EPA, 2013)

- One of top six producing oil and shale gas formations yielding 90% domestic oil and gas growth (EPA 2013)
Colonias

- Places of perpetual poverty, with substandard “self-help” housing and inadequate access to basic infrastructure for clean water, transportation, and electricity

- Unincorporated, mostly rural subdivisions/communities where planning ‘from the ground up’ is a necessity
OVERARCHING RESEARCH PROBLEM

• What is the role of planning in responding to site and local-scaled issues related to oil and gas extractive practices and policies, water appropriation and conservation practices, and property rights in unincorporated areas in Texas?

SPECIFIC RESEARCH QUESTIONS

• What are the everyday experiences of gas exploration in communities in the Eagle Ford Shale?

• How do EFS communities respond to the gas exploration?

• How does local, regional and state (US) planning practices, policies and politics influence the experiences of EFS communities?
**RESEARCH APPROACH**

**Comparative Case Studies and Mixed methods**

**RESEARCH METHODS**

**Archival Research + Analysis**
- Review of water and other state, regional, and local plans
- Review of newspaper and other media sources

**Multi-sited Ethnography**
- Ethnography with residents in communities in Eagle Ford Shale
- Interviews with company officials, government officials
- Participant observations of public meetings, caucus
- Observations of State of Texas 84th Legislature Session 2015

**Spatial Statistical Analysis**
- Acquire data of....
- GIS spatial statistical (proximity, autocorrelation) analysis using Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Justice analytical frameworks