

6S 2022 Sketch Groups Template
Staccato Project Design

Use this sketch -- either quickly or more comprehensively -- to draw out an ethnographic research design -- for your own project or just for practice. Do this sketch many times for different kinds of possible projects -- thinking of it as calisthenics for ethnography.

For the 6S 2022 workshop, select one of the sites|initiatives|problem-domains below to design a project for -- thinking first about different types of projects that could be done for the site|initiative|problem-domain you have selected, then about a specific project design, filling in the graphic below. Don't describe your own primary project. This is an exercise in rapid research imagining that you should spend about three hours on -- honing your capacity for "analysis as craft." The sketch can be done individually or collaboratively (the latter is more fun). Feel free to reach out to members in your group if you want to do this collaboratively. Responses can be roughly drafted and in bullet points. Fill in as much as you can in the allotted time, purposely working fast. Prioritize work on "Overview / Research Questions," "Methods and Data Resources" and "Theoretical Frames and Data Analysis." All of the sites|initiatives|problem-domains we've listed as options somehow relate to climate change. We fully understand that climate change is not a central focus for many of you (though it is context for all). We chose options within the climate change problem space so that the collection of proposals the group comes up with points to an array of STS research possibilities within any particular problem space.

TITLE

Analyzing Arizona's water crisis through disability justice frameworks

RESEARCHER/S

ABSTRACT, INTELLECTUAL MERIT, BROAD IMPACT

This project will focus on how disabled communities navigate the ongoing and future water crisis in Arizona. Arizona, despite encountering future projections of water scarcity, drought, and shrinking water reserves, is still increasingly committed to future growth, with Phoenix being the fifth-largest city and with Arizona being one of the fastest growing states for generations. Much of the growth of Arizona has roots in wealth, capitalist and colonial exuberance, logics of property, and particular "lifestyle" aesthetics focused around the appeal of sunshine, warmth, suburbia, landscape, and mysticism. Relying upon participant observation and interviews, this project analyzes how the looming water crisis in Arizona breaks along lines informed by disability, race, and class, and how disabled communities galvanize, resist, challenge, and form community alongside axes of care and interdependence. This project is in direct conversation with disability justice activists and theorists who argue that ongoing environmental damage and impairment must be informed by disability justice principles (Taylor 2021), treating urgent questions around water justice with disability in mind.

OVERVIEW / RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Changing climate and the concomitant damages wrought presents urgent and uneven impacts -- from flooding, to downed power lines, to wildfires, heat waves, droughts, and more. The effects of these damages are undoubtedly unevenly felt, impacting disabled, poor- and working-class, minoritized communities the most (Eubanks 2016). Examples of the unevenly felt effects of climate change are too numerous to list. While some areas (namely the NE) are projected to experience flooding, other areas (such as the SW and, more specifically, Arizona) are projected to face a near water crisis. Like all climate-related "combo disasters" (Flavelle et al 2021) in the United States, water crises in Arizona will be cut along race, class, and disability lines, especially as water prices threaten to climb and with much of the growth in Arizona being driven by demands in high-end houses and suburban lifestyles. In doing so, this project will be guided by the overarching question of how disabled communities resist ableist constructions surrounding the future of water in Arizona. Secondary questions include:

- What are the histories of water sourcing and rights in Arizona, and how are they informed by logics of property?
- How can disability justice frameworks work together with environmental justice frameworks in equitably addressing future water crises in Arizona?

BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

LITERATURE REVIEW

METHODS AND DATA RESOURCES

- Interviews with disabled communities
- Participant observation at city council meetings
- Discourse analysis of policy documents pertaining to water history and future water projections
- Interviews with scientists working on water infrastructures
- Historical and archival work on the history of water usage and management in Arizona, including history and present-day realities of Indigenous Peoples and reservations in AZ

THEORETICAL FRAMES & DATA ANALYSIS

- Disability justice frameworks
- Climate Justice, and specifically, water justice
- Logics of property (e.g. and, related, individuality, Cheryl Harris's "whiteness as property," water as property)

PLAN OF WORK

CHALLENGES AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

VALIDITY AND EVALUATION

PREPARATION AND WORK THUS FAR

REFERENCES

Eubanks, Virginia. "My Drowning City is a Harbinger of Climate Slums to come." *The Nation*, August 29, 2016.

Flavelle, Christopher, Anne Barnard, Brad Plumer, and Michael Kimmelman. "Overlapping Disasters Expose Harsh Climate Reality: The US is Not Ready." *New York Times*, September 2, 2021.

Taylor, Sunaura. "Age of Disability." *Orion Magazine*, December 2021.

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

FURTHER NOTES

POINTERS

- **Make sure to come up with a title (though this is hard and always feels -- and is -- reductive).**
- **The abstract should describe your project significance, aims, methods, expected findings/contributions (intellectual merit) and expected societal implications (broad impact). Describe each in a sentence.**
- In the Overview / Research Questions, try to articulate the scales, systems or objects that will be foregrounded in the project, and its context | location (geographic, ecologic, geopolitical, discursive, etc). Include both theoretical and empirical questions, and a description of the types of data you will generate and mobilize. End with a few statements about what the project will push *against* (methodological nationalism or essentialist constructs of identity or place, for example).
- In the Literature Review section for a literature review, describe two to four topical literatures that you will build on and contribute to through this research. See [Annual Reviews](#) for ideas but reach for [bibliodiversity](#).
- In the methods section, describe *what you will do, where and with whom* -- and the different kinds of data and insight these activities will produce. Consider, for example, how you might include multisited ethnography ([Marcus 1995](#), a tale of implosion ([Dumit 2014](#)), tactile analytics ([Patricia Alvarez Astacio 2021](#)), drawing as analysis ([Rachel Douglas-Jones 2021](#)), or archive ethnography ([Fortun et al. 2021](#)).
- In the section for theoretical frames, describe the basic theoretical insights that you can mobilize in your study design, data collection, analysis, and writing. You could mobilize understanding of “the subaltern,” for example, or Foucaultian ideas about discourse and subject formation. This can be a long list with very cursory descriptions. Note that this section is not usually included in a proposal submitted to funders -- but should be part of your thinking and dialogue with collaborators
- In building your references, reach for bibliodiversity and a transnational field of reference.

sites | initiatives | problem-domains for 6S 2022 April 26 Workshop

- [Melting Siberia](#)
 - Troianovski, Anton and Chris Mooney (photo and video by Michael Robinson Chavez). 2019. “Radical Warming in Siberia Leaves Millions on Unstable Ground,” Washington Post. October 3. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/national/climate-environment/climate-change-siberia/>
 - Struzik, Ed. 2020. “How Thawing Permafrost Is Beginning to Transform the Arctic,” Yale Environment 360. January 21. <https://e360.yale.edu/features/how-melting-permafrost-is-beginning-to-transform-the-arctic>
- [Climate Change and Combo Disaster in the United States](#)
- [Climate Change, Labor Productivity and Politics](#)
- [USAID's Climate Links](#)
- [World Bank's Climate Change Knowledge Portal](#)
- [WHO et al Environment and Health Compendium](#)
- WHO, UNDP, UNEP and UNICEF have partnered to create a new compendium of 500 actions aimed at reducing death and diseases driven by environmental risk factors, the first such resource to unite this expertise from across the UN system.

- [Climate Change and Social Media](#)
- [World Economic Forum on Climate Governance](#)