

# Alex P. Oberle

Assistant Professor  
Department of Geography  
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## EDUCATION

**Arizona State University** **Tempe, Arizona**  
Ph.D. Geography 5/05  
Area of Specialization: urban, ethnic, cultural  
Dissertation: “*Se venden aquí*: Phoenix’s Latino retail landscape, urban change, and Hispanic identity”  
Dissertation Committee: Daniel Arreola (chair), Patricia Gober, Kevin McHugh, Wei Li

**University of Missouri** **Columbia, Missouri**  
M.A. Geography 7/99  
Area of Specialization: medical, social  
Thesis: “The Role of Place in a Hispanic Women’s Health Promotion Program”  
Thesis Committee: Edward Kinman (chair), Christopher Salter, Kathryn Coe

**University of Northern Colorado** **Greeley, Colorado**  
B.A. Geography 5/97  
B.A. Spanish 5/97  
Teaching Certificate in Secondary Education (grades 6-12)  
Honors Thesis: “Colorado’s Wet Mountain Valley vs. Upper Huerfano River Valley:  
Differences in Cultural Settlement Patterns”  
Readers: Charles Collins, Ronald Edgerton

## MAJOR RESEARCH INTERESTS

Hispanic urban settlement in the United States  
Latino business landscapes  
Mexican-American and Mexican immigrant ethnic economies  
Dynamics of health-care retailing on the U.S./Mexico border  
GIS/geospatial technologies in geography education  
Applications of GIS in urban ethnic research

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

### Published

**Oberle, Alex.** 2006. “Phoenix’s Hispanic business landscape: Latino outposts on the Anglo suburban frontier” In *Landscapes of the Ethnic Economy*, eds. David Kaplan and Wei Li. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

**Oberle, Alex, Wendy Bigler, and Timothy Hawkins.** 2005. “The role of a Ph.D. field exam in assessing and developing geographic skills and preparing graduate students for academic careers”. *The Professional Geographer*. 57:3, 452-461.

**Oberle, Alex and Daniel Arreola.** 2004. “Mexican medical border towns: A case study of Algodones, Baja California”. *Journal of Borderlands Studies*. 19:2, 1-18.

**Oberle, Alex.** 2004. “Conservation, recreation, or resource extraction? Understanding public land management through role-playing”. *Journal of Geography*. 103:5, 199-210.

**Oberle, Alex.** 2004. “Se Venden Aquí: The Latino commercial landscape in Phoenix, Arizona” In *Hispanic Spaces, Latino Places*, ed. Daniel Arreola. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 240-251.

### In Revision

Li, Wei, **Alex Oberle**, and Gary Dymski. In revision. “Globalization and Localization: Global Bank and Immigrant Community Development in Canada and the United States”. *Journal of International Migration and Integration*.

### Under Review

**Oberle, Alex and Wei Li.** Under Review. “Divergent Trajectories: Asian and Latino immigration in Metropolitan Phoenix”. In *Suburban immigrant gateways: Immigration and incorporation into new U.S. metropolitan destinations*, eds. Audrey Singer and Susan Hardwick. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institute.

### In Preparation

**Oberle, Alex.** In preparation. “From cotton to codeine: Tourist health-services as a therapeutic landscape in Algodones, Mexico”. (Will submit to *Yearbook of the Association of Pacific Geographers* in November 2006).

**Oberle, Alex and Daniel Arreola.** In preparation. “The evolving Mexican retail landscape as an indicator of urban ethnic change”. (Will submit to *Geographical Review* in May 2007).

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

**Oberle, Alex.** 2004. GIS Concepts and ArcGIS Methods (book review). *Journal of Geography*. 103:7.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Courses Taught**

970:104 “North American Cities”  
970: 168 “Regional Analysis and Planning”  
GCU 102; 970:010 “Introduction to Human Geography”  
970:164 “Geographic Information Systems I”  
GPH 219 “Introduction to GIS Using ArcGIS”  
GPH 111 “Introduction to Physical Geography”  
GEOG 116 “Geography of the United States and Canada”  
GCU 121 “World Regional Geography”  
GCU 421 “Geography of Arizona and the Southwest”

## **GRANTS, HONORS AND AWARDS**

### **Grants**

Carver Institute, “Geospatial Data Technologies”, Co-Investigator and Workshop Leader, 2005 (~\$5,000-\$10,000)  
Canadian Embassy Research Grant, Researcher, “Globalization and localization: Global banks and immigrant community development in Canada and the United States”, 2004- (~ \$7,000)  
National Science Foundation, Division of Undergraduate Education, Course Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement Program, Investigator and Curriculum Development Coordinator, “Use of GIS and geospatial visualization to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education for undergraduates”, 2004- (not funded, ~\$462,000)  
Mesa Community College, Adjunct Professional Growth Travel Grant, 2003 (~\$400)  
Preparing Future Faculty, Professional Development Travel Grant, 2003 (~\$500)  
Arizona State University, Dept. of Geography, Mel Marcus Field Research Grant, 2002 (~\$300)  
Arizona State University, Graduate College, Travel Grant, 2000-2002 (~\$750)  
University of Missouri, Dept. of Geography, Summer Field Research Grant, 1998-1999 (~\$600)  
University of Missouri, Graduate College, Travel Grant, 1998-1999 (~\$250)  
URISA—Rocky Mountain, Travel Grant, 1997 (~\$250)  
University of Northern Colorado, Honors/Life of the Mind Thesis Research Grant, 1994 (~\$1,000)

### **Awards**

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group, Student Paper Competition (2<sup>nd</sup> place), 2004  
Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, President’s Award for Outstanding Paper by a Ph.D. Student, 2003  
Arizona State University, Graduate and Professional Student Association, Teaching Excellence Award, 2004-2005 (nominee)  
Arizona State University, Last Lecture Series for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching, 2003 (nominee)

University of Missouri, Dept. of Geography, Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, 1999  
University of Missouri, Dept. of Geography, Superior Graduate Student Award, 1999  
Graduate of University of Northern Colorado Honors Program, 1997  
JC Penney National Golden Rule Award for Outstanding Community Volunteer Service  
(nominee), 1995  
Weld County Right to Read, Tutor of the Month, 1995

### **Fellowships**

Arizona State University, Graduate College, Preparing Future Faculty Fellowship, 2002-2003  
Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) is a nationally recognized professional development program for doctoral students who are preparing for academic careers in higher education. PFF is funded by the National Science Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts and operates in collaboration with the Association of American Colleges and Universities. PFF Fellows explore a number of issues including faculty roles at a variety of institutions, legal issues in the classroom, distance education and cooperative learning, interdisciplinary and collaborative research, methods for securing research funding, preparation for the job market, and the future of institutions of higher learning.

### **Scholarships**

Arizona State University, Regents' Graduate Academic Scholarship, 1999-2001  
University of Northern Colorado, Dickerson Scholarship in the Social Sciences, 1995

## **SERVICE**

### **National**

Editorial board member, *The North American Geographer* (8/99 to 12/05)  
Referee, *The North American Geographer* (8/99 to present)  
Session Chair, "Culture and Ethnicity in the City", Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, New Orleans, Louisiana (3/03)  
Participant, AAG World Geography Bowl (4/97)

### **University**

Panelist, UNI New Faculty Orientation (8/06)  
Co-coordinator, ASU Graduate College Heller Guest Lecture Series (4/02)  
Panelist, ASU Responsive Ph.D. Focus Group (2/02)  
Panelist, American Association of Colleges and Universities program evaluation (2/02)  
Co-presenter and panelist for ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences new teaching assistant training (8/00)

### **Departmental/College**

Committee Member, CSBS Project Grants Committee (9/06-present)  
Chair, Geography Department Strategic Plan Committee (9/06-present)  
Geography Club, Faculty Liaison (8/05-present)  
Committee Member, Geography Head Search Committee (9/05-4/06)

Graduate Student Representative, Geography-Planning “Borderlands Initiative” Faculty Search Committee (3/04)  
ASU Geography Graduate Student Representative (8/01 to 7/02)  
Graduate Student Coordinator, Malcolm L. Comeaux Endowed Lecture Series (2/02)  
Graduate Student Representative, Geography-Latin American Studies Faculty Search Committee (4/01)  
ASU Geography Department Brown Bag Coordinator (8/00-5/01)  
Contributor, *Introduction to Physical Geography Laboratory Manual, 13<sup>th</sup> Edition* (10/00)  
President, Northern Colorado Chapter of *Gamma Theta Upsilon* (8/95-5/96)

### **Community**

Organizer and Presenter, Geospatial Technology Workshop for K-12 Teachers, Iowa Geographic Alliance (6/06)  
Co-author and GIS Analyst, Asian American Women Breast Cancer Screening Report (6/04)  
Volunteer, Missouri Geography Bee (4/98)  
English as a Second Language (ESL) Instructor, UNC Bright Futures Program (7/94-3/95)  
ESL Instructor, Weld County Right to Read (8/93-12/96)  
U.S. Citizenship Instructor, Weld County Right to Read (8/95-12/95)  
Youth Mentor, Weld County Partners (4/94-9/95)

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

National Science Foundation, Geography Faculty Development Alliance, Workshop for Early Career Geography Faculty, 2005.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **Arizona State University**

**Tempe, Arizona**

#### **Asian Pacific American Studies Program**

Research Associate

6/03-5/05

Conducted GIS analyses of population, immigration, and economic data; collected and synthesized literature on Chinese/South Asian immigration and minority access to capital

#### **Arizona Department of Health Services**

**Phoenix, Arizona**

#### **Division of Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases**

GIS Analyst

5/01-9/01

Integrated disparate data sources to assist in disease surveillance; managed and maintained a bioterrorism geodatabase; created disease distribution maps

#### **Arizona State University, Department of Geography**

**Tempe, Arizona**

Research Associate

5/00-9/00

Collaborated on a second edition of the *Human Geography in Action* textbook; developed, reviewed and/or revised textbook chapters; utilized GIS and graphics software to incorporate new data and augment existing student exercises

**University of Missouri  
Missouri Spatial Data Information Service**

**Columbia, Missouri**

Geographic Information Systems Internship

5/99-8/99

Interpreted data for Missouri Historic Vegetation Project; converted surveyors notes into ArcInfo feature classes; performed quality control measures to ensure data accuracy

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Association of American Geographers (AAG)  
Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (APCG)  
National Council on Geographic Education (NCGE)  
Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG)

**PRESENTATIONS**

3/06, Globalization and Localization: Global Banks and Immigrant Community Development in Canada and the United States.” Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago, Illinois. (with Wei Li and Gary Dymski)

10/05, “*Se Venden Aquí*: Phoenix’s Latino Retail Landscape, Urban Change, and Hispanic Identity.” 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Metropolis Conference, Toronto, Canada.

4/05, “Latino-oriented micro businesses and the ethnic economy in Phoenix, Arizona.” Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Denver, Colorado.

9/04, “The role of a Ph.D. field exam in assessing and developing geographic skills and preparing graduate students for academic careers,” Meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, San Luis Obispo, California. (with Wendy Bigler and Timothy W. Hawkins).

9/03, “*Se Venden Aquí*: Latino Retail Landscapes and the Hispanic Ethnic Economy in Phoenix, Arizona,” Meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Portland, Oregon.

3/03, “Sonora, Michoacán, or Oaxaca? The Latino Business Landscape as Evidence of Diverse Mexican Ancestry Populations,” Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, New Orleans, Louisiana.

1/03, “From Cotton to Codeine: The Tourist Pharmacy Landscape in Algodones, Mexico and Other Border Communities,” Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers, Tucson, Arizona.

3/02, “*Llantas, Botas, y Tortillas*: Business Establishments as Indicators of Hispanic Immigrant Presence in Phoenix, Arizona,” Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Los Angeles, California.

- 9/01, “*Envios a Mexico*: Money-wiring and Check-cashing as part of Phoenix’s Landscape of Immigration,” Meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Santa Barbara, California.
- 9/01, “Geographical Differentiation of Latino Immigrant Populations in Phoenix,” Meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Santa Barbara, California. (Poster with Daniel Arreola, John Benitez, and Susan Sargent).
- 4/01, “The Form and Function of Mexican Tourist Pharmacies,” Meeting of the Association of Borderlands Studies and Western Social Science Association, Reno, Nevada.
- 9/00, “The Form and Function of Mexican Tourist Pharmacies,” Meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Arcata, California.
- 4/00, “Incorporating Qualitative Methods into Minority and Immigrant Health Promotion Initiatives,” Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- 9/99, “The Role of Place in Health Promotion,” Meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Reno, Nevada.
- 9/98, “The Spatial Diffusion of Kansas City’s *Promotoras de Salud* Program,” Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Lawrence, Kansas.
- 3/98, “Non-Traditional Immigrant Destinations,” Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 4/97, “Colorado’s Wet Mountain Valley vs. Upper Huerfano River Valley: Differences in Cultural Settlement Patterns,” National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Austin, Texas.
- 10/96, “Colorado’s Wet Mountain Valley vs. Upper Huerfano River Valley: Differences in Cultural Settlement Patterns,” Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Greeley, Colorado.
- 4/96, “The Atomic Bomb and its ‘Explosive’ Effects: The Development of an Interdisciplinary Physics, History, and Journalism Honors Seminar,” Western Regional Honors Conference, Boise, Idaho.
- 11/94, “Colorado’s Wet Mountain Valley vs. Upper Huerfano River Valley: Differences in Cultural Settlement Patterns,” Northern Colorado Undergraduate Research Symposium, Greeley, Colorado.