

This is the newly revised IRB submission form. It is structured in the following way:

Sections A and B: all review categories (Exempt Categories 1, 2, 3, and 4; Expedited; Full)
Sections C, D, E, and F (Exempt Categories 2 and 3; Expedited; Full)
Section G (Expedited and Full)

**Reed College
Institutional Review Board (IRB)**

NOTE: *This document is a protected fillable form. Please use Microsoft Word to complete this form.*
Microsoft 365 is available to Reed students, faculty, and staff at no additional cost. Visit <https://www.reed.edu/cis/help/office.html> for more information. If you have trouble editing this form, please contact Kayla Johnston at johnstonk@reed.edu.

COVER PAGE

Project Title: Community and Kinship Relationships in a Developing Food Desert

Submission Date: 4/3/23

Name of Primary Investigator (student or faculty): [REDACTED]

Primary Investigator Email Address: [REDACTED]

Department: Anthropology

Faculty Advisor (if student is primary): Nejat Dinc

Faculty Email Address (if student is primary): dinc@reed.edu

Please indicate your agreement to the following by signing below:

I will promptly report changes in the proposed study and any unanticipated problems involving risks to participants, including adverse reactions, to the Institutional Review Board.

Electronic Signature of Primary Investigator: Arianna Aguirre

Please submit this application and additional materials through the IRB Portal (see <https://www.reed.edu/irb/> for instructions).

***If you are a student, please note that your faculty advisor is expected to review a full draft of your proposal in advance of submission, and you should incorporate your advisor's feedback. Once submitted, the proposal will be forwarded to your faculty advisor for an electronic signature of approval, and then it will be sent to the committee for review.**

If your submission is **similar to** a submission that has been approved previously (within the past two academic years), please identify that proposal by Project Name and Primary Investigator.

Project Name:

Primary Investigator:

Approximate Date of Approval:

A. SUMMARY (required for all review categories)

Provide a brief summary (one paragraph) of the research project. The summary should describe the specific purpose of your engagement with human subjects, how you expect to conduct that engagement, with whom, and the expected outcomes of those interactions.

In my research project, I will be examining the impact that the closure of a local Walmart has had on the community, specifically how the closure has impacted security practices within the community, and how the Walmart, despite being closed, has continued to maintain control over its property through practices of security. I plan to interview members of the community who have been impacted by the closure and/or have observed the continued presence of security at the store since its closure. I expect that, through these interviews, I will be able to understand how community members understood security practices before the closure, how they make sense of the continued security presence now, and how such practices of security have continued to impact the community despite the store being closed.

B. BASIC PROTOCOL INFORMATION (required for all review categories)

1. The following populations require special consideration. Please review this list and follow the relevant instructions:

- Children (individuals <18 years). If your research exposes children to risky or deceptive interventions, your proposal requires **FULL** review. All research involving children must include **APPENDIX A**.
- Individuals who, for any reason, cannot give informed consent. Your proposal requires **FULL** review.
- Clinical populations. Your proposal requires **FULL** review.
- Incarcerated populations. Your proposal requires **FULL** review.
- Research conducted outside the US. Please complete **APPENDIX B**.
- Non-English speakers. Please complete the **LANGUAGE ISSUES** section of **APPENDIX B**.

2. If this study is being performed at sites other than the Reed College campus or online, please list the other sites:

Specific sites are unknown, however I plan to conduct my interviews in participants' homes, in public places such as community centers and churches, and at local organizations working within Albuquerque's International District.

3. Has this study received governmental funding and/or funding from an agency that requires certification of review by the Reed College IRB?

YES NO

If YES, list funding information (including agency and protocol number) and append a copy of the funding application.

Reed College Department of Anthropology

A copy of my funding application to the Anthropology Department can be found at the end of this document.

4. Does the research require approval from one or more non-Reed organization(s) or IRB(s)?

YES NO

If YES, attach application(s) to other organization(s) and, if approval has been granted, documentation of the approval.

5. Does the research include in-person research activities?

YES NO

Please note that IRB review does not assess health and safety issues pertaining to COVID-19. If you have questions about conducting in-person research at this time, please contact April Sams in Environmental Health and Safety (karra@reed.edu) or Kayla Johnston (johnstonk@reed.edu).

6. Does the research include participants residing in the **European Union (EU)**, the **European Economic Area (EEA)**, the **United Kingdom**, and/or the **People’s Republic of China (PRC)**?

YES NO

If No, please be sure to exclude individuals residing in the EU, EEA, UK, and PRC from your recruitment mechanisms.

If YES, please note that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies to all individuals residing in the EU, EEA, and UK and that the Personal Information Protection Law (PIPL) applies if personally identifiable information is collected in the PRC. Please contact IRB Chair Kevin Holmes (kjholmes@reed.edu) and IRB Administrator Kayla Johnston (johnstonk@reed.edu) to ensure that your research will be in compliance with these regulations.

7. **CATEGORY OF REVIEW**. Although the IRB ultimately determines which type of review your protocol will receive, please consult the guidelines on the webpage entitled “Categories of Review” and then check the category of review you believe applies.

- Exempt Category 1: Educational Practices (**no need to complete the remainder of this form**)
- Exempt Category 2: Educational Tests, Survey Procedures, Interview Procedures, or Observation of Public Behavior (will undergo Limited Review)
- Exempt Category 3: Benign Behavioral Interventions (will undergo Limited Review)
- Exempt Category 4: Use of secondary data for which consent is not currently required (**answer the following three questions (8-10), but no need to complete the remainder of this form**)
- Expedited
- Full

Questions 8-10 are required for Exempt Category 4 only:

8. Provide a brief description of the data, the source of the data, and how consent was previously obtained.

9. Was the data collected in compliance with the Common Rule (if in the US) or international data regulations (if outside the US)?

YES NO

10. Was any identifiable personal information collected (e.g., names, social security numbers, detailed physical descriptions, genealogies, addresses, photographs, video or audio recordings, IP addresses, etc.)?

YES NO

If **YES**, which of the following applies?

- The identifiable personal information is publicly available.
- The identifiable personal information was de-identified such that participant identities cannot readily be ascertained, and the investigator will not contact or re-identify participants.

C. PARTICIPANTS (required for Exempt Categories 2 and 3, Expedited, and Full review categories)

1. How many participants do you anticipate?

20-25

2. Describe the sample population.

My participants will be adults over the age of 18 who have been impacted by the closure (whether due to a loss of accessible food/necessities, loss of a job, etc.), have noticed security around the Walmart's property since its closure, and/or have noticed changes to how people use the physical space of the Walmart's property since the closure.

3. How will participants be recruited?

I plan to circulate recruitment flyers in public places in the International District such as libraries and community centers, and to reach out to acquaintances living in the area. Once I have started interviewing participants, I will ask participants if they know of anyone who fits my project's criteria and may be interested in participating as well.

4. What individuals or groups of individuals will be included or excluded, and why?

Individuals who do not speak either English or Spanish will be excluded from my project, as it will not be possible for me to conduct interviews in a language other than these. I will also be excluding participants living in the International District who do not fall into at least one of three categories (as my thesis focuses on poverty, security, and dispossession, residents who do not fall into one of these categories will be unable to speak to any of the issues I am exploring): having been impacted by the closure of the Walmart, having noticed changes to Walmart's security practices since the closure, having noticed changed to how the physical space of the property has been used since the closure.

ACTION: Please ATTACH all recruitment materials. Examples of recruitment documents can be found on the IRB website under *Participant Recruitment Materials*. Be sure to include the following information on recruitment materials: expected duration of individual participation, study location, and type or amount of compensation to participants, if any.

D. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY (required for Exempt Categories 2 and 3, Expedited, and Full review categories)

1. Will you be collecting any identifiable personal information (e.g., names, social security numbers, detailed physical descriptions, genealogies, addresses, photographs, video or audio recordings, IP addresses, etc.)?

YES NO

2. Will you be collecting information that, in light of the potential participant pool, could lead to the identification of an individual participant? Examples include autobiographical accounts or identifiable patterns of demographic information given the sample population.

YES NO

If YES to either of these questions, describe confidentiality procedures, what will become of records after use (e.g., shown at scientific meetings, erased), the final disposition of the records (e.g., destruction, archiving), and a reasonable timeline for this disposition.

To maintain participant confidentiality, I will assign each participant a pseudonym that will be used for all shared/non-encrypted work related to my research. I will keep a password-protected document with the names, pseudonyms, and all other relevant information for participants on my private computer, which will be destroyed after completion of my thesis in May of 2024. I will not share any potentially sensitive information about participants without consent, and will remove any information a participant requests at any time.

3. If you are collecting data online, please refer to our website FAQ for issues related to online research, and discuss here how you will protect participant confidentiality (e.g., collection of IP addresses, use of Amazon Mechanical Turk, etc.).

4. If data are identified by a code, will you retain a master list linking codes and direct identifiers?

YES NO

If YES, explain how and where you will secure the master list, and how long it will be kept.

5. Will information that could identify participants be shared in any way?

YES NO

If YES, explain.

As my research involves working with a relatively small and specific population, participants who discuss their personal experiences, relationships, etc. could potentially be identifiable to those who know them outside of the study. In an effort to maintain participant confidentiality and safety, I will explain such risks, change or not include identifying information such as names, and inform participants that they are free to redact any/all of their statements and personal information at any point in my research process.

E. INFORMED CONSENT (required for Exempt Categories 2 and 3, Expedited, and Full review categories)

The consent form should be a plain-language description of key information designed to facilitate comprehension and informed decision making (e.g., who will obtain consent, how and where the consent process will take place). It should also include specific information about how participant privacy and confidentiality will be protected. Please read the Participant Consent page on our website thoroughly, including the consent form templates provided. Then indicate what form of consent you will seek from participants, and **ATTACH the appropriate consent form or script.**

NOTES: (1) If the research includes audio or video recordings, your consent document/script should include a separate line asking for consent to record. (2) If you plan to archive potentially identifiable data for future use, your consent document/script should include a separate line asking for consent to archive.

1. How will informed consent be sought from participants?

- Written consent
- Oral consent
- Implied consent

2. Where will the consent process take place?

- In person

Describe where: Consent will be sought from participants at the interview location prior to each interview.

- Online
- Other

Describe:

F. PROCEDURES (required for Exempt Categories 2 and 3, Expedited, and Full review categories)

ATTACH all questionnaires and surveys, and include sample items from computerized tasks. For structured interviews, provide your interview protocol. For unstructured interviews, provide sample questions and describe the goals of the interview. If Expedited or Full, please provide a more detailed description of the procedures, including specific information on what each participant will be asked to experience or do.

G. RISK/BENEFIT ASSESSMENT (required for Expedited and Full review categories only)

1. Benefits

Describe the potential direct and indirect benefits, if any, to participants (excluding incentives).

n/a

2. Risks

Indicate whether the research involves any of the following by checking the applicable items:

- Deception of participants
- Procedures that may result in mental or emotional stress, such as induction of negative mood, damage to self-esteem, manipulation of attitudes, or exposure to aversive stimuli
- Procedures that may involve physical harm to participants, such as ingestion of a substance, physical exercise, or invasive physiological measurements
- Presentation of materials and/or behaviors commonly regarded as socially unacceptable within the setting of the research
- Observations or questions that might be regarded as invading privacy, especially if these might lead to disclosure of information that could be harmful to participants (e.g., criminal behavior, immigration status, information that might affect academic or employment status, information that could affect the participant's reputation or be considered stigmatizing)

3. For each of the items checked above, describe why each is necessary, and how you will seek to minimize each risk posed.

Possible mental/emotional stress: As my research focuses on how Walmart's closure and ongoing security practices have impacted the community, the majority of my questions involve security (and, to a lesser extent, the role of police). It is possible that such questions could cause mental/emotional stress for anyone who has had negative interactions with security, whether at the Walmart or in a different context, however, asking such questions will not only allow me to examine the specific case of this Walmart's impact on the community through their security practices, but understand more broadly how these security practices can impact similar communities. I will minimize the risk for participants' mental/emotional stress by allowing participants to answer questions to the extent that they are comfortable with. I will inform participants prior to each interview that they are free to not answer any part/entire question without repercussions, and are able to end the interview at any point for any reason.

Questions/observations that may be regarded as invading privacy: My questions largely focus on security, and negative interactions with security may be considered stigmatizing (and, while none of my questions will directly ask participants about criminal backgrounds, immigration status, etc., it is possible that participants will voluntarily disclose other potentially stigmatizing information during interviews as well). To mitigate the risks any such information may pose to participants, I will inform participants that they are not required to disclose any of this information to me, can redact it at any time, and will be provided with a pseudonym that will only be linked to their real name in an encrypted file that only I will have access to. Additionally, to avoid asking questions that may be perceived as invading the privacy of participants as much as possible, my questions will primarily focus on participants' perceptions and observations of security at the Walmart rather than on any specific interactions participants may have had with security.

Funding proposal to the Anthropology Department (winter 2023)

I am seeking funding from the Department for two weeks of winter research in Albuquerque, NM to conduct additional research and fieldwork for my thesis. In my thesis, I am examining how businesses create space through security in impoverished and crime-ridden communities, and what happens when those businesses leave the community. Expanding upon my summer research that addressed how relations between residents, Walmart, local organizations, and the government have been shaped by the War Zone's history of poverty and crime, I plan to use this funding to explore concepts of dispossession and corporate/state security, examining how corporate practices of space-making through security influence the ways that businesses and individuals engage with each other and the broader community.

Rationale and Relevance

On March 10, the Walmart in southeast Albuquerque, NM closed its doors for the last time, only a month after the initial closure announcement, as the store had been "underperforming," (McKee 2023). However, many area residents relied heavily on this Walmart for groceries and other necessities, and are worried that the area will become a food desert without the store's presence. Situated at the edge of the International District (referred to by Albuquerque residents as the "War Zone" because of its history of violence, crime, and gang activity), one of Albuquerque's poorest areas, and this Walmart served as one of the only grocers in the area for decades. While there remain a handful of stores nearby, most are not comparable alternatives to the Walmart. Of the seven closest alternatives, one is more of a convenience/liquor store than a standard grocery store, two are small specialized stores that cannot meet the new demand for groceries, and two are much more expensive to shop at than the Walmart was (Porter 2023), making them inaccessible to the residents who will be most impacted by the closure. The other three are traditional grocers, but are between 1-4 miles away from the Walmart (Porter 2023), significantly further away from those who most heavily relied on the Walmart.

Even before the announcement of the Walmart's closure, some residents of neighborhoods around the store had chosen to shop elsewhere for their groceries, going out of their way to avoid this Walmart location. For many, this decision stemmed from fears of the crime in and around the store (Tobin 2023). However, many War Zone residents have not had the luxury to be as selective with their shopping, and will struggle to go out of their way to another grocery store. While some residents feel that the closure is just "a major inconvenience," (Earp interviewed in Barron 2023), for many others, the closure goes beyond that. Despite being home to less than 7% of the city's population (United States Census Bureau 2010), the International District is part of the poorest zip code in the city, with 53% of the population living below the poverty line and nearly 30% of the population on SNAP (United States Census Bureau 2021). Given the financial hardships that face many of the War Zone's residents, even with the Walmart's presence, many have been struggling for years to afford food. For the residents who cannot afford cars and/or the gas to regularly grocery shop at stores significantly further away, the closure of the Walmart has significantly impacted their ability to put food on the table.

The challenges facing residents who had to figure out new ways to access food led me to believe that they may have begun relying more on local organizations and their kinship networks. However, in talking with residents over the summer, many noted how they initially relied on kinship networks for support, but it was not sustainable long-term. Many also expressed wanting to utilize resources from local organizations, but struggled to navigate doing so.

While my research over the summer supported my initial hypothesis, it also raised new questions regarding the constant state of security at the Walmart (and other stores in the area) prior to its closure, and the changes in security practices since its closure. When it was open, the Walmart had hired a local private security company to support their internal security team, something not unusual for businesses in Albuquerque, particularly those in the War Zone. This security patrolled both in and out of the store, but would only occasionally remove people who were not committing violent crimes or theft from the property, something that several of my participants noted to me. When I first heard that the Walmart was closing back in March, I imagined that the now vacant lot would quickly turn into a hub for homeless populations in the War Zone. For years, the Walmart not only served as a place for homeless individuals

to spend time inside of during the day, but many would use the physical space of the building to seek shelter from weather, rest during the day, and as somewhere to sleep at night. As these individuals were seldom removed from the property while it was open, I thought that the closure would lead to others spending time there with the entire property vacant from shoppers and employees. However, after arriving in Albuquerque, I noticed that there were no people on the property other than security.

In my very first interview, my informant pointed out that, since the closure, Walmart's hired security had significantly increased their patrolling of the store's perimeter and parking lot, likely because they no longer needed to patrol the inside, which she saw as the reason that the homeless individuals that were known for regularly spending time in and around the store were gone from the property. In discussing her experiences shopping at the Walmart over the last few years, she detailed how she was familiar with many of the homeless individuals who spent time inside and around the store, but, since the closure, no longer saw them around the property. This stuck in my mind throughout the rest of the summer, and was something I noticed every time I drove past the Walmart. Throughout the summer, I saw the Walmart's security approaching both vehicles and individuals, spending hours driving around the building to ensure that no one was on the property. These observations raised several new questions for me, such as why Walmart seems to care more about the appearance of the property after closing than when it was open, why they are continuing to have security, and how this security is viewed by the community.

Businesses and practices of security creating and/or controlling space in communities is not a new phenomenon. The theoretical framework that I am using to examine the way in which businesses control space in communities is that of "sacrifice zones." In his book *Sacrifice Zones*, Lerner (2010) argues that corporations choose to "sacrifice" an area's health and safety in the name of capitalistic endeavors. While the goal of these corporations is not necessarily to cause harm to those living near their operations, there is a certain level of knowing disregard involved in the decision to operate there, particularly when residents are left out of the decision making process. While this concept comes from environmental anthropology, it is applicable to this urban case in the sense that, much like the (largely lower class, minority) communities that are left out of discussions of the impacts that business operations have on their lives and are then left to deal with the ramifications with little to no assistance, the War Zone's well-being has been largely disregarded by businesses no longer interested in operating in the community due to "underperformance," and by the City's lack of assistance in the aftermath of the closure.

Additionally, I am arguing that the practices of security by businesses, particularly security that continues indefinitely after closure, function to continue to create and control space within communities. Glück and Low (2017) argue "that 'security' is both produced and productive... that is, security as produced by particular social and spatial forces which vary across historical and geographical contexts," and security is productive "as a major force transforming institutions, states, spaces, cities, subjects and social life," (282). For them, examining the ways in which security is "constructed, the political economies which underpin it, and the power relations through which it is maintained," (Glück and Low 2017, 287) allows anthropologists to see how security is "maintained and re-reproduced through social and spatial practices and strategies," (Glück and Low 2017, 287). In the case of the Walmart, by continuing these practices even after the store has shutdown operations, the company is maintaining a physical presence in the community that dispossesses individuals who have historically relied on their property for reasons beyond shopping, and pushes any "security concerns" from having these individuals on the property onto other nearby businesses and into the surrounding community. Despite no longer operating in the community, these practices of security continue to shape the way individuals engage spatially in the community.

Project design / Methodology

During my time in Albuquerque, I plan to work with International District residents to examine the impacts that the Walmart's closure has had. While I am quite familiar with the International District having grown up directly adjacent it and feel that I can safely work in the area, given the area's history of crime, I will be taking the appropriate safety precautions, such as only traveling the area by car, only working during daylight hours, and leaving the area if it becomes unsafe.

I plan to spend about two weeks interviewing residents (including follow-up interviews with those I spoke to over the summer), asking questions about the changes they've noticed regarding the patterns of people spending time in and around the Walmart, the changes they've noticed in people spending time at other businesses in the area since the Walmart's closure, how they perceived Walmart's security before the closure compared to now, why they think the Walmart is continuing to have security patrol the property, and how they think the Walmart's continued security is impacting the community. Based on my previous conversations and observations, I expect that many residents will have noticed both an increase in security around the Walmart's property and significant changes in how individuals engage with the space of the property, which will not only shed light on how businesses like Walmart utilize security to control space, but how that constant maintenance of that space impacts the community.

I will also be spending a few days observing if/how things have changed in terms of security and the way people are engaging with the physical space of the Walmart property since this summer. While many have historically relied on the shade that the building provides from the summer sun, the building has been a much more vital space during the winters in Albuquerque, which are particularly windy (and colder because of it), as several sections of its exterior jut out and provide protection from multiple directions, something that few other buildings in the area offer. As many of the individuals who have relied on the building for such protection are unable to stay in actual shelters (largely due to the distance of shelters from the War Zone and ongoing issues of addiction among the War Zone's homeless population) and, since the withdrawal of the Walmart from the community, have already begun to move deeper into the surrounding area to find somewhere to stay, observing how and where these individuals find shelter will illuminate the dispossession of these individuals and how the closure impacted more than just the individuals who relied on the Walmart for shopping.

Finally, I plan to meet with someone from the War Zone's new City Councilor's office (the election was on November 7; the current Councilor did not run for reelection) about their plans to address the ongoing issues posed by the closure. For the district, the issue of the closure (and subsequent closures of other businesses in the area), in addition to the general poverty and crime concerns always in the minds of voters in Albuquerque, is at the forefront of the election. The majority of candidates have made addressing the issues caused by the closure and what to do with the property a key part of their platform, which I plan to inquire about with the new Councilor's office by asking questions about their proposed plans, how they will implement them, their thoughts on the ongoing propositions by the Mayor to purchase and renovate the property, how they plan to address the issue of businesses leaving the community, what role they think the City should have in addressing security concerns in the War Zone compared to that of private businesses, how they plan to address War Zone residents' concerns about the lack of government assistance and intervention in aftermath of the closure, and how (or if) they are going to address the sudden displacement of homeless individuals from the Walmart's property.

IRB Approval

I received approval (Expedited) in May and am adding an addendum to my original proposal.

Anticipated Outcomes

The data collected in my interviews and observations will be incorporated in my thesis to help in my examination of how businesses create space through security, and what that security means for communities like the War Zone. While my research over the summer touched on some of these ideas, this research will more specifically focus on dispossession, security, and space.

Budget

Flights to/from Albuquerque - \$550*

Newspapers.com 5 Month Basic Subscription - \$40**

Total Requested - \$590

*While I will be flying instead of driving (as I did over the summer), because I will be in Albuquerque for a shorter period of time that overlaps with family members being off of work, I have made arrangements to borrow a car while conducting my research.

**A key component of my thesis is examining the history of violence, crime, and security in the War Zone starting in the 1980s. The Reed, City of Albuquerque, and University of New Mexico Libraries

do not have access to pre-1995 news articles from local newspapers, such as the Albuquerque Journal, but they are available from Newspapers.com.

Sources

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Lerner, Steve. 2010. *Sacrifice Zones: The Front Lines of Toxic Chemical Exposure in the United States*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

McKee, Chris. 2023. "Walmart to close well-known Albuquerque store." KRQE. <https://www.krqe.com/news/albuquerque-metro/walmart-to-close-albuquerque-store-in-march/>.

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Tobin, Ben. 2023. "Walmart Store Closures: Shoppers Say Albuquerque Store Is Crime-Ridden." *Business Insider*. <https://www.businessinsider.com/walmart-store-closures-shoppers-say-albuquerque-store-is-crime-ridden-2023-3>.

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United States Census Bureau. 2021. "Selected Economic Characteristics 87108." American Community Survey. https://data.census.gov/table?g=0400000US35_860XX00US87108&tid=ACSDP5Y2021.DP03.