

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): Anand Vaidya

Faculty Email Address (if student is primary): avaidya@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: [REDACTED]

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 dynamics, specifically how the closure has impacted community members' engagement with their community/kinship networks to continue having reliable access to food. I plan to interview members of the community who have been impacted by the Walmart's closure, employees/volunteers of local organizations working to help mitigate these impacts, and the family members/friends of those impacted. I expect that, through these interviews, I will be able to understand the changes local residents have made and experienced in their community and kinship networks after the closure of the Walmart as accessing food has become increasingly difficult.

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 falling into three different categories: 1) those living in Albuquerque's International District who've experienced changes in their ability to consistently buy groceries, 2) those regularly assisting family/friends living in the International District whose ability to access food has been impacted by the Walmart's closure, and 3) those working/volunteering for an organization located in and serving the International District's food needs.

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 have not experienced changes in their ability to access groceries (apart from those working with community organizations to help mitigate the impacts residents face) since the Walmart's closure beyond doing their regular shopping at a different store.

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 a significant portion of my participants are economically

disadvantaged, my questions about how/where these participants are getting food in the absence of the Walmart could cause mental/emotional stress for those actively struggling to access resources. However, asking these participants such questions is necessary for my project as I am investigating how the pressures placed on participants from the Walmart's closure have led to changes in their social networks. 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: Given the economic background of many of my participants and the nature of my project, many of my questions center around how the combined factors of the Walmart's closure and economic disadvantages/instability have led to participants changing their social networks. The economic statuses of participants 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.

Copy of funding application submitted to the Anthropology Department

I am seeking funding from the Department for approximately one month of summer research in Albuquerque, NM to conduct research and fieldwork for my thesis next fall. In my thesis I want to examine the impact of the closure of a local Walmart in community dynamics, specifically how the closure's contribution to creating a food desert in one of the poorest areas of the city will change residents' community and kinship networks as they are forced to seek alternative food resources.

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. This Walmart location was 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 had 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 the community members 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 (United States Census Bureau 2021), 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 will significantly impact their ability to put food on the table. Additionally, Albuquerque does not have a good (or even safe) public transportation system, with many residents wary of taking the bus out of fears of becoming victims of violence. With these new challenges posed to residents trying to buy groceries, it is not feasible for many to commute further to different stores, which, in turn, is likely to force residents to turn to resources available to them through their community and kinship ties.

As area residents have been facing financial hardship for decades, there are a handful of well-established government programs in the area working to bridge the gap between residents and resources, but with many ineligible for these programs, and the significant impact the absence of the Walmart will have on the community, these already thinly stretched programs will hardly be enough to meet residents' needs. Residents who are unable to regularly travel further to shop for groceries will have to seek alternative ways to consistently find food.

In communities that are faced with some form of food insecurity, food-sharing is common within familial and social networks. In examining the link between food insecurity and health in low-income communities, Higashi et al. (2017) note that, despite their informants facing significant challenges to their own food security, many "discussed sharing food with nonhousehold members, including extended family" who "may be in a worse situation than theirs," (71), helping "buffer the harmful impacts of food insecurity," (72). Without the Walmart's presence, residents across Albuquerque are keenly aware of the

difficulties those in the International District will face in accessing groceries. As food-sharing is commonplace within many kinship networks in Albuquerque, many residents across the city know the importance of being able to rely on these networks in times of need. Recognizing the burden residents face, those with kin in the War Zone may feel a responsibility to provide for residents, feeling “empathy and commitment to supporting family and community members... whom they feel may be experiencing even greater hardship than their own,” (Higashi et al. 2017, 73).

For residents who cannot consistently shop at other grocers and whose kinship networks cannot supplement their food needs, local organizations can provide an alternative source of support. While there are a handful of lesser-known food assistance programs available through organizations such as churches and community centers, most residents are hesitant to visit them, as they are typically in the most run-down, dangerous parts of the War Zone. However, with the new challenges to accessing food, many residents will be forced to utilize their resources.

Despite current hesitations among residents, local organizations have a long history of supporting a community’s needs when there are few alternatives, and are often able to offer residents sustainable, longer-term solutions to food insecurity (Mello 2018, 49). However, to provide residents with the most impactful long-term solutions to the burdens placed on them by the Walmart’s closure, these organizations must encourage residents’ participation in both their organization and the broader community (Mello 2018, 40; Rosenthal 2012, 430). Examining an organization serving a similarly food insecure community in Grand Rapids, Mello (2018) argues that such organizations can best serve their community by not just providing food, but by encouraging community participation in the organization (40). Rosenthal (2012) similarly argues for the necessity of community participation in local organizations, specifically for communities in which kinship networks are not able to be relied on (422). Not only does the encouragement of community participation in these organizations allow for more residents to know about and utilize the resources available to them, but it also establishes “justice through long-term solutions to inequality” (Mello 2018, 42) by improving an organization’s sustainability (Mello 2018, 40; Rosenthal 2012, 425) and helping more people get food on the table.

Project design / Methodology:

This is not the first time a major grocery store has closed in the area, but it will have the most profound impact on the community as this is the first time there will be no alternatives nearby. I want to understand what residents' community and kinship networks looked like prior to the closure, and how residents are redeveloping and/or creating these communal and kinship ties to overcome new challenges in finding food. During my time in Albuquerque, I plan to work with International District residents and some of the organizations serving the area 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, asking questions of how/where they have gotten food from since the Walmart’s closure, in what ways they have worked within their community/kinship networks to get consistent access to resources, and how their relationships/interactions with their community/kinship networks have changed since the closure. Ideally, I would also like to talk with those who are assisting the residents with their grocery needs to ask questions about how they feel their relationships to the residents have changed and if/how their new/changed role in the residents’ lives has put strain on their own life. I expect that many residents will have had to rely heavily on their kinship ties outside of the area to access food, especially those who do not have their own transportation to access grocers further away. I also anticipate that many residents are experiencing a noticeable increase in the time they spend talking with their kin about food access, and hope that my interviews with residents about these conversations can shed light on the changes that these networks are experiencing, and what that means for the futures of residents and their kinship networks.

Additionally, I plan to talk with some of the programs and organizations in the area, specifically

those most commonly mentioned by the residents I interview, wanting to learn about how the closure has changed their ability to operate within the community and how they feel their relationships to residents have changed. With permission from these organizations, I also plan to spend a few days observing interactions between them and community members to see the ways in which residents engage with these community programs and organizations. In interviews and observations at these community organizations, I anticipate discussions of increasing attendance of and outreach to community members who cannot access other food resources as well as those whose needs are not being adequately supplemented by other sources. For residents who've not previously relied on these community resources, especially in light of the fear and violence that has surrounded the International District for decades, many may be initially hesitant to utilize these organizations' assistance. However, facing pressure to provide for their households, I expect that many residents will turn to support from these organizations, potentially giving these organizations the opportunity to increase residents' engagement in both their organizations and the broader community. In examining this possible increase, or lack thereof, in community engagement alongside my conversations with organizations about their plans for further outreach and support to the community in the future, I hope to explore the possibilities for the building of more permanent ties between residents, these organizations, and the greater International District community.

I will also spend a few days visiting and, if possible, talking to employees at some of the remaining minor grocers in the area and stores outside of the War Zone to examine if/how the Walmart's closure has impacted other businesses, specifically looking to see if there is an increase in shoppers, but, given these stores sizes or distance from the Walmart, do not expect that there will be a significant one. Finally, I hope to spend time throughout the summer talking with the City itself about current initiatives to resolve the issues posed to residents by the Walmart's closure, such as a current proposition by the Mayor's office to buy the land the Walmart is on to create a new grocery store (McKee and Skonieski, 2023), as well as examining resources that are not available online about the International District's history through the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Library's and University of New Mexico Library's archives.

IRB Approval:

I will be applying for Exempt Category 2 IRB approval.

Anticipated Outcomes:

The data collected through my interviews, observations, and research with the City's resources will be the foundation for my senior thesis next year. I hope to write my thesis on the changes International District residents have made and experienced in their community and kinship networks to continue to provide for themselves and their households when faced with the Walmart's closure.

Budget:

Round trip gas:* \$300

Gas costs while in Albuquerque:* \$200

Lodging for 4 nights:** \$510

Miscellaneous (voice recorder for interviews, printing/photocopying, etc.): \$90

Total Requested: \$1100

*Albuquerque does not have significant, or even safe, public transportation, especially in and around the International District, and it's not advisable to walk/bike through the area. Having grown up directly next to the International District, I am confident that I can safely work in it, however I know that it is necessary to have a vehicle for safely traveling in the area. I am planning to drive from Portland so I can easily and safely navigate the area while I am there.

**As I will be staying with family in Albuquerque, I only need lodging for travel between Portland and Albuquerque.

Sources:

Barron, Jessica. 2023. "Walmart closure will impact lower-income residents." KRQE. <https://www.krqe.com/news/albuquerque-metro/walmart-closure-in-albuquerque-will-impact-lower-income-residents/?ipid=promo-link-block2>.

Higashi, Robin T. et al. 2017. "Family and Social Context Contributes to the Interplay of Economic Insecurity, Food Insecurity, and Health." *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 41 (2): 67-77.

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/>.

McKee, Chris, and Alexa Skonieski. 2023. "Albuquerque considers buying a closing Walmart." KRQE. <https://www.krqe.com/news/albuquerque-metro/albuquerque-government-looking-to-buy-closing-walmart-store/>.

Mello, Christy. 2018. "Engagement as Scholarship: Food Justice in Practice." *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 42 (2): 39-52.

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Porter, Gabrielle. 2023. "The International District is losing a major grocer with Walmart closing. Here's a list of the closest alternatives." *Albuquerque Journal*. <https://www.abqjournal.com/2571806/the-international-district-is-losing-a-major-grocer-with-walmart-closing-heres-a-list-of-the-closest-alternatives.html>.

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.