# Tay Villaseñor (she/her)

PhD Student at Texas State University | San Marcos, TX 78666 | oer18@txstate.edu

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Texas State University
Geography and Environmental Studies, 2024-Present
Dissertation: *Sanctuary in an Anti-Sanctuary State? Legal Geographies of Asylum & Carcerality in Austin, Texas and the Ruptures of Humanitarianism*

M.A. University of San Francisco
Migration Studies, 2024
M.A. Thesis: *LGBTQIA+ Immigrant Healing: Ulysses Syndrome & Community-Based Organizing*

B.A. University of Oregon
Cultural Anthropology, 2019

A.S. Community College of the Air Force
Air and Space Operations Technology, 2020

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Queer and Feminist Geographies, Migration, Sanctuary & Community-Engaged Research

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2026-Present **Instructor of Record,** Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
Texas State University
*Courses instructed: Research Methods (GEO 3301)*

2024-2025 **Doctoral Instructional Assistant**, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Texas State University
*Courses instructed: Introduction to Physical Geography (GEO 2110/2410)*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2026-Present **Research Assistant;** Texas State University, TX
Conducted research and qualitative interviews with service providers and immigrants examining urban citizenship in Denver, Colorado.

2026 **Funded Contributor;** Texas State University, TX
Managed the data curation and public archiving of 76 research interviews and transcripts deposited in the Syracuse Qualitative Data Repository (QDR) to support open-science data sharing for the NSF Project "Build and Broaden: Geographies of Migration and (In)Security".

2024-Present **Research Assistant;** Latin American Mobility Project (LAMP), San Marcos, TX
Coded and analyzed 50 qualitative interviews for NSF Project "Build and Broaden: Geographies of Migration and (In)Security", interviews recorded at TX-MX border.

2025 **Research Assistant;** Texas State University, TX
Report for *Urban Land Institute Austin* on Montopolis Recreation and Community Center in Austin, TX.

2025 **Research Assistant;** The Meadows Center, San Marcos, TX
"The rules of engagement: social agreements for intentional communities"; will be published in *Intentional communities: communal living in practice and theory* (2026).

2022-2024 **Research Assistant;** LGBT Asylum Project, San Francisco, CA
Researched and authored 45 Country Conditions Reports on LGBTQIA+ persecution to support credible asylum cases.

2023-2024 **Research Assistant;** University of Santa Cruz, CA
"The legacy of sanctuary: The movement to end immigration detention"; published in Taylor & Francis Group Peace Review (2024).

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & ACTIVITIES

2024-Present **Intern**; Austin, TX
Volunteer at Casa Marianella, a nonprofit shelter providing migrants released from immigration detention with community integrating and life sustaining resources.

2023-Present **Delegate**; Share Foundation, Honduras
Accompaniment of environmental justice and supported land defenders in the region of Guapinol for facing forced displacement due to illegal mining processes.

2025 **Delegate;** Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera
Visited maquiladora workers and grassroots organizers in Acuña and Piedras Negras, Mexico and witnessed first-hand the human impacts of free trade and labor exploitation programs.

2024 **Fieldwork**; Rio Grande Valley, TX
Visited the TX-Mexico border to collaborate with nonprofit organizations that humanize and dignify asylum seekers.

2022-2024 **Immigration Paralegal;** LGBT Asylum Project, San Francisco
Provided accessible legal representation for LGBT asylum seekers who are fleeing persecution in their country of origin due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or HIV status.

2022-2024 **Graduate Assistant;** Masters in Migration Studies, University of San Francisco
Created, posted and managed migration and community content on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

2024 **Fieldwork**; Tijuana-San Diego
Visited the CA-Mexico border to collaborate with nonprofit organizations that humanize and dignify asylum seekers.

2023 **Study Abroad**; Spain-Morocco Border
Traveled to deepen comprehension of border securitization and externalization, gaining knowledge in global migration policies and their impacts.

2023 **Fieldwork**; Aguilas Del Desierto, Nogales, Arizona
Supported an 8-mile search and rescue mission in the Sonoran Desert along the AZ-Mexico border to help identify missing migrant remains.

2018 **Study Abroad**; Chengdu and Tibet, China
Conducted immersive research on Buddhist art, history, and culture.

2014-2020 **Weapons Director;** United States Air Force
Oversee air defense operations, guide aircraft in combat and surveillance missions, and manage and direct airborne weapon systems.

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

**2026** Villaseñor, T. La Lucha Por La Tierra: Geographies of Refusal in Honduras. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting; 2026 March; San Francisco, CA.

Villaseñor, T. La Lucha Por La Tierra: Geographies of Refusal in Honduras. Promoting Advancement in Nature, Geography & Environmental Analysis (PANGEA); 2026 February; San Marcos, TX.

Villaseñor, T. La Lucha Por La Tierra: Geographies of Refusal in Honduras. Conference of Latin American Geography; 2026 January; Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

**2025** Garcia Velozo, E., Hice-Fromille, T., Keegan, C., Purdum, L., Warren, S., **Villaseñor, T**. Panelist on "Current Geographies of Immigration Enforcement". Race Ethnicity and Place Conference; 2025 November; Albuquerque, NM.

Villaseñor, T. Queer Geographies of Migration: Borders, Sanctuary and the Politics of Place. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting; 2025 March; Detroit, MI.

Amato Caye, L., Hiederian, N., Nuñez, D. and **Villaseñor, T.** Complex Borders, Complex (Im)mobilities: Migration to the Rio Grande Valley. 7th Annual Border Studies Conference; 2025 February; Edinburgh, TX.

Nuñez, D. and **Villaseñor, T.** Complex Borders, Complex (Im)mobilities: Migration to the Rio Grande Valley. Promoting Advancement in Nature, Geography & Environmental Analysis (PANGEA); 2025 February; San Marcos, TX.

**2024** Villaseñor, T. Queer Geographies of Migration Identity & the Construct of Place. Center for Diversity and Gender Studies Conference; 2024 November; San Marcos, TX.

Villaseñor, T. Queer Geographies of Migration Identity & the Construct of Place. Southwest Division of the American Association of Geographers Conference; 2024 October; San Marcos, TX.

**2023** Villaseñor-Ingersoll, T. Mini-Photography Gallery: Border Deterrence Dichotomies in Nogales, Arizona and Melilla, Spain. University of San Francisco Critical Migration Scholarship Conference; 2023 November; San Francisco, CA.

## PUBLICATIONS

Villaseñor, T. (2025). stiched. The Journal of Interactive Veteran Experiences. Texas State University Libraries. DOI: 10.58997/jive.202502.08

Argenal, A., & Villaseñor, T. (2025). The Legacy of Sanctuary: The Movement to End Immigration Detention in California Through Interfaith Organizing. *Peace Review*, 1–12. https://doi.org/10.1080/10402659.2024.2440879

Villaseñor-Ingersoll, T. (2024). LGBTQIA+ Immigrant Healing: Ulysses Syndrome & Community-Based Organizing. Master's Theses, University of San Francisco.

Ingersoll, T. (2024). A pathway to death: On the search with Aguilas del Desierto. Globus.

Ingersoll, T. (2024). Connections from USF: Reflections on the journey. Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2025; 2026 **Excellence in Supporting Women in Geography;** Texas State University

2025-2026 **Caminos for Success Fellowship Awardee;** Texas State University
*U.S Department of Agriculture Grant*; $1,000 Stipend

2026 **Outstanding Achievement Paper Contest 3rd Place;** $50.00

2026 **The Bernard W. Detlefsen Doctoral Excellence Scholarship;** $1,000.00

2026 **The Jeffries Family Scholarship in Geography;** $900.00

2025 **Alkek One-Unity Technologies Scholarship**; $500.00

2025 **Student Government Scholarship**; $1,430.00

2025 **The Graduate College Scholarship Liberal Arts**; $2,000.00

2025 **TXST Grad Merit Fellowship**; $2,500.00

2020 **Air Force Achievement Medal;** US Air Force

## CERTIFICATIONS

2024-2027 **Human Subject Protection Training;** CITI Program

2026-2030 **Graduate Student Supported by NSF Funding;** CITI Program

## MEMBERSHIPS

2024-Present **American Association of Geographers (AAG);** Feminist, Queer and Trans, Latinx, Political and Qualitative Geographies Specialty Groups

2025-Present **Feminist Geographies Specialty Group;** American Association of Geographers
Social Media Coordinator (2025-2026)

2024-Present **Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG/JLAG)**
Social Media Coordinator (2026-Present)

2024-Present **Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG);** Texas State University
President (2025-2026), Secretary (2024-2025)

2025-Present **Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU);** Texas State University
Historian (2026)

2025-Present **Journal of Interactive Veteran Experiences (JIVE);** Texas State University
Doctoral Assistant (2026-Present)

2025-Present **Veterans for Peace;** Chapter #66, Austin, Texas

2022-2024 **Migration Studies & Solidarity Network;** University of San Francisco
President (2022-2024)