

Statement of Qualifications

Suzanne M. Michel
Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- University of California, Los Angeles. Bachelor of Arts. English.
- San Diego State University. Master of Arts. Geography. Areas of specialty: land use planning, biogeography and urban geography
- University of Colorado, Boulder. Ph.D. (2000), Geography. Areas of specialty: water resources geography and law, environmental justice (equity) and Southern/Baja California urban geography.

PUBLISHED WORKS

- Michel, Suzanne M. 2002. (forthcoming). Urban Geography and the Colorado River Delta? Transbasin Diversions, Urbanization and Aguas Negras in Baja and Southern California. Finalist for 2002 Nystrom Paper Competition for Best Dissertation in Geography, Association of American Geographers (10 finalists selected nationwide). Paper to be submitted to *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*.
- Michel, Suzanne M. 2002. (forthcoming) The Geography of Water Transfers along the Border of the Californias. In *Both Sides of the Border. Transboundary Environmental Management Issues Facing Mexico and the United States*. Edited by Linda Fernandez and Richard Carson. Kluwer Academic Publishers. (refereed).
- Michel, Suzanne M. 2001. Rediscovering the Tecate River. In *Tecate Characteristics and Future Directions for Sustainable Development*. Edited by Paul Ganster. San Diego, CA: San Diego State University Press.
- Michel, Suzanne M. 2001. *The Alamar River Corridor: An Urban River Park Oasis in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico*. San Diego, CA: San Diego State University Press.
- Michel, Suzanne M. 2000. Defining Hydrocommons Governance Along the Border of the Californias: A Case Study of Transbasin Diversions and Water Quality in the Tijuana-San Diego Metropolitan Region. *Natural Resources Journal*, University of New Mexico School of Law (refereed).
- Michel, Suzanne M. 2000. Water Quality in the Tijuana River Watershed. Policy Paper. *Enfoque*. Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego. Summer 2000.
- Michel, Suzanne M. 1999. Place and Water Quality Governance in the Tijuana-San Diego Metropolitan Region. In *Shared Space: The Mexico-United States Environmental Future*. Edited by Lawrence Herzog. San Diego, CA: Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego (refereed).
- Michel, Suzanne M. 1998. Golden Eagles and the Environmental Politics of Care. In *Animal Geographies: Place, Politics, and Identity in the Nature-Culture Borderlands*. Edited by Jennifer Wolch and Jody Emel. London: Verso. (refereed).
- Michel, Suzanne M. and Halvorson, Sarah. 1996. Book Review of *Earth Follies: Coming to Feminist Terms with the Global Environmental Crises*, written by Joni Seager. In *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. June 1996: pp. 350-352.
- Aitken, Stuart C. and Michel, Suzanne M. 1995. Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Planning and Critical Theory. *Cartography and Geographic Information Systems*. Vol. 22: pp. 17-29 (refereed).

DISSERTATION RESEARCH

Place, Power and Water Pollution in the Californias: A Geographical Analysis of Water Quality Politics in the Tijuana-San Diego Metropolitan Region Dissertation Committee: Dr. James Wescoat Jr., Specialty: Water Resources Policy; Dr. Anthony Bebbington, Specialty: Political Ecology in Latin America; Dr. William Riebsame, Specialty: Environmental Planning; Dr. Susan Beatty, Specialty: Biogeography; Dr. Steven Mumme, Specialty: U.S.-Mexico Environmental Policy

- The dissertation examined the *geographic* dimension of borderland water quality politics by analyzing four place-based approaches to water quality governance within the Tijuana-San Diego metropolitan region. These place-based approaches are: point source, watershed, metropolitan region,

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and hydrocommons. Research methodology entailed participant observation, legal document analysis and intensive interviews of organizational leaders, government officials and scientists.

RESEARCH AND WRITING GRANTS AWARDED

2000-2001	BorderLink Grant, Alamar River Watershed Project. San Diego State University
1999-2000	City Heights Urban Watershed Project
1999-2000	American Association of University Women, American Dissertation Writing Fellowship
1998-99	UCSD, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies Border and Sustainable Development Grant
1997	University of Colorado, Sussman Fund Environmental Internship Grant
1996	University of Colorado, Graduate Dean Research Grant
1994	San Diego County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee Research Grant

RESEARCH AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

Post Doctorate Fellow, Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, San Diego State University. April 2000 - Present

- Conduct and coordinate environmental research and policy analysis for California and Baja California. Write grant proposals and supervise grant budgets.
- Edited and commented upon three Proposition 13 watershed planning grant proposals (County of San Diego, Lead Agency). All three proposals were funded (\$250,000 each).
- During Summer 2000, supervised fifteen graduate and undergraduate students who investigated flora, fauna, hydrology, water quality, and nature-society (land use planning, city politics, water resources institutional context, financing) aspects of the Alamar River, located in the northeast section of Tijuana. The science and social science field research was conducted with the goal to create an urban river park plan for the Alamar River corridor. Research has resulted in a book publication (see above).
- With government authorities and academics in California and Baja California evaluate and coordinate land use, biodiversity and water resources management and governance in the Tijuana River watershed. Develop recommendations to support the creation of a binational watershed committee (Comité de Cuenca) for the Tijuana River watershed during the Proposition 13 grant writing process.
- Coordinate local government officials, business owners and academics in the creation of a watershed-based open space preserve between Tijuana and Tecate. Coordination includes public presentations in Spanish to government officials and community leaders.

Southern California Coordinator, Clean Water Action (CWA). Summer 2001 - Present

- Educate Southern California legislators, testify at hearings, organize grassroots support and develop language on bills that improve water quality (for example SB 463 Arsenic Standards and AB 1192 Water Quality and Watershed Protection Act of 2002)
- Attend and participate in meetings and symposiums sponsored by the Southern California Water Dialogue, Environmental Water Caucus, Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform and other watershed efforts throughout the region.
- Analyze and comment upon general plan updates, zoning variances and environmental impact reports concerning water resources and wetlands biodiversity.
- Conducted document analysis and water quality monitoring to submit the San Diego River for impaired water body listing under Section 303(d)/ of the Clean Water Act. (May 2001).
- Public speaking on the topic of land use planning, urban expansion, river concrete channelization and protecting water quality.
- Qualitative research (surveys and in-depth interviews) and writing for CWA publication addressing source protection of potable water supplies in California.
- Interact with and educate elected water board officials, land use planning authorities and government environmental health/storm water staff on water quality protection and watershed management/planning and legislation.

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RESEARCH AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego. January 1998 - January 2000

- Conducted legal document analyses and intensive interviews of U.S. and Mexican water agency representatives concerning water pollution and drinking water quality in the Tijuana-San Diego metropolitan region. Research results have been incorporated into three refereed publications.
- Coordinated a public forum addressing U.S.-Mexico urban water supply, water quality, biodiversity and legal issues associated with Colorado River transbasin diversions and the Colorado River Delta.
- Research results of the Mexico interviews were used to support a decision made by the State of California Attorney General's Office to levy fines against the EPA and International Boundary and Water Commission (See San Diego Union Tribune, November 10, 1999 at B1). The fines were imposed due to the lack of Clean Water Act compliance of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Research Project Leader. Project Leader, City Heights Urban Watershed Project (San Diego State University, SDSU) January-December 1999

- Initiated urban watershed community project for the San Diego Bay watershed within the City Heights planning region. For Spring 1999, SDSU students worked on three projects: a) Investigating the local politics associated with urban canyon preservation in the region b) Watershed education and field trips for students at Monroe-Clark Middle School, and c) Designation of Swan Canyon as a community park.

Consultant, Stockholm International Water Institute November 1998-January 1999

- Consulted the above organization for a film segment on water quality and watershed protection challenges for California and Baja California. Included coordinating and setting up landscape film segments and interviewing stakeholders involved in water policy making. Film segment is for a documentary on world water problems released in Europe in May 1999.

Legislative Analyst: Southern California Metropolitan Water District and San Diego-Imperial County Chapter of the Sierra Club. Spring. 1998.

- Toured Sacramento River Delta Region, and interviewed key stakeholders involved in the CALFED process. Provided to both above listed organizations a governance/legal analysis regarding San Diego's participation in the CALFED process.

Watershed Intern, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR). Internship funded by Sussman Foundation, University of Colorado, Boulder. August 1997-March 1998

- With TRNERR staff members, researched and coordinated community watershed monitoring program for the Tijuana River watershed. In this program high school students and adult volunteers conducted various watershed-monitoring tests to measure levels of pollution and ecosystem health within the watershed. Tests which measure the chemical parameters of river and estuary water (Nitrates, pH, total dissolved solids etc.), fecal coliform testing, vegetation mapping and marine debris surveys were conducted on a regular basis.
- Assisted in obtaining funding for and designing the Educational Water Quality Monitoring Laboratory at TRNERR.

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Colorado, Boulder September 1994 - June 1995

- Assisted in organization and preparation for a study that evaluated how changes in the economy and working conditions affect the quality of local democracy in four cities in the Western United States. Scope of study focused upon community activism within the household unit. Duties included: preparation of phone and mail surveys, supervision of phone surveys, computer data coding and statistical analysis. Principle Investigator: Dr. Lynn Staeheli.

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EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, San Diego State University. Department of Political Science. August 1998 – December 2000

- Preparing and teaching an upper division class on the topics of environmental law and policy. Reorganized class structure to cover environmental law and policy on a resource by resource basis (i.e. energy, air, water, biodiversity etc.). Include substantial lecturing on the most significant environmental law in California, the California Environmental Quality Act -- which requires the environmental impact report for any project with potential significant environmental impacts. Dependency theory, issues of globalization, trade and the environment and population are covered in the final section of the class addressing international environmental conflicts.
- Students conducted community service and field research for the San Diego Bay, the San Diego River and Alamar-Tecate River watersheds -- see above.
- 1999 attendance averaged 40-45 students, with approximately 4.6 numerical average on teaching evaluations.
- Fall 2000 attendance increased to approximately 65 students.
- The class has a strong writing element, with students required to do basic legal research, paper organization, and proper citation format.

Lecturer: Department of Environmental Management, University of California, San Diego Extension, Summers 1996-98

- Prepared and taught seminar on California Water Law, Politics and History

Lecturer, Grossmont and Southwestern Community College. Fall 1997-98

- Prepared and taught Introduction to Human Geography and Introduction to Physical Geography

Lecturer, National Geographic Seminar on Gender and Geography. National Geographic Society. Summer 1997

- Participated in a week long training of high school teachers in current geographic research on gender and society. Coordinated and conducted a tour of Tijuana, Baja California on issues of gender, development and environment.

Lecturer: Department of Women's Studies, San Diego State University. Spring 1997

- Prepared and taught upper division class entitled "Sex, Power and Politics."
- Class curriculum included the following topics: Feminism and Environmentalism; Women in a Global Political-Economy; Gender and Politics within the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.

Teaching Assistant: Department of Geography, University of Colorado. 1995-96

- Spring 1996: Prepared lectures, project assignments and examinations for an upper division/graduate level class in western water policy and law. Responsibilities included: assisting students in conducting research for project assignments, grading of all project assignments and lecturing on US-Mexico/California water issues.
- Fall 1995: Prepared and taught labs for introductory course in GIS.

Lecturer: Department of Geography, University of Colorado, Summer 1995

- Prepared and taught introductory summer school course on World Regional Geography.

Teaching Assistant, San Diego State University. 1992-94

- Assisted in course preparation of, conducting labs, grading materials of and lecturing for Geography 596: Vegetation Mapping Techniques, Geography 370: Environmental Policy and Geography 102: Introduction to Human Geography.

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MANAGERIAL/ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Manager Information Systems/Programmer, Captain United States Marine Corps Reserve. 1990-1991

- During Operations Desert Shield/Storm, redesigned automated reserve mobilization process to include software, hardware and communications support.
- Supervised complete outprocessing of over 3000 individual reservists. Improved processing capability through hands-on evaluation and implementing software automation. Recommended improvements were published for future outprocessing of reserves.

Adjutant: 1st Lt., United States Marine Corps. 1985-88

- Successfully organized special programs such as awards, officer retention, Marine Corps/Navy Directives and electronic message distribution.
- Managed the personnel requirements for an organization of over 9,000 Marines.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

Integrating River Park Planning within a Watershed Perspective: Lessons Learned from the Tijuana and Arroyo Seco Watersheds. Paper presented at Assemblymember Christine Kehoe's Select Committee on the San Diego River. Mission Trails Regional Park Visitors Center, San Diego, CA., November 13, 2001.

El Redescubrimiento del Río Tecate. (The Rediscovery of the Tecate River). Colloquium (in Spanish), Tecate, Baja California, May 13, 2001.

The Future of Urban Water Management and Policy. Paper presented at the Association of American Geographers National Conference. New York, NY, April 2001.

Ríos Urbanos: Los Problemas y Oportunidades en El Sur de California y Baja California. (Urban Rivers Problems and Opportunities in Southern and Baja California). Paper presented (in Spanish) at the Municipal Planning Institute of Tijuana. Tijuana, Baja California. August 21, 2000.

Transbasin Diversions, Urban Expansion and Consequent Water Quality Degradation in the Tijuana-San Diego Metropolitan Region. Paper received best student presentation award (\$250) at the California Geographical Society Conference. San Diego CA. May 2000.

A Binational Colorado River Aqueduct for the Tijuana-San Diego Metropolitan Region? California Groundwater Conference on Interconnected Water Supply. San Diego, CA. September 1999.

Place and Water Quality Governance in the Tijuana-San Diego Metropolitan Region. UCSD Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies. Conference on Border Environment and Sustainable Development. February 1999.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Water Resources Committee, County of San Diego Smart Growth Initiative. 1999.
- Steering Committee, Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform. 1998 - Present.
- Southern California Coordinator, Clean Water Action

HONORS RECEIVED

1995,96,99 University of Colorado, Graduate Fellowship Recipient

1993-94 San Diego State University Academic Scholarship Recipient

1993-94 California Graduate Equity Fellowship Recipient

1991 Navy Achievement Medal (goldstar), National Defense Medal, USMC Reserve

1988 Navy Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, USMC Reserve

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MASTER'S THESIS PROJECT

Raptor's and Rhetoric: How Communicative Actions Shape Golden Eagle Habitat in Ramona, CA.

Thesis Committee: Dr. Stuart C. Aitken, Specialty: Planning and Behavioral Geography; Dr. Janet Franklin, Specialty: Biogeography; and Dr. Kathleen Jones, Specialty: Political Science.

- In this project I examined how pro-development and pro-wildlife coalitions communicate about and negotiate for golden eagle habitat space within the community of Ramona, a suburb in East San Diego County. Theoretical framework for this study draws from communications theory, planning literature and biogeography.
- Project funded by the County of San Diego, Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee.
- Project resulted in two refereed publications.

FAMILY STATUS: Married, one son (5 years old)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Suzanne M. Michel, 9342 Goyette Place, Santee, CA 92071. email: smichel61@home.com
Phone: (619)449-4008

REFERENCES

Dr. James L. Wescoat, Jr. Ph.D., Department of Geography, Campus Box 260, University of Colorado, Boulder. Boulder, CO 80309-0260. Phone: (303)492-4877, Fax: (303)492-7501, email: wescoat@spot.colorado.edu

Dr. Anthony Bebbington, Ph.D., Department of Geography, Campus Box 260, University of Colorado, Boulder. Boulder, CO 80309-0260. Phone: (303)492-5438, FAX: (303)492-7501, email: tonyb@colorado.edu

Dr. Jennifer Wolch, Ph.D., Department of Geography, University of Southern California, 3620 Vermont Ave. Kaprielan Hall 424B, Los Angeles CA 90089-0255, Phone: (213)740-0521, Fax: (213)740-0056, email: wolch@alnitak.usc.edu

Mark J. Spalding. J.D., M.P.I.A., Professor of International Environmental Policy and Law. University of California, San Diego, International Relations and Pacific Studies Graduate School. Phone: (858)638-0783; E- mail: mspalding@usc.edu