El Parque de la Amistad – Friendship Park

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ABSTRACT

La Parque de la Amistad/Friendship Park, located next to the Pacific Ocean on the border between San Diego and Tijuana, is a powerful symbol of border access. This article presents a case study of this area using visuals and information gathered through interviews with different stakeholders who are connected to the park in some way, to show what access looks like in this space. The goal is to educate readers about the complicated nature of access at this site and to counter limited knowledge gained through media portrayals of the border.

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About the Authors

Susan Garza is Professor of English and Graduate Coordinator at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She is the author of a number of articles in leading journals, such as *Technical Communication Quarterly, Journal of College Reading and Learning,* and

Reflections, in the areas of visual rhetoric, new literacy studies, and service learning. Her current research focus utilizes the methodology of visual rhetoric to analyze victim presentations in memorial spaces. She has presented and published internationally on her research, and with a colleague, she is working on a book project that will extend the discussion presented here on the rhetorics of the US/Mexico border.

Gabriel Ferreyra has a M.A. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Texas at San Antonio and a Ph.D. in Justice Studies from Arizona State University. His research focuses on drug trafficking, US drug policy, judicial corruption, organized crime, and the US-Mexico border. His methodological approach is interdisciplinary and based on qualitative research. Ferreyra is currently conducting research along the US-Mexico border regarding the so-called 'border wall' to better understand how different stakeholders reconcile or not the contested space and narrative that this region presents to Mexico and the United State. He recently published the book *Drug Trafficking in Mexico and the United States*, and he teaches criminal justice classes at California State University, Los Angeles.