



ANTHROPOLOGY AND U.S. CITIZENSHIP



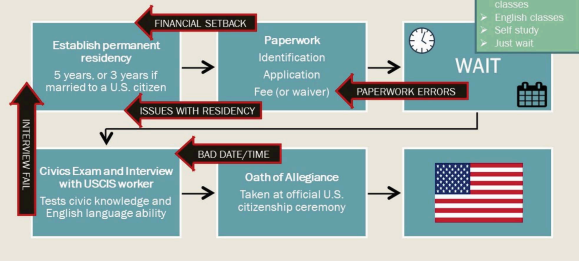
Project

Purpose: to examine the **reasons** that some legal permanent residents decide to apply for U.S. citizenship, the **barriers** that potential applicants face to applying for citizenship, as well as the individual and shared **experiences of U.S. citizenship applicants in Dallas.**

Methods: Semi-structured interviews and observation

Outcomes

OVERVIEW OF THE U.S. CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS



Why Anthropology?

Theory

- Anthropological theory can be applied to wide range of studies and situations
- For my project I used transnational theory, narratives of deservingsness (Coutin and Yngvesson) and capital (Bourdieu)

Research Methods

- Anthropological methods produce meaningful results, especially in regards to qualitative data
- I used semi-structured interviews and participant observation for my research project

Worldview

- Studying anthropology has given me a unique perspective on research and global issues
- Some important concepts I've learned include cultural relativism, reflexivity and rapport



What's Next?

I am looking for positions in **research and/or technical writing.**

Client

Dallas Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs, a division of the **City of Dallas**, formed in March of 2017

Works to **improve immigrants' access to participation in the community** where they live.

Insights from the project **may be used to further shape Dallas WCIA's citizenship services**, such as their annual **Citizenship Workshop.**



Symbolic Meanings of Citizenship

Recommendations

- Foster a focus on community, belonging and all the diverse types of contributions that immigrant residents of Dallas make to the city, beyond just the economic.
- Events focused on cultural contributions could include sharing of cuisine, art, music, traditions or language from specific cultural backgrounds.
- Events focused on the value of individuals and community could focus on service, volunteering, or voicing community concerns.
- Regardless of their legal U.S. citizenship status, residents of Dallas can still be citizens of their local community.

Dallas Citizens in Waiting



I am developing my **skills and portfolio** through my **blog**, theculturalcourier.com

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