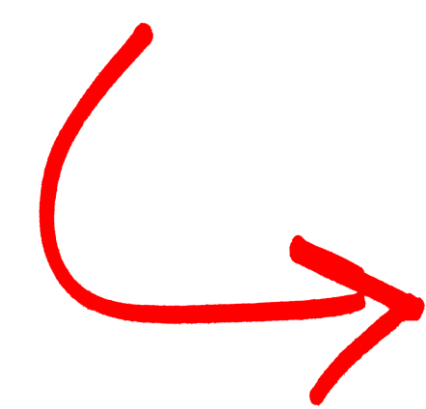


ANTHROPOLOGY IN ACTION

Priscilla Villa, M.A. Applied Anthropology

About Me

- Earned my M.A. in Applied Anthropology at UNT in 2016
- Since then, I've been the South Texas Organizer at the environmental non-profit, Earthworks, for the past 2½ years.
- Currently based in Houston, Texas



My Timeline

- **2012:** Graduated with my B.A. in Anthropology from UTSA
- **2012-2014:** Worked as an accounting manager at an “environmental” and engineering company in the oil and gas sector.
- **2014:** Realized what fracking was and how it negatively impacted the environment. Decided to go to grad school as I considered the following:
 - **What matters to me?**
 - **What would I like to be doing in 5 years?**
 - **Who's doing that work and how did they get there?**
- **2014 – 2016:** Worked on my applied anthropology master's degree by focusing my thesis on the impacts and experiences faced by people living near oil and gas extraction. My client was my current employer Earthworks who focuses on these issues across the country.
- **2016-2019:** Went from working on local issues in Karnes County, Texas to leading broad national groups on plastics campaigns as related to fracking issues (i.e. 99% of plastics come from fossil fuels) and leading trips to Latin American to help with anti-fracking campaigns

Skills



Research

Staying updated on new research and information



Media training

Specifically how to communicate complicated information (in both English and Spanish)



Organizer training

Understanding political will and goal-oriented strategizing



Facilitation

Leading groups towards a shared vision/goal and associated actions

What I do

Community organizer in Karnes County, TX

I support residents in advocating for more state air monitoring and better policies to protect them from the impacts of oil and gas extraction.

Steering Committee member for the global Break Free From Plastics Movement

I use a bottom-up approach to inform movement building strategies in the US to reduce the dependency on fossil fuels and plastics.

Latin America Liaison

I work with allies in Latin American to help ban fracking in areas where it currently does not exist. We use tools and factsheets to help spread awareness on the impacts of fracking.

Applying Anthropology

Listening

My fieldwork led to my role as an organizer where I based what community members wanted/needed and turned that into organizing goals for the group to work on together.

Critical Thinking

Understanding what is achievable versus what is ideal is crucial. The work needs to be based on what people and organizations are capable of achieving which requires an understanding of collective assets and resources.

Bottom-up Approach

Helps develop strategy and actions that are based on what people at the frontline (grassroots) need and want versus what organizations or corporations think are best.

