

CLLAS Graduate Student Research Grant 2023

**“Con que tengamos vida y salud”: Access to
Healthcare for Vulnerable H2-A Farmworkers**

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April 24, 2024

COVID-19

**Respiratory
Disease**

**DESTINATION
SITES**



*LACK OF
INFORMATION*

Suicide



Death



**Recruitment
Centers**

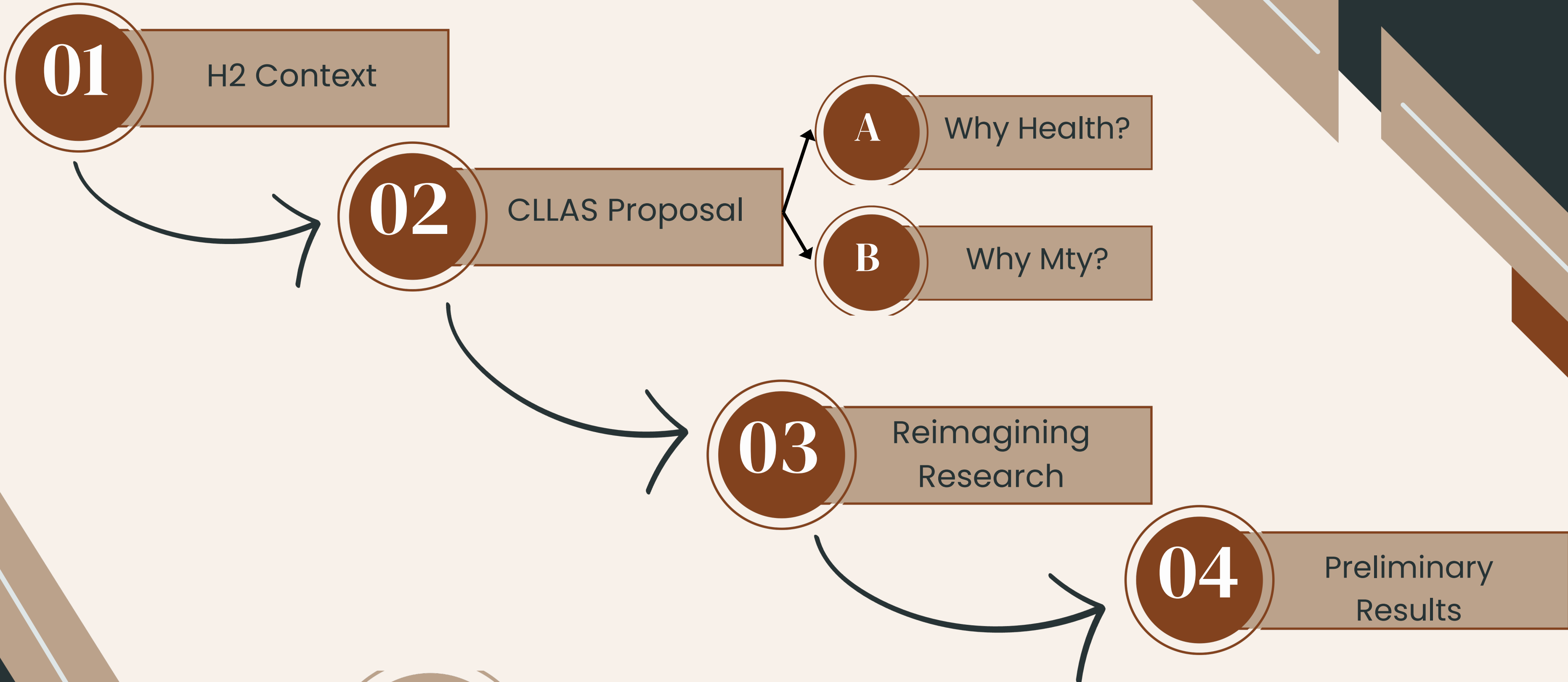


Essential??



**Communities of
Origin**





OREGON CONSUMER PROTECTION GRANT

- The H2 Visa Program is the main visa category to bring to the USA, so called “low skill” workers on a temporary basis.
- H2 Visas were approved in 1952 under the Immigration and Nationality Act/McCarran-Walter Act , which included the 101(15)(H)(ii) provision
 - The Bracero Program was in place (17 year overlap)
 - At the time there were other “guestworkers” agreements with Caribbean countries (Jamaica, Barbados, Haiti)
- After IRCA (1986) the H2 Program was divided in H2-A for agricultural work and H2-B for other “low skill” jobs. At the end of the 1980’s Mexican workers started increasing their participation in the H2 program .
- In fiscal year 2022, 92% of H-2A visas were issued to Mexican nationals, with South Africa (3%), Jamaica (1.6%), and Guatemala (0.99%) following. The H-2B visa category is more diverse in terms of country of origin. For the same fiscal year, Mexican representation was 66%, followed by Jamaica (10%), Guatemala (5%), Honduras (3.6%), and El Salvador (3.4%).

"When we arrived at the ranch in the United States the contractor did a roll call. He collected our visas and passports, I didn't even know this was wrong because, it was the first time I was going. We started work in September 2005, I was going for a period of 6 months, I only worked for the first few months because a machine fell on me and they sent me back. When I was picking the sweet potato, the colleague who was in charge of the machine fell asleep, activating a button that caused the machine to hit my head. They say that the machine was already faulty, but the boss had not repaired it; I learned this information some time after those who had gone with me returned to Matehuala".

ROSARIO

"I broke this finger the first year I came here to the United States, a door of one of the tobacco crates, fell on my finger.

The door fell shut like a guillotine and broke my finger but I kept on working. My hand just felt numb and I felt I couldn't move my finger. I took off my glove and the finger was just hanging like that.

When my patron arrived I told him there was a problem and I showed him the finger., he got scared took me to my real patron [employer]...

It took me about three weeks with my finger just like that, just hanging there, with ice and everything, so that my employer and the one who lent me out could arrange the insurance and include me in his policy or something like that. I don't know, that's why it took them about three weeks to get surgery" JOSE

- U.S. Consulate where the majority of H2 visas are issued
- Thousands of H2 workers go to Monterrey every year for a few days
- It is a place where a lot of the recruitment/hiring practices can be observed
- Monterrey becomes the “symbolic” border.

03

Reimagining
Research

○ June 2023 (3.5 weeks)

○ Extreme Heat / 45°-51° Celsius
110°-120° F

○ Denied access to
workers

○ Learned about changes
in the Consulate

○ Got an invitation to go to NC

○ Ethnographic Observations
and informal conversations

○ Reconnected with grassroots
organizations

○ Re-frame Research Design for
Dissertation Proposal

○ Acquired a sense of
urgency/importance to my
research

Consumer Protection Grant 2023-2024

MULTI-SITED RESEARCH

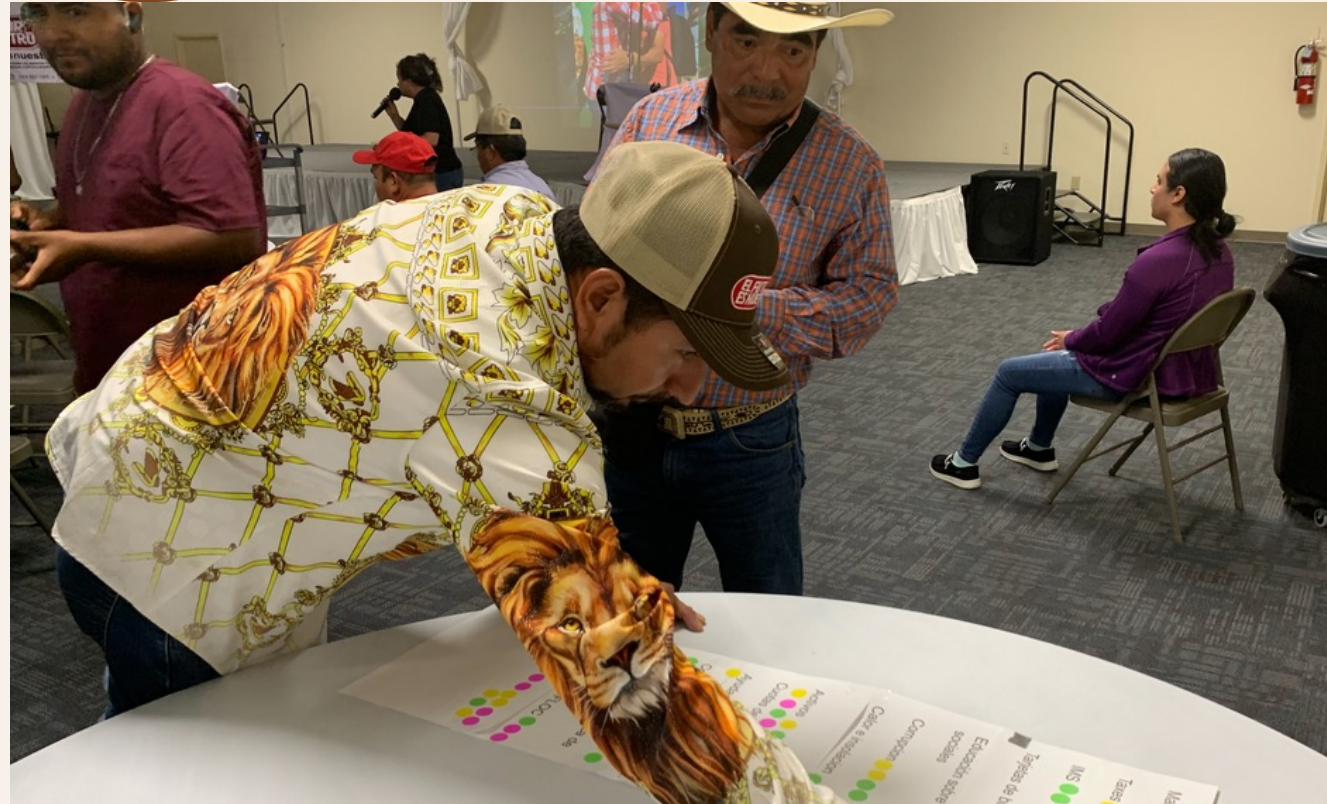
Goldsboro and surrounding areas, North Carolina .

- El Futuro es Nuestro

Oregon: housing units, Walmarts, Community Centers

- (Woodburn, Mount Angel, Clackamas, Salem , Newport, and other surrounding areas)

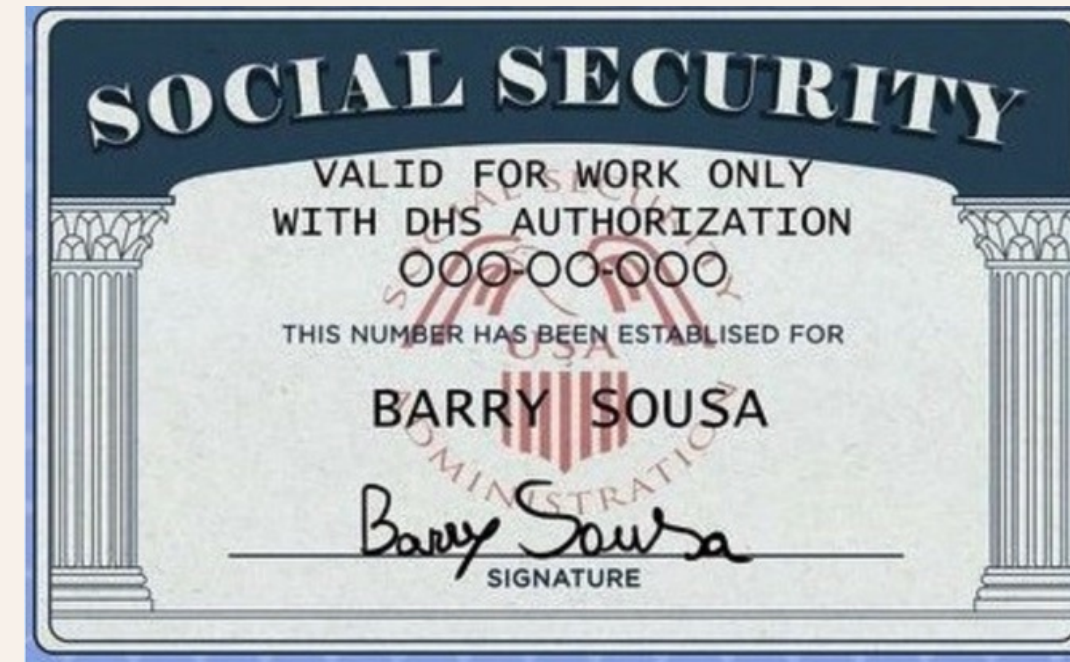
Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico



Data Collected

- Short interviews, some were survey type, some turned into more ethnographic interviews (52 interviews)
 - 7 H2b workers in Oregon, 3 H2b in Monterrey (going to Indiana)
 - 36 H2A workers (2 NC, and 34 in Oregon)
 - 3 Community outreach workers (Oregon/San Luis Potosí)
 - 3 Visa Processors (MTY)

- Importance of Age
- Important Misconceptions
- How is Health thought of by workers (Maltrato)
- Gender and Race
- Importance of continuing doing work in Monterrey and/or processing sites
- Biocommunicability and Incommunicability





Thank You