

# **History of Offshore Oil Development in the Gulf of Mexico: Designing and Managing a Project to Benefit Multiple Stakeholders**

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University of Arizona

# Offshore Oil & Gas History Project

- ◆ LSU Center for Energy Studies
- ◆ University of Arizona Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology
- ◆ University of Houston Department of History and History International, LLC
- ◆ ULL Public History Program and Sociology Department
- ◆ Nicholls State Archives
- ◆ Louisiana Technical Colleges



# Approaches

- Oral history
- Documentary research
- Interviews
- Historical economic analysis



## ORAL HISTORY:

- Focus on 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s
- Focus on highly impacted communities
- Include people from a wide range of sectors and companies

# Interviewees

- Pioneering engineers, managers and entrepreneurs who created the organizations and technology required to produce oil and gas
- Workers, family members of workers, community leaders, and others whose lives were shaped by the offshore industry
- Governmental and political leaders who developed the strategies and laws that were used by MMS to regulate and manage the development of offshore resources



# Locating Interviewees

Contacts from prior studies



Self-referral

Individuals

Organizations

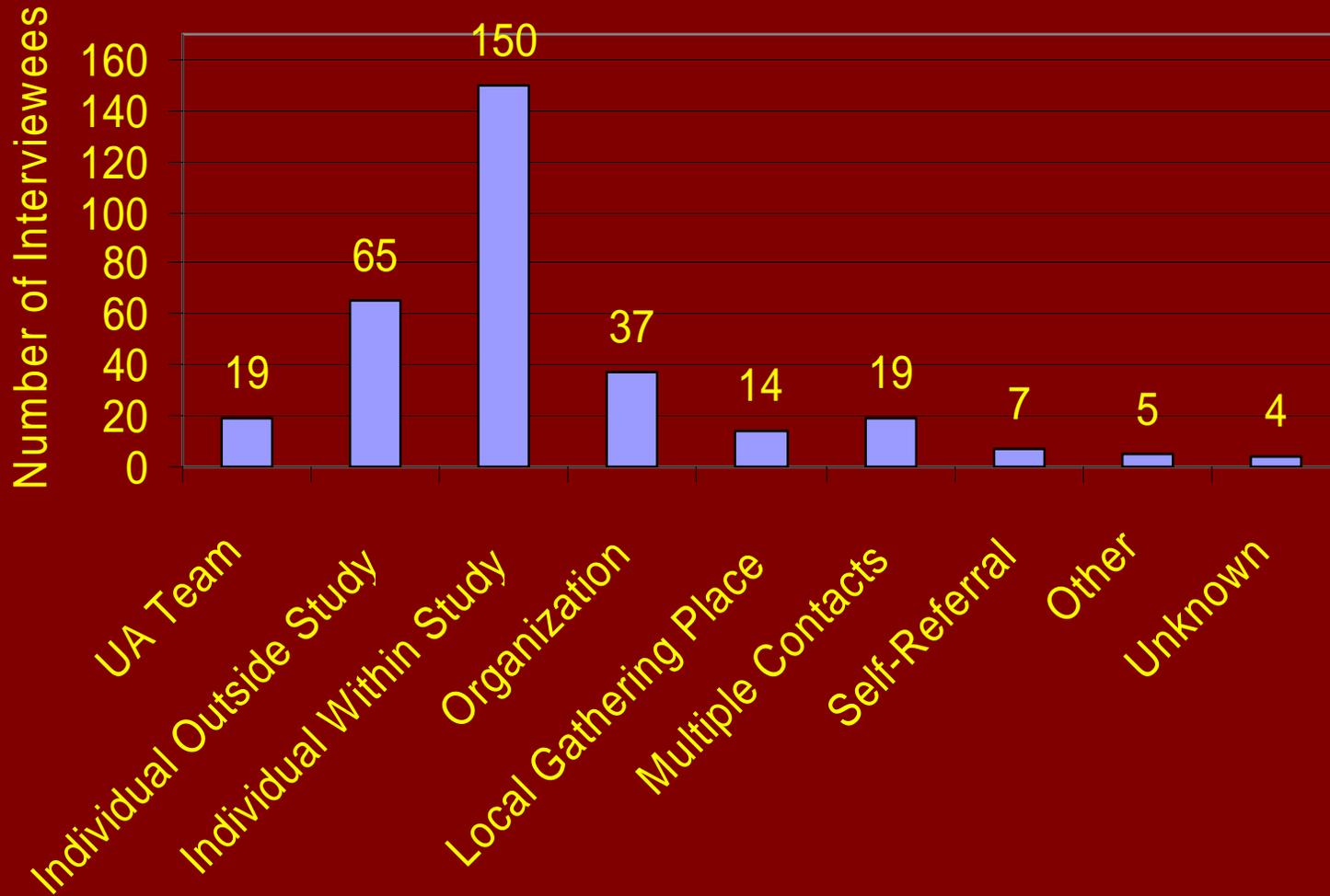
Local gathering places

Individuals join the study

Individuals refer others



# Selection of UA Interviewees



N=320 interview contacts

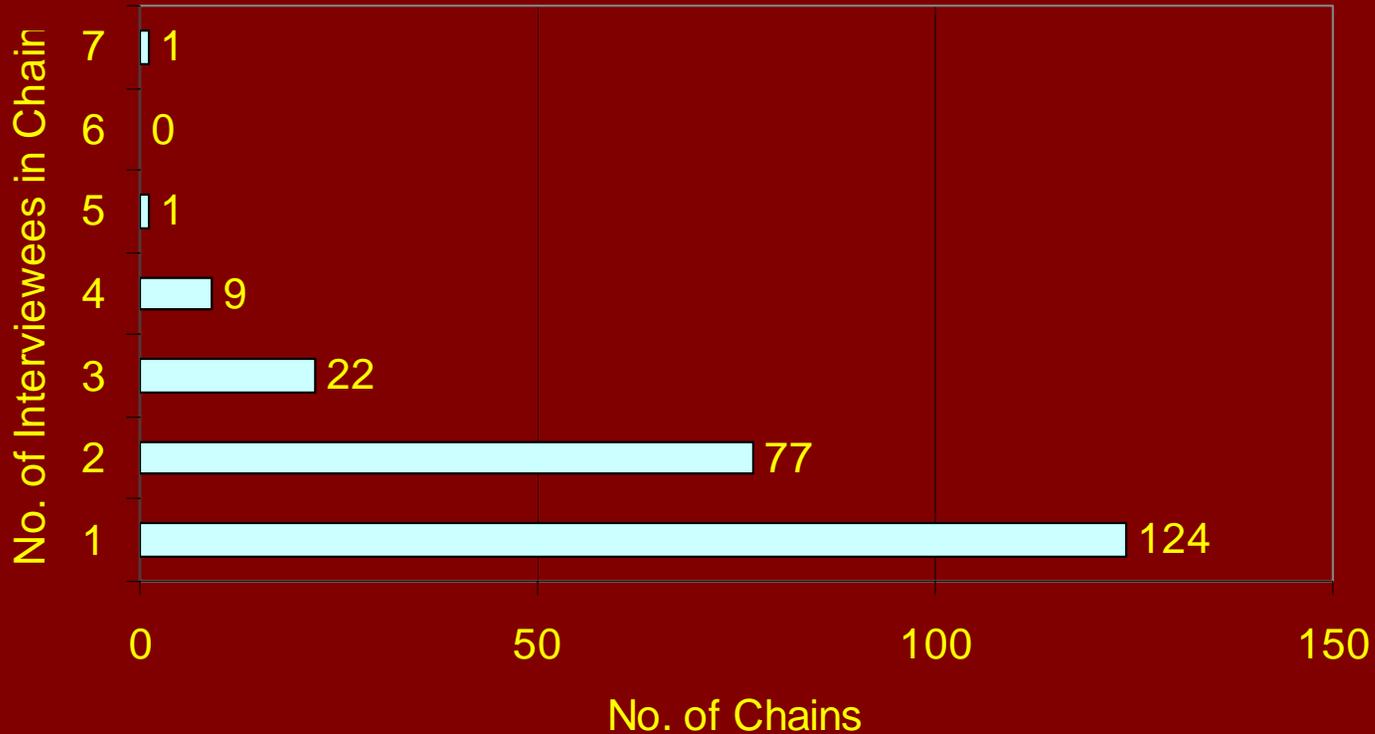
# Chains of Contact

UATeam

Teacher Researcher  
from Family Study



# Chains of Contact

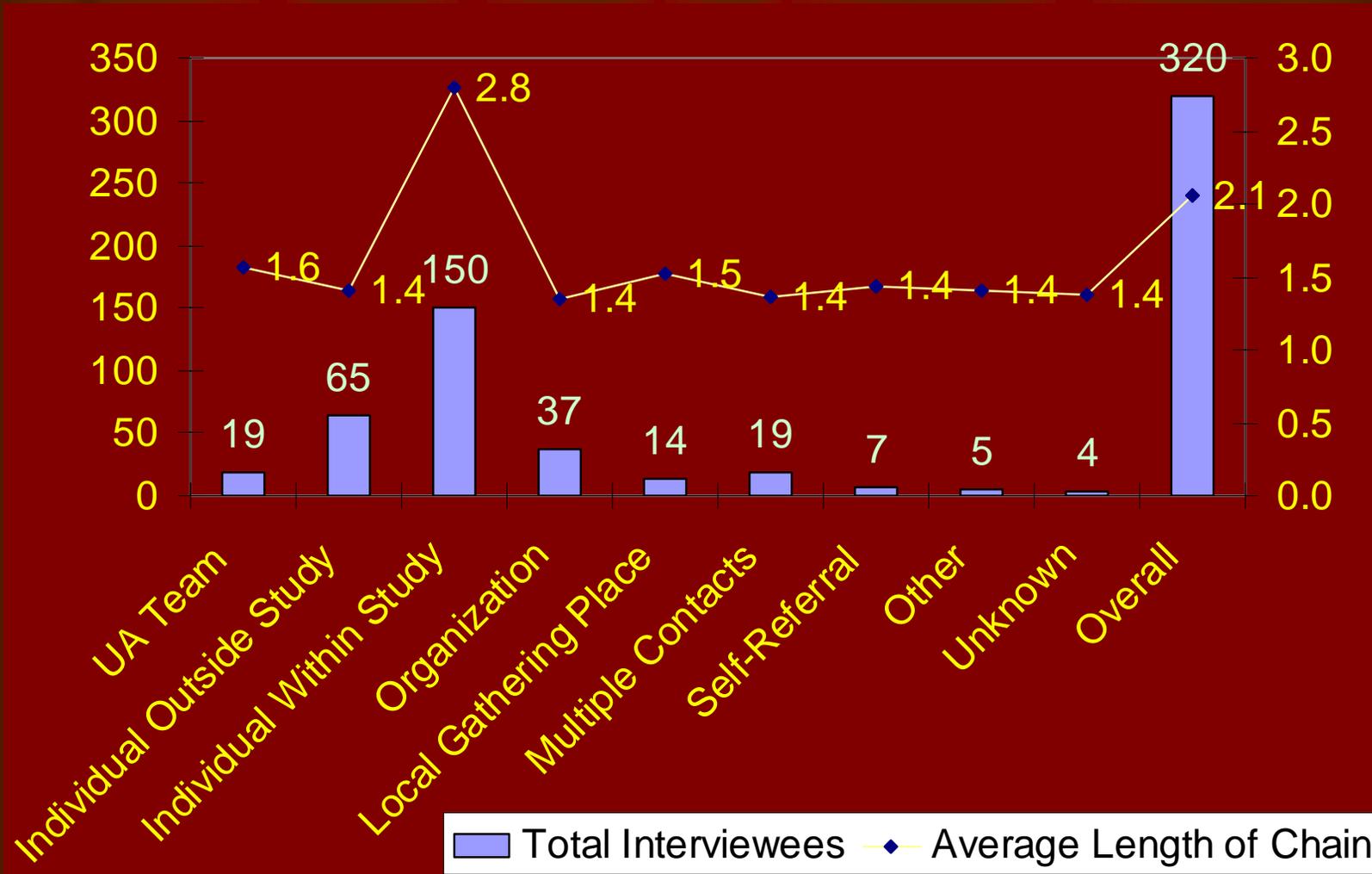


**No. of Chains = 234**

**No. of Interviewee contacts = 320**

**Avg. Interviewee contacts per chain = 2.1**

# Chains of Contact by Source



# Community Outreach

- Schoolteachers as community researchers
- Articles in local newspapers
- Educational websites and accompanying materials

interviewees  
[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#)  
[G](#) [H](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#)  
[N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [R](#) [S](#)  
[T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [Z](#)

[Introduction](#)

**A**

[Acosta, Robert](#)

[Adams, B.A. "Red"](#)

[Adkins, Gerald](#)

[Angel, Tom](#)

[Arceneaux, "Click"](#)

[Armstrong, Earl O. Jr.](#)

[Ayers, Buddy](#)

**B**

## History of the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry and its Effects on Louisiana

### Introduction

Beginning in 2001, the U.S. Minerals Management Service sponsored a study to examine the historical evolution of the offshore oil and gas industry and its effects on Louisiana's coastal culture, economy, landscape, and society. Researchers from universities in Louisiana, Texas, and Arizona came together to trace the development from land and marsh to state waters and across the Outer Continental Shelf. As one part of this project, researchers from the [Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology](#) at the University of Arizona partnered with community researchers to gather oral histories from workers, family members, community leaders, and others whose lives were shaped by the offshore oil and gas industry in southern Louisiana. Interviewees talked about how this industry grew from its fledgling beginning in the 1930's through the frenzied activity of the 1970's and beyond. The interviews ranged from very general conversations about life in southern Louisiana during this period to very specific discussions of particular aspects of the oil and gas industry.



Each interview provides a unique look at the offshore oil and gas industry and its impacts on workers, their families, and their communities. Information about the study and the interviews is available in three documents, History of the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry in Southern Louisiana, Interim Report: Volume I, Papers on the Evolving Offshore Industry ([OCS Study MMS 2004-049](#)); Volume II, Bayou Lafourche—An Oral History of the Development of the Oil and Gas Industry ([OCS Study MMS 2004-050](#)); Volume III, Samples of Interviews and Ethnographic Prefaces ([OCS Study MMS 2004-051](#)). These documents will be available through the Minerals Management Service. The tapes and discs onto which these interviews were recorded and the transcripts of these interviews will be available in the archives of the Louisiana State University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, University of Houston, and Nicholls State University.

## The Offshore Oil and Gas History Project

# Community Outreach

- Collaboration with National D-Day Museum to archive interviews and film interviewees for possible exhibit on connections between WWII and the offshore oil and gas industry



# Community Outreach

- Presentations and sessions at agency workshops and academic conferences such as the American Society for Environmental History; Society for Applied Anthropology; Southeast History Association



# Traveling Exhibit

Created by  
Mind's Eye Productions,  
Houma, Louisiana



- Southdown Plantation Home in Houma
- Lafourche Visitor Center in Raceland
- Shrimp and Petroleum Festival in Morgan City
- Heritage and Folklife Museum in Lockport
- South Lafourche Library in Golden Meadow





# Special Challenges

- Knowledge required of interviewers increased over time
- Balance limits of time and personnel with benefits of including many participants
- Manage enormous volume of data and materials
- Organize the material for access

# Products

- Endnote database summarizing interviews
- Excel table of interviewees
- Digital files of audio recordings
- Digital files with transcripts of interviews
- Excel table of photos
- Digital files of photos
- Technical papers
- Reports on Morgan City, South Lafourche, Terrebonne Parish



# Archives

- University of Houston
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- Nicholls State University (Thibodaux, LA)
- Louisiana State University Center for Energy Studies (Baton Rouge)
- Morgan City Archives
- Lafourche Parish Library (Golden Meadow, LA)

# Endnote Database

EndNote 8 - Boudreaux, 2001, 2002 #12

File Edit References Tools Window Help

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MPL for Offshore History

Ethnoprereface library Final Submitted to MMS

Author	Date	Place Published	Secondary Author	Title
Benton	April 8, 2002	Houma, LA	Bernier	University of Arizona
Bergeron	January 24, 2003	Houma, LA	Sell	University of Arizona
Bernard	July 30, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Wiltz	University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Bernard	July 22, 2001, July 21, 20...	Golden Meadow, ...	Tom McGuire	University of Arizona
Besson	March 19, 2003	Grand Isle, LA	McGuire	University of Arizona
Bibee	May 27, 2003	Weimar, TX	Priest	University of Houston/History International
Billiot	July 24, 2003	Dulac, LA	Kennedy	University of Arizona
Billiot	January 19, 2005	Dulac, LA	Joanna Stone	University of Arizona
Billodeau	June 17, 2002	Lafayette, LA		
Blackburn	September 23, 1999	Dallas, TX		
Blanchard	February 3, 2003	Houma, LA		
Blanchard	March 25, 2002	Houma, LA		
Blum	March 1, 2003	Morgan City, LA		
Bollinger	July 28, 2003	Lockport, LA		
Bonnette	January 29, 2003	Houma, LA		
Bookout	July 16, 1998, September...	Houston, TX		
Boudreaux	October 2, 2001, January...	Houma, LA		
Bougeois	August 9, 2002	Lafayette, LA		
Bourg	February 5, 2003	Montegut, LA		
Boykin	June 28, 2001	Bayou Vista, LA		
Bradshaw	May 7, 2003	Lafayette, LA		
Brasted	December 19, 1997	Houston, TX		
Breaux	April 12, 2001	New Iberia, LA		
Breaux	October 3, 2001, July 21, ...	Larose, LA		
Broman	December 15, 1999	Houston, TX		
Brooks	April 2, 2003	Houma, LA		
Broussard	October 2002, December...	New Iberia, LA		
Broussard	November 15, 2002	New Iberia, LA		
Besson, Frank "Peco"	March 19, 2003	Grand Isle, LA		

Showing 486 out of 486 references.

Boudreaux, 2001, 2002 #12

Reference Type: Personal Communication

**Abstract**

I met Moye Boudreaux at the ecology festival hosted by the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation in Thibodaux. She was sitting near our booth resting when she realized that we were doing a history study. She and her daughter came over and talked about their experiences in the oil and gas industry. Moye had sent a message to the email address we set up for the project. We exchanged cards and agreed to meet the following week. Moye was very happy to set up a time to get together, and we met at the Terrebonne Council on Aging, where she is helping the organization set up new offices, partially furnished by Exxon.

Moye was born in 1939 in Palestine, Texas and first arrived in Louisiana as a young girl when her father took a job in a newly developed oilfield operated by Tidewater Oil Company in Venice, Louisiana. Moye grew up in Venice, moved with her family to Houma for a few years as a young teenager, and then returned to Venice to finish high school. Moye began working in the oil and gas industry right out of school and worked for Exxon until her retirement in 1994. Among her other activities, Moye was president of the Desk and Derrick Club, a women's club organized in New Orleans in 1949 to help educate women employees about the oil and gas industry.

**Notes**

Summary of DA014:

Early history: Moye Penney Douglas Boudreaux; father from Cayuga, Texas, mother from Kesse, Texas; father worked as roustabout in Cayuga 1939-1942; Buck Smotherman first to go to Venice, wrote back looking for

# Endnote Database Search

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Ethnopreface library Final Submitted to MMS

Author	Date	Place Published	Secondary Author	Title
Billiot	January 19, 2005	Dulac, LA	Joanna Stone	University of Arizona
Bundy	July 23, 2001	Houma, LA	Anand	University of Arizona
Charpentier	January 14, 2003	Amelia, LA	Austin	University of Arizona
Clark	June 25, 2003	Amarillo, TX	Priest	University of Houston/History International
Couvillon	July 9, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Wiltz	University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Dominique	January 17, 2002, Januar...	Houma, LA	Bernier	University of Arizona
Fanguy	July 16, 2001	Houma, LA	Anand	University of Arizona
Farmer	February 12, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Carriker	University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Garacci	November 21, 2002	New Iberia, LA	Wiltz	University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Geist	June 28, 2003, January 1...	Gray, LA	James Sell	University of Arizona
George	August 13, 2002; Februar...	Lafayette, LA	Wiltz	University of Louisiana at Lafayette
George	September 25, 2001, Jan...	Larose, LA	Austin	
Grow	October 5, 2000, July 18, ...	Morgan City, LA	Rylan H	
Kleinpeter	January 24, 2002	New Iberia, LA	Austin	
Looper	February 22, 2003	Golden Meadow, ...	Toups	
Patout	March 13 2002	New Iberia, LA	Cummi	
Perron	September 29, 2001	Lafayette, LA	McGuir	
Pitre	September 24, 2001	Cut Off, LA	McGuir	
Richardelle	July 22, 2001	Cut Off, LA	Austin	
Richardelle	July 22, 2001, January 21...	Cut Off, LA	Austin	
Smith	September 19, 2002	Lafayette, LA	DiTucc	
Vining	March 16, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Christy	
Vining	January 21, 2005, Januar...	Morgan City, LA	Christi	
Wallace	July 16, 2001, January 20...	Larose, LA	Diane	

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Save Search Load Search Set Default Restore Default

Add Field Insert Field Delete Field

Billiot, Wenceslaus "Win" January 19, 2005 Dulac, LA Betsy Plumb Joanna Stone JLS03 University of Arizona

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