

Valerie A. Olson

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

PhD, Anthropology, 2010
Rice University, Houston, TX

BA *Summa cum laude*, History, 1991
University of California, Davis
Minor: Anthropology

Professional Positions

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
UC Irvine, Irvine CA (2012-present).
Research Associate, Department of Anthropology
Rice University, Houston, TX (2010 - 2014).
Lecturer in Anthropology and Cross-Cultural Studies
University of Houston, Houston and Clearlake TX (2011 - 2012).
Instructor of Record, Department of Anthropology
Rice University, Houston TX (2009 - 2012).
Senior Project Manager
UC Davis Health System, Sacramento CA (2000 - 2002).
Research Project Manager
UC Davis Health System, Sacramento CA (2000 - 2000).
Assistant Statistician and Project Analyst
UC San Francisco Center for Reproductive Health Research and
Policy, Sacramento and Berkeley CA (1998 - 2000).

Professional Memberships

American Anthropological Association
Anthropology and Environment Society

RESEARCH

Publications

Books

Olson, Valerie. 2018. Into the Extreme: U.S. Environmental Systems and Politics Beyond Earth. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Journal Articles, Peer-Reviewed

Olson, Valerie A. and Lisa Messeri. 2015. Beyond the Anthropocene: UnEarthing an Epoch." Environment and Society: Advances in Research. 6: 28-47

Battaglia, Debhora, David Valentine, and Valerie **Olson**. 2015. "Relational Space: An Earthly Installation." Cultural Anthropology. 30(2), 245 - 256.

Valentine, David, Valerie A. **Olson**, and Debhora Battaglia. 2012. "Extreme: Limits and Horizons of the Once and Future Cosmos." Anthropology Quarterly 85(4): 1007-1026.

Olson, Valerie A. 2012. "Political Ecology in the Extreme: Asteroid Activism and the Making of an Environmental Solar System." Anthropological Quarterly 85(4): 1027-1044.

Olson, Valerie A. 2010. "The Ecobiopolitics of Space Biomedicine." Medical Anthropology 29(2): 170-193.

Lang, Thomas A., Margaret Hodge, Valerie A. **Olson**, Patrick S. Romano, and Richard L. Kravitz. 2004 "Nurse-patient Ratios: A Systematic Review on the Effects of Nurse Staffing on Patient, Nurse Employee, and Hospital Outcomes." Journal of Nursing Administration 34(7-8): 326-337.

Hodge, Margaret, Patrick S. Romano, Danielle Harvey, Steven J. Samuels, Valerie A. **Olson**, Mary Jane Sauvé, Richard L. Kravitz. 2004. "Licensed Caregiver Characteristics and Staffing in California Acute Care Hospital Units." Journal of Nursing Administration 34(3): 125-33.

Hodge, Margaret B., Steven M. Asch, Valerie A. **Olson**, Richard L. Kravitz, and Mary Jane Sauvé. 2002. "Developing Indicators of Nursing

Quality to Evaluate Nurse Staffing Ratios." Journal of Nursing Administration 32(6): 338-45.

Book Chapters, Peer-Reviewed

Olson, Valerie "NEOspace: the Solar System's Emerging Environmental History and Politics." New Natures: Joining Environmental History with STS. 2013. Ed. Dolly Jörgensen, Finn-Arne Jörgensen, & Sara Pritchard. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh University Press.

Robinson, Julie A., Kelly J. Slack, Valerie A. **Olson**, Mike H. Trenchard, Kim J. Willis, Pam J. Baskin, Jennifer E. Boyd. "Patterns in Crew-initiated Photography of Earth from the ISS – Is Earth Observation a Salutogenic Experience?" 2011. Psychology of Space Exploration: Contemporary Research in Historical Perspective. Ed. Douglas A. Vakoch. Washington, D.C: NASA History Program Office.

Other Journal, Magazine, and Blog Articles

Olson, Valerie A. 2015. The Environment's Environment: Making the Anthropocene's Boundaries Visible. CASTAC Blog: Committee on the Anthropology of Science, Technology and Computing. <http://blog.castac.org/2015/06/environments-environment/>

Valentine, David, Debora Battaglia, and Valerie A. **Olson**. 2009. "Encountering the Future." Anthropology News 50.9: 11-15.

Olson, Valerie A. 2005. "Historical Perspectives on Anthropology and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence: Panel discussion, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting 2005." Anthropology Today 22(2): 25.

Selected Invited Presentations: Keynote, Speaker, Panels

"Materializing Wastelands" – Invited Speaker and Workshop Presenter, Mellon-Sawyer Seminar. *Lecture*: "How Oil Makes Ecosystems: The Political Ecology of Ruin and Restoration in the Gulf of Mexico," *Workshop*: "Systems' as Cultural Objects: Analyzing Systematicity, Scalarity, and Outlying Relations," (Mar 29 - 30, 2018) Washington University, St. Louis, MO. <https://www.materializingwastelands.org/>

- “Ecofeminism Panel” – Invited Moderator, Expanding Perspectives in Gender Equality Conference, Sponsors: UCI School of Social Ecology, Law, School of Social Ecology, the Newkirk Center, the Initiative to End Family Violence, and the UCI Empowering Sustainability initiative. (July 19, 2017).
- “Climate Change, Education, and Action in the Era of Trump” - Invited Speaker on Panel, UCI School of Education (May 8, 2017).
- "System Subjectivity" - Speaker on Invited Panel: “Uncommon Territories of the ‘Common Good’” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Sponsored by Society for Cultural Anthropology, Minneapolis, MN. (December 4, 2016).
- “Ecological Forepositioning: Ontological Tactics in Interdisciplinary Collaboration” - Invited Speaker, Tsukuba Global Science Week, Tsukuba University, Tsukuba, Japan. (Sept 18, 2016).
- “Doing Ethnographies in/of Systems Science and Technology in Outer Space, Ocean, and Desert” - Invited Speaker, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies’ Research Seminar Series, Yale University, New Haven, CT (November 4, 2015)
- “Subjects of the System: Subjectivity in Systems Science and Technology” - Invited Speaker, Tsukuba Global Science Week, Tsukuba University, Tsukuba, Japan. (Sept 28, 2015).
- “Sustainability as a Cultural Concept” - Invited Speaker, Back Bay Science Center, Sponsored by Newport Beach Conservation, Newport Beach, CA (June 27, 2015)
- “The Final Frontier: Renewing America’s Space Program Conference”- Panelist and Featured Speaker, Sponsored by Atlantic Council Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security and SAIC, Washington, DC. (September 16, 2014).
- “Keynote Address: Fieldwork in the Ecotone” – The 6th Annual McGill University Anthropology Graduate Student Conference, McGill University Department of Anthropology, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. (March 21, 2014).
- "Can the Oyster Point? The Indexical Lives of Animals in Ecosystem Science and Politics" - Invited Speaker, University of Tsukuba - Global Science Week, Panel: Technology, Anthropology, Umwelt, Tsukuba University, Tsukuba, Japan. (October 2, 2013).

Guest Curator and Speaker, California State University, Chico. Valene Smith Museum of Anthropology, for "Infinity and Beyond: Humanity's Quest to Explore Space" Exhibition, Chico, California. (2012 – 2013).

"The Deepwater Horizon Spill: Beneath the Surfaces" - Invited Speaker, Miller Worley Center for the Environment, Mt. Holyoke University, South Hadley, Massachusetts. (February 18, 2011).

"The Political Cosmology of Planetary Ends and Means" - Speaker on Invited Panel: Extreme: Histories and Economies of Humanness Inside Outerspaces, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Sponsored by American Ethnological Society and Society for Cultural Anthropology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (December 4, 2009).

Professional Interviews and Podcasts

"Relational Space: Outer Space Trilogy 3." Cultural Anthropology Podcast: Anthropolod. March 14, 2017, Interviewer: Willi Lempert <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/1081-outer-space-trilogy-3-ice-cream-and-architecture>

"L'espace comme terrain, quelques enseignements de l'anthropologie (2). Entretien avec Valerie Olson June 15, 2016. [tr. "Space as field, some lessons from anthropology (2)" Interview with Valerie Olson"] Humanities Spatiales. Interviewer: Segolene Guinard. <http://humanites-spatiales.fr/lespace-comme-terrain-quelques-enseignements-de-lanthropologie-2/>

"A Cup of Coffee in Outer Space -- a Brief Interview with Valerie Olson," Appeared In: Cultures of Energy Blog: Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences @ Rice University. Interviewer: Trevor Durbin. <http://culturesofenergy.com/?p=1501>. (November 4, 2013).

"Anthropologist Gets Immersed in NASA Culture," Rice University News. Brotzen, Reporter: Franz. *Tagline*: "When Valerie Olson came to Rice, she wanted to study the culture of scientific experimentation. But she didn't know how close she would get to the subject." <http://news.rice.edu/2007/09/05/anthropologist-gets-immersed-in-nasa-culture>

Contracts, Grants, and Sponsored Research

Olson, Valerie (Principal Investigator) “OWOW Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program: Community Water Ethnography Post-Doc Research Project,” (Timeline: September 2017 – August 2018).

Allison, Steven, (Co-Principal Investigator, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) and **Valerie Olson** (Co-Principal Investigator), “Increasing the relevance and social impact of climate research at UC Irvine,” Science&Society@UCIGrant, Newkirk Center for Science and Society, (September 2017 – June 2018).

Olson, Valerie (Principal Investigator in Sub-Award), "Explaining Ecological Catastrophe: A Pilot Ethnographic Study on the Production of Explanatory Models of the “BP Spill” and its Social and Natural Ecologies," NOAA - National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, (October 2010 - March 2013).

Olson, Valerie. (Co-Principal Investigator), “Extending Human Presence: Spacecraft Design Practices and the Making of a Social Outer Space” NSF - National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, (June 1, 2006 - May 31, 2007)

Olson, Valerie. (2006-7 Awardee) Lodieska Stockbridge Vaughn Dissertation Scholarship, Rice University.