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CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

PhD, Anthropology, 2010
Rice University, Houston, TX
Dissertation Title: "American Extreme: An Ethnography of
Astronautical Visions and Ecologies"
Committee: James D. Faubion (Chair), Amy Ninetto, Cyrus Mody

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

Professional Positions

Associate 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 AND CREATIVE WORK

Publications

Books

Peterson, Kristin, and **Valerie Olson**. 2024. *The Ethnographer's Way: A Handbook for Multidimensional Research Design*. Durham: Duke University Press.

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

Book Chapters, Peer-Reviewed

Olson, Valerie A. 2023. "Gulf of Mexico, Oil Spill, Environment, Industry," In *Naked Fieldnotes: A Rough Guide to Ethnographic Writing*. Elliot, Denielle and Mattnew J. Wolf-Meyer, eds. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Olson, Valerie A. 2023. "Refielding in More-Than-Terran Spaces." In Salazar, Juan Francisco and Alice Gorman, eds. *The Routledge Handbook of Social Studies of Outer Space*. London: Routledge Press.

Olson, Valerie 2013. "NEOspace: the Solar System's Emerging Environmental History and Politics." In *New Natures: Joining Environmental History with STS*. Dolly Jörgensen, Finn-Arne Jörgensen, & Sara Pritchard, eds. 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. 2011. "Patterns in Crew-initiated Photography of Earth from the ISS – Is Earth Observation a Salutogenic Experience?" In *Psychology of Space Exploration: Contemporary Research in Historical Perspective*. Douglas A. Vakoch, ed. Washington, D.C: NASA History Program Office.

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.

Other Editor Reviewed Journal, Magazine, and Blog Articles

- Olson**, Valerie. 2022. "Ecological Wartime." Theorizing the Contemporary, *Fieldsights*, January 25. Cultural Anthropology. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/ecological-wartime>
- Olson**, Valerie. 2018. Unbounding the Field/Note. Society for Cultural Anthropology culanth.org. Theorizing the Contemporary, *Fieldsights*, December 18. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/unbounding-the-field-note>
- 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, Debhora 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.

Public Policy Research Reports

Olson, Valerie (Lead Author) *et al.* 2019. Community Water Experiences: An Ethnographically-Informed Strengths and Needs Assessment. Accepted by Santa Ana Project Authority, 9/24/19.
<https://sawpa.org/owow/dci-program/>

Brooks, Emily, Simone Popperl, Valerie **Olson**, 2018. UCI Pilot Project Analysis Report. Accepted by Santa Ana Project Authority, October 9, 2018.

Artwork Collaborations and Residencies

Gass, Linda "When We Listen to the Watershed," multimedia, fabric, sound installation in invited research collaboration with Valerie **Olson**. 2022. Commissioned work for *Dissolve*, an exhibition curated by Bridget R. Cooks, PhD. Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, UC Irvine.

Hill, Julie F. with Valerie **Olson** in collaborative residency. 2021. *Chemical Kinship with Stony Entities*. Text to accompany the installation: [In the debris of planets](#). Residency collaboration commission by the Land Art Agency, London, England Agency. <https://www.landartagency.com/shop/p/the-chemical-kinship-of-stony-entities-booklet>

Contracts, Grants and Sponsored Research

Grants: Principle Investigator, Co-Investigator, or Collaborator

Allison, Steven, Principal Investigator, with Jenerett, Cleland, *et al* (Co-Principal Investigators, including *inter alia* **Valerie Olson** (Co-Investigator), Wildland-Urban Interface Climate Action Network (WUICAN), **September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2025), UC Office of the President**

Olson, Valerie (Co-Principal Investigator), David Feldman (Co-Principal Investigator), and Nicola Ullibari (Co-Principal Investigator), “A Framework for Water Quality Improvement – Identifying Best Practices for China and the U.S.”, **Cyrus Tang Foundation, September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024).**

Olson, Valerie (UCI Principal Investigator) “Santa Ana Watershed Community Ethnography Strengths and Needs Assessment Research Project,” SAWPA (Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority), (September 2017 – Oct 2019).

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).

Professional Media: Interviews, Podcasts

“Progress, Innovation, Disruption and Endless Growth Interview” conducted by by Nicholas Maigret and Maria Roszkowska for disnovation.org, CallIT 2 Evoke Lab, April 24, 2019

“Into the Extreme,” by Michael Robinson for Time to Eat the Dogs: A Podcast about Science, History, and Exploration, November 19, 2018. timetoeatthedogs.com/2018/11/19/episode-61-into-the-extreme

“Valerie Olson on Her Book: Into the Extreme,” Rorotoko, June 24, 2018. rorotoko.com/interview/20180625_olson_valerie_on_book_into_extreme_us_environmental_systems

“System, Space and Ecobiopolitics: A Conversation with Valerie Olson About “Into the Extreme” Interview with Lisa Messeri, Platypus: the CASTAC Blog, blog.castac.org/2018/08/system-space

“Relational Space: Outer Space Trilogy 3.” Cultural Anthropology Podcast: Anthropod. March 14, 2017, Interviewer: Willi Lempert 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”] Humanties 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>