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**Education**

PhD, Rice University, 2010.

Anthropology

Dissertation Title: American extreme: An ethnography of astronomical  
visions and ecologies

Advisor: Faubion, J. D., Ninetto, A., Mody, C.

BA, *Summa cum laude*, University of California, Davis, 1991.

Major: History

Minor: Anthropology

**Professional Positions**

Assistant Professor, Anthropology, UC Irvine (2012-present).

Complimentary Research Associate, Rice University. (September 2010 -  
May 2014).

Lecturer, University of Houston. (September 2011 - May 2012).

Lecturer, University of Houston, Clear Lake. (January 2011 - May 2012).

Instructor, Rice University. (January 2009 - May 2012).

Senior Project Manager, UC Davis Health System. (December 2000 - July  
2002).

Research Project Manager, UC Davis Health System. (April 2000 -  
December 2000).

Assistant Statistician and Project Analyst, UC San Francisco: Center for  
Reproductive Health Research and Policy (now: Bixby Center for  
Global Reproductive Health). (June 1998 - April 2000).

**Professional Memberships**

American Anthropological Association.

Anthropology and Environment Society.

## RESEARCH

### Publications

#### Book Chapters, Peer-Reviewed

Olson, Valerie "NEOspace: the solar system's emerging environmental history and politics." New Natures: Joining Environmental History with STS. Ed. Dolly Jorgenson Ph.D., Finn-Arne Jorgenson Ph.D., & Sara Pritchard. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh University Press, 2013.

Robinson et al. "Patterns in crew-initiated photography of Earth from the ISS – Is Earth observation a salutogenic experience?." Psychology of Space Exploration: Contemporary Research in Historical Perspective. Ed. Douglas A. Vakoch Ph.D.. Washington, D.C: NASA History Program Office, 2011.

#### Journal Articles, Peer-Reviewed

Valentine, David (Ph.D.), Valerie Olson, and Debhora Battaglia. "Extreme: Limits and Horizons of the Once and Future Cosmos." Anthropology Quarterly 85.4 (2012): 1007-1026.

Olson, Valerie "Political Ecology in the Extreme: Asteroid Activism and the Making of an Environmental Solar System." Anthropological Quarterly 85.4 (2012): 1027-1044.

Olson, Valerie A. (Ph.D.) "The Ecobiopolitics of Space Biomedicine." Medical Anthropology 29.2 (2010): 170-193.

Lang, Thomas A. (Ph.D.), Margaret Hodge (R.N., Ph.D.), Valerie A. Olson (B.A.), Patrick S. Romano (M.D., M.P.H.), and Richard L. Kravitz (M.D., M.S.P.H.). "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 (2004): 326-337.

Hodge et al.. "Licensed Caregiver Characteristics and Staffing in California Acute Care Hospital Units." Journal of Nursing Administration 34.3 (2004): 125-33.

Hodge, Margaret B. (R.N., Ph.D.), Steven M. Asch (Ph.D.), Valerie A. Olson (B.A.), Richard L. Kravitz (M.D., M.S.P.H.), and Mary Jane Sauve (R.N, Ph.D.). "Developing Indicators of Nursing Quality to Evaluate Nurse Staffing Ratios." Journal of Nursing Administration 32.6 (2002): 338-45.

### **Journal Articles, Other**

Olson, Valerie A. (Ph.D.) "Review of "The History of Anthropological Contributions to SETI" panel at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting 2005." Anthropology Today 22.2: 25. (Review of Conference Panel).

Valentine, David, Debhora Battaglia (Ph.D.), and Valerie A. Olson (Ph.D.). "Encountering the Future." Anthropology News 50.9 (2009): 11-15.

### **Magazine Articles**

Olson, Valerie and Elitza Ranova. "Deep Blue Something: Life in Inner Space." Edno July 2006: 134 - 135. (Publication in Bulgarian. <http://edno.bg/index.php/en/edno-magazine>).

### **Invited Speaker**

Panelist and Featured Speaker, "The Final Frontier: Renewing America's Space Program Conference" Sponsored by Atlantic Council Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security and SAIC, Washington, DC. (September 16, 2014).

Keynote Speaker, The 6th Annual McGill University Anthropology Graduate Student Conference, "Keynote Address," McGill University Department of Anthropology, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. (March 21, 2014).

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," Miller Worley Center for the Environment, South Hadley, Massachusetts. (February 18, 2011).

### **Other Presentations**

Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science And the Arts, "Flowtastrophe," Society for Literature, Science And the Arts, Panel: The Aquatic Anthropocene, Dallas, Texas. (October 9, 2014).

UC Irvine Earth Systems Science Seminar Series, "Ecosystems as anthropological objects of study: an example and a discussion," UC Irvine Earth Systems Science, University of California, Irvine, Croul Hall 3101. (February 26, 2014).

Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, "Oil As Water: the Elemental Politics of Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration," Panel: Scarcity, Adequacy, Excess: Watery Values and the Materiality of Politics, Chicago, Illinois. (November 4, 2013).

Annual Meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science, Panel: Dirt: Thinking With and About Soil, San Diego, California. (October 10, 2013).

University of Tsukuba - Global Science Week, "Can the Oyster Point? The Indexical Lives of Animals in Ecosystem Science and Politics," Panel: Technology, Anthropology, Umwelt, Tsukuba University, Tsukuba, Japan. (October 2, 2013).

California State University, Chico and Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology, "To Infinity and Beyond" "We All Live in the 'NEOverse'," California State University, Chico and Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology, Chico, California. (April 18, 2013).

Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Panel: Alter(native) Visions of Futures and Outer Spaces, San Francisco, California. (November 17, 2012).

Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, "Governing Socio-Natural Infrastructures: Ecosystem Health Indicators after the Deepwater Horizon Spill," Panel: Ecobiopolitics Today II (Second Session of Double Panel). (November 15, 2012).

Annual Meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science, "Pricing Natural Treasures and Animal Ghosts: Scientific Collaborations to Financialize the Gulf Ecosystem after the Deepwater Horizon Disaster," Panel: From Many Angles: The Deepwater Horizon Disaster and Disaster Science. (November 5, 2011).

Bringing STS Into Environmental History Workshop, "NEOecology: Near Earth Objects and the Solar System's Extreme Environment History and Politics," Cornell University, Research Council of Norway, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and the Network in Canadian History of the Environment, Trondheim, Norway. (August 2010).

Society for Cultural Anthropology Annual Meeting, Olson, V. (Coordinator/Organizer) and Romain, T. (Coordinator/Organizer), "From Foresight to Forepositioning: Ontological Tactics in Technology

- Advocacy," Panel: Geek Cosmologies: Crafting Future Nature/Cultures, Santa Fe, New Mexico. (May 2010).
- Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, "The Political Cosmology of Planetary Ends and Means," American Ethnological Society and Society for Cultural Anthropology, Panel: Extreme: Histories and Economies of Humanness Inside Outerspaces, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (December 4, 2009).
- Society for the Anthropology of Religion Annual Meeting, with Weibel, D. "I Have Filled it with Energy!': The Manufacture of Relics by Voyagers to Sacred Space(s)," Pacific Grove, California. (March 2009).
- Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, "Synchronizing Space Time: Temporal Heterogeneities and the Astronaut Body," Panel: The Body in/and Time, Washington, D.C. (November 2007).
- Rice University Annual English Symposium, "The Effects of Microgravity on the Concept of Normal: Making Standard Patients in Space," Houston, Texas. (February 2007).
- Society for Applied Anthropology/Society for Medical Anthropology Annual Meeting, "Earth normal/space normal: reconfigured categories of health and disability at the edge of the human environment," Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. (March 2006).
- Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, "Biopower in the Extreme: Space Analog Experimentation and the Governmental Management of Survival," Panel: Biopolitics: The Historical Life of a Technology of Governmentality, Washington, D.C. (December 2005).
- Rice University Annual English Symposium, "Hippocrates' work permit: the changing politics and ethics of transnational physician migration," Houston, Texas. (March 2005).
- M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Clinical Ethics Directed Reading Group, "Therapeutic Misconception: a Critical Review of Recent Literature." (February 2004).

### **Professional Interview Articles**

- "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,” Interview appeared In:  
Rice University News. Brotzen, 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/](http://news.rice.edu/2007/09/05/anthropologist-gets-immersed-in-nasa-culture/)

## **Contracts, Grants and Sponsored Research**

### **Grants (PI, Co-PI, and Participation as Investigator, Collaborator, or Adviser)**

Olson, Valerie (Collaborator), Chandler, Nahum (Principal Investigator),  
"STAR: Science, Technology, and Race," School of Humanities.  
(February 2014 - Present).

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, \$9,500.00. (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)

### **Subcontracts**

Olson, Valerie (Faculty Adviser), "JPL-Funded Water UCI  
Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Team," NASA - National  
Aeronautics & Space Administration. (August 2014 - June 2015).

## **Professional Service**

Journal Article Reviewer: American Anthropologist, Progress in Human  
Geography, HAU, The Mars Journal, Estuaries and Coasts

## **TEACHING**

### **Special Pedagogical Activities**

Workshop, UCI Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies and UCI Center for Ethnography, (May 24, 2014 - Present).

Co-Organizer (with Andrea Ballesterio, Rice University) "Like Oil and Water: Graduate Student Project Development Workshop. This sponsored meeting matched Andrea Ballesterio (Rice University) and Nikhil Anand (Princeton Institute for Advanced Study and University of Minnesota) with UCI social science and humanities graduate students to workshop problems of materiality and scale in their dissertation projects.

Mentor for 2013 AAA Mentoring Breakout Session, American Anthropological Association, (November 23, 2013).

Available as an on-the-spot mentor in Science and Technology Studies and Envirotechnical Systems for graduate student participants at the Annual American Anthropological Meeting

Workshop, Department of Anthropology, Center for Ethnography, (May 25, 2013).

Provided intellectual and organizational guidance for student organizers of "Speculative Ecologies: Using Theories of Ecology to Re-Imagine Your Research" based on their coursework in the "Risky Spaces" seminar (ANTH 289 W2013).

<http://www.socsci.uci.edu/node/15970>

Workshop, Department of Anthropology, (April 26, 2013).

Mentor participant for annual "Anthro In Transit Conference" 2013, "Best Laid Plans: Imagined Futures, Forgotten Pasts, and Unintended Consequences"

## **SERVICE**

### **University Service**

Member, Sustainability Initiative Executive Committee. (May 1, 2014 - Present).

Member, Task Force on Sustainability Education. (April 8, 2014 - Present).

Member, Assessment Committee. (July 2013 - Present).

Reviewer, Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad  
Program Pre-Selection Committee. (June 17, 2014 - June 20, 2014).

Mentor, Graduate Division Summer Research Program. (July 1, 2013 -  
September 30, 2013).