

## KYLE GREGORY OLSON, PH.D.

Lecturer in Archaeology, Department of Anthropology  
122A McMillan Hall, Washington University CB 1114  
One Brookings Drive, St. Louis MO 63130

[kyleo@wustl.edu](mailto:kyleo@wustl.edu)

<http://www.olsonkg.com>

### Appointments

2022-23 Lecturer. Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Anthropology  
2021-22 Post-Doctoral Fellow. Koç University, Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations

### Education

2013-20 Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania. Dissertation: *Models of Trade and Polity Formation in Bronze Age Northeastern Iran, ca. 3200-1600 BCE*  
2008-12 B.A., Anthropology and Near Eastern Languages & Cultures, Ohio State University

### Fellowships

2016-20 Junior Fellow. Louis J. Kolb Society of Fellows at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology  
2015 Critical Language Scholarship. Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan  
2013-18 Benjamin Franklin Graduate Fellowship. University of Pennsylvania  
2012 Critical Language Scholarship. Vladimir, Russian Federation

### Research Grants

2020 Louis J. Kolb Foundation Greenwalt Project Fund (\$7000) [Declined]  
2018 Penn Museum Director's Field Fund Research Grant (\$7500)  
2017 American Institute of Iranian Studies Pre-Dissertation Fellowship (\$7320)  
2011 OSU Arts & Sciences Summer Undergraduate Research Scholarship (\$7000)  
2011 OSU Undergraduate Research Office Summer Research Fellowship (\$3500)

### Publications in Journals, Edited Volumes, and Conference Proceedings (\*Peer-Reviewed)

(In Prep) **Olson, K.G.** & Luke, C. Foreign Experts, Field Archaeologists and River Basin Development in Cold War Iran and Turkey. For submission to: *International History Review*  
(In Prep) New Life for Old Maps: Integrative Methods for Restudy of Archaeological Surveys. For submission to: *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*  
2021\* "Heritage Diplomacy and US-Iran Relations: The Case of the Iranian Antiquities Bill of 1930." In: *American-Iranian Dialogues: An International History from Constitution to White Revolution*, edited by Matthew K. Shannon, pp. 57-72. Bloomsbury Academic, New York  
2021\* Disciplinary Futures and Reorienting Research: A Reply to Jobson and Rosenzweig on Doing Anthropology in the Age of COVID. *American Anthropologist* 123(1): 170-175 [doi.org/10.1111/aman.13526](https://doi.org/10.1111/aman.13526)

- 2021\* **Olson, K.G.** & Thornton, C.P. Tureng Tepe, a Bronze Age Center in Northeastern Iran Revisited (The Wulsin Excavations, 1931). *Iran: Journal of the British Institute of Persian Studies* 59(1): 4-35  
[doi.org/10.1080/05786967.2019.1679034](https://doi.org/10.1080/05786967.2019.1679034)
- 2020\* McCorrison, J., Buffington, A., **Olson, K.G.**, Martin, L., Abu-Azizeh, W., Everhart, T. Ancient Pastoral Settlement in the Southern Mountains: Archaeological Excavations at Shakeel and Halqoot, Dhofar. *Journal of Oman Studies* 21: 152-171
- 2020\* Figurines and Identity in Bronze Age Iran: An analysis of adornment, context, and use at Tureng Tepe. *Archäologische Mitteilungen Aus Iran und Turan* Band 49 (2017): 123-147
- 2018\* **Olson, K.G.** & Rouse, L.M. A Practical Guide to Meso-Scale Survey with Quadrotor UAV Systems. *Advances in Archaeological Practice* 6(4): 357-371  
[doi.org/10.1017/aap.2018.26](https://doi.org/10.1017/aap.2018.26)
- 2014 Reintroducing Tureng Tepe and the Wulsin's Terracotta Ladies and Gentlemen. *Proceedings of the International Conference of Young Archaeologists, University of Tehran, October 2013*. Kharanaghi, M.H.A., Khanipour, M., & Naseri, R., (eds.), pp. 41-50. Tehran: University of Tehran Publishers
- 2013 Hozhabri, A. & **Olson, K.G.** Investigation into the Mudbrick Architectural Units at Ecbatana – Hamadan. *Iranian Archaeology* 4: 111-120 (Translator)
- 2013 Conference Report. *Iranian Archaeology* 4: 120-122
- 2011\* Moritz, M., Giblin, J., Ciccone, M., Davis, A., Fuhrman, J., Kimiaie, M., Madzsar, S., **Olson, K.G.**, Senn, M. Social Risk Management Strategies in Pastoral Systems: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis. *Cross-Cultural Research* 45(3): 286-317 [doi.org/10.1177%2F1069397111402464](https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1069397111402464)

### Online Publications (\*Edited and/or Fact-Checked)

(In Revision)\* Destination Persia: The Development of Iran's Tourism Strategy in the 1960s.

*AjamMC*

- 2022 [The Past, Present, and Future of Beyoğlu](#). *ANAMED Blog* (2/22)
- 2021\* Mickel, A. & **Olson, K.** [Archaeologists Should Be Activists Too](#). *SAPIENS* (7/27)
- 2021\* [Refusing the Dig Gig](#). *Refuse: A Journal of Iconoclasm* 1
- 2020\* American Sanctions vs. Iranian Heritage. *Bourse & Bazaar*
- I. [American Policy Casts a Shadow Over Persepolis](#) (10/29)
  - II. [For Tourism in Iran, It Wasn't Supposed to Be Like This](#) (11/5)
  - III. [Museum Diplomacy Falter in the Face of Iran Sanctions](#) (11/12)
  - IV. [Iran Archaeology is Awaiting a Sanctions Breakthrough](#) (11/20)
  - V. [What Archaeology Can Achieve in US-Iran Relations](#) (11/25)
- 2017 [A Pioneer in Iran](#). *Historier från Samlingarna*
- 2015 [Trekking in Transoxiana](#). *Penn Museum Blog*
- 2014 [Survey Methodology in the Şarur Plain](#). *Penn Museum Blog*

### Teaching Experience

- 2021 Second Faculty. Brooklyn Institute for Social Research. “Power and Resistance: Social Movements in Theory and Practice”

- 2021 Second Faculty. Brooklyn Institute for Social Research. "Archive Theory: Knowledge, Power, and Photography"
- 2019 Certificate in Teaching and Learning. CTL, University of Pennsylvania
- 2017-18 Instructor. Learning How to Podcast Workshop Series, [camra@Penn](mailto:camra@Penn)
- 2016, 2018 Field School Instructor. Smith Creek Archaeological Project
- 2016 Teaching Assistant. UPenn. "Becoming Human"
- 2015 Teaching Assistant. UPenn. "Globalization"
- 2015 Teaching Assistant. UPenn. "Great Transformations: From the Origins of Agriculture to the Modern World"
- 2014 Teaching Assistant. UPenn. "Food & Fire: Archaeology in the Laboratory"
- 2014 Teaching Assistant Training Program, University of Pennsylvania

### Invited Talks

- 2021 "Spotlighting an Author - Kyle Olson: US-Iran Relations through the Lens of Heritage Diplomacy." *Iran1400 Project*. Jun. 4<sup>th</sup>
- 2020 [Community and Polity Geography in Northeastern Iran during the Third Millennium BCE](#). *Online Research Seminar Series on Early Urbanization in Iran: Development of the Urban Centers in the Iranian Plateau (University of Lyon 2 and Padova University)*. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>
- 2019 The Penn Museum in Iran: an archaeological history. "Shab-Ahang": *The Iranian Cultural Society of America*. Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>

### Podcast Production, Editing, and Interview Appearances

- 2020 Interviewee. "[Researcher profile](#)." *The Iranian Studies Collective*
- 2019 Interviewer. "[Collaborative Digital Archaeology](#)." *Anthropological Airwaves*
- 2019 Interviewee. "[Using Drones for Survey with Kyle Olson](#)." *ArchaeoTech*
- 2017-19 Lead Editor and Co-Producer (22 episodes). "[Anthropological Airwaves](#)." *American Anthropologist* (Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Deborah Thomas)

### National and International Conference Presentations

- 2021 The Role of Professional Organizations in American-Iranian Archaeological Cooperation. *Society of Iranian Archaeology Conference*. Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>
- 2021 The implications of partage for legacy data re-use in the archaeology of Iran. *12<sup>th</sup> International Congress on the Archaeology of Ancient Near East*. Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>
- 2020 Archaeology as a Lens for US-Iran Relations during the Inter-War Years. *Biannual Association for Iranian Studies Conference*. August 28<sup>th</sup>.
- 2019 A. Buffington, **K. Olson**, J. Roe. J. McCorriston. A. Al Kathiri. Homesteads, Holms (Households), and Villages: Results of the 2018 Ancient SocioEcological Systems in Oman (ASOM) Project's Settlement Survey and Excavations. *American Schools of Overseas Research Conference*. Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>
- 2019 Reconsidering the Secondary States East of Sumer. *American Schools of Overseas Research Conference*. Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>
- 2019 The Partage Divide and its Relationship to Unequal Terms of Collections Access. *Public Archaeology Twitter Conference 4*. Sep. 5<sup>th</sup>  
(<https://twitter.com/olsonkyleg/status/1169664058095628288>)

- 2019 A. Buffington, **K. Olson**, J. Roe, A. Al Kathiri, J. McCorriston. Survey Results & Preliminary Spatial Analysis of the 2018 Season of the Ancient Socio-Ecological Systems in Oman (ASOM) Project. *Seminar for Arabian Studies*. Jul. 13<sup>th</sup>
- 2019 Permits, Partage, and Persepolis: legal infrastructure and the value of heritage in early 20th century Iran. *Semiotic Anthropology Conference*. May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 2019 Combating the Curation Crisis Through Dissertation Research: An Argument for Disciplinary Valorization and Financial Support of Legacy Collection Rehabilitation. *Society for American Archaeology Conference*. Apr. 14<sup>th</sup>
- 2018 Legacy Data and Ceramic Chronologies: The Case of the Gorgan Plain, Northeastern Iran. *Society for American Archaeology Conference*. Apr. 12<sup>th</sup>
- 2018 FETE-LCA: Supercomputer simulations of trade routes in the ancient Near East. *International Congress on the Archaeology of Ancient Near East*. Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>
- 2018 **K. Olson**, D. Arispe-Bazán, N. Sadegh-Samimi & A. Shankar. “Anthropological Airwaves” Multimodal Installation. *American Ethnological Society/Society for Visual Anthropology Joint Conference “Resemblances”*. Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>
- 2017 N. Sadegh-Samimi & **K. Olson**. Everyone Tells me how they hate the sound of their own voice: The ethics of editing in podcasts. *Meeting of the American Anthropological Association*. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>
- 2017 Commercial Routes and Pilgrims' Tracks: landscapes of movement in Iranian Khorasan. *5<sup>th</sup> Eurasian Archaeology Conference*. Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>
- 2017 Formation and Transformation of Communities in Prehistoric Khorasan. *Society for American Archaeology Conference*. Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>
- 2016 Three Narratives, Three Approaches: Trade, Exchange, and Interaction in Third Millennium Iran. *American Schools of Overseas Research Conference*. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>
- 2016 Archaeological Semiotics beyond icons, indexes and symbols: habits and encounters. *Semiotic Anthropology Conference*. May 6<sup>th</sup>
- 2016 The Political Economy of Qalas and Canals in Greater Khorasan. *Society for American Archaeology Conference*. Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>
- 2015 آریایان را لازم نداریم: توضیح پدیده ی سفال خاکستاری داغدار هزاره سوم در شمال شرقی ایران. *International Congress of Young Archaeologists, Tehran*. Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>
- 2015 No Aryans Needed: Toward Explaining the Distribution of Burnished Grey Ware Ceramics of the Third Millennium in Northeastern Iran. *Society for American Archaeology Conference*. Apr. 19<sup>th</sup>
- 2014 Material Encounters with Cultural Activities: Anthropomorphic Figurines and Figural Semiosis in ancient Iran. *Semiotic Anthropology Conference*. Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>
- 2013 The Opening of Iranian-American Archaeological Collaboration: The 1931 Wulsin Expedition. *International Congress of Young Archaeologists, Tehran*. Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>
- 2013 C.P. Thornton, **K. Olson**, & N. Bayani. The Bronze Age of Northeastern Iran: View from the Frontier. *Society for American Archaeology Conference*. Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>
- 2012 Revisiting Tureng Tepe: A new look at an old excavation in northeastern Iran. *Society for American Archaeology Conference*. Apr. 20<sup>th</sup>
- 2011 The Figurines of Tureng Tepe: A Morphological, Stylistic, and Contextual Analysis. *Central Eurasian Studies Society Conference*. Sep. 17<sup>th</sup>

### **Conference Service (Panel Chair, Organizer, and/or Discussant)**

- 2021-23 Chair, "Archaeology of Iran." *American Schools of Overseas Research Annual Meeting*.
- 2021 Moderator, "Iran's Cultural Heritage in the Sanctions Era." *Webinar: The Heritage Management Organization and Bourse & Bazaar*. April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- 2017 Co-Chair & Co-Organizer of Oral Presentation Symposium with Nooshin Sadegh-Samimi, "Podcasts and Anthropology: Exploring Approaches to Multimodal Research and Communication." *Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association*. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Campus and Departmental Talks**

- 2022 Archaeology and Dam-Led Development in Mid-Twentieth Century Turkey and Iran: a Cold War History of Foreign Aid, Field Science, and Modernization
- 2017 Prehistoric Communities, Politics, and Trade: a view from Greater Khorasan. *Annual Kolb Society of Fellows Spring Colloquium*. Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>
- 2017 Introducing SUNSPOT for Archaeological Research. Presented in "*Introduction to Digital Methods in Archaeology*," (Instructor: Dr. Peter Cobb). Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>
- 2016 Understanding Archaeology and the Archaeological Record. Presented in "*Becoming Human*," (Instructor: Dr. Janet Monge). Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>

### **Travel Awards**

- 2016-20 University of Pennsylvania SAS Dean's Spring Conference Travel Subvention
- 2016-17 University of Pennsylvania SAS Dean's Autumn Conference Travel Subvention
- 2017 University of Pennsylvania GAPSA Travel Grant
- 2016 University of Pennsylvania SASGov Travel Grant
- 2015 University of Pennsylvania President Gutmann Leadership Travel Award
- 2014-15 University of Pennsylvania Museum Summer Research Grant
- 2014-15 Graduate Program in Anthropology Summer Field Funding
- 2011 Elizabeth Kiss Amstutz Humanities Merit Scholarship
- 2011 OSU Arts & Sciences Autumn Undergraduate Research Scholarship
- 2011 OSU Undergraduate Student Government Spring Academic Enrichment Grant
- 2010-11 OSU Social & Behavioral Sciences Spring Undergraduate Research Grant
- 2010-11 OSU Social & Behavioral Sciences Autumn Undergraduate Research Grant
- 2010 NSF-REU. Körös Regional Archaeological Project (NSF OISE 1030436)

### **Student Symposia**

- 2020 Divided Collections in Motion between the United States and Iran. *Center for Ancient Studies Graduate Symposium*. Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>
- 2016 Material Culture, Exchange, and Social Groups: Reflections upon the Mediation of Communities. *Center for Ancient Studies Graduate Symposium*. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>
- 2016 What Makes a Fetish a Fetish: On the Materiality and Agency of Things. *TemPennTon Graduate Anthropology Conference*. Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>
- 2014 Reconstructing Social Identities in the Ancient Near East: The Cultural Motion of Images of Personhood. *Center for Ancient Studies Graduate Symposium*. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>
- 2014 Archaeological Visibility of Commoners and Elites in Prehistory. *Center for Ancient Studies Graduate Symposium*. Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>

- 2011 The Terracotta Ladies and Gentlemen of Tureng Tepe, northeastern Iran. *Undergraduate Research Office and Ohio State Libraries Fall Student Poster Forum, Thompson Library, Ohio State University*. Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>
- 2011 The Prehistoric Figurines of Turkmenistan: A Proposed Synthetic Methodology. *Annual Research Poster Day, Department of Anthropology, Ohio State University*. May 20<sup>th</sup>
- 2011 Analysis of Occupation Layers at the Neolithic Szeghalom-Kovácsshalom. *The Denman Undergraduate Research Forum, Ohio State University*. May 11<sup>th</sup>
- 2010 Carmichael, K., Clark, A., Kough, M., Lipphardt, J., Moritz, M., **Olson, K.**, Rayo., M, Reilly-Sanders, E., and Ulmer, G. Go Shush Yourself: Student Habitus at the New Thompson Library,” *Presented to Carol Diedrichs, Director of the Ohio State University Libraries*. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Field and Collections Research Experience**

- 2017-18 UAV Survey Pilot. Project for the Ancient Murghab – Turkmenistan
- 2017-18 Trench Supervisor (2017) and Survey Co-Director (2018). Ancient Socio-ecological systems in Oman – Dhofar
- 2017 Principal Investigator. Ture J. Arne Shah Tepe Collection Restudy Project – Medelhavsmuseet (Svenska Museitjänst, Tumba and Stockholm, Sweden)
- 2015-18 Trench Supervisor. Smith Creek Archaeological Project – Mississippi
- 2014 Survey Crewmember. Naxçıvan Archaeological Project – Azerbaijan
- 2013 Survey Crewmember. American-Japanese Bat Archaeological Project – Oman
- 2012 Trench Supervisor. Arabian Human Social Dynamics – Oman
- 2011 Student Researcher. Frederick R. Wulsin Tureng Tepe Archive and Collections Restudy Project – Philadelphia (Supervisor: Dr. Christopher P. Thornton)
- 2011 Field School Participant. Discovering Religion at Cahokia – United States of America
- 2010-12 Undergraduate Research Assistant. Körös Regional Archaeological Project – Hungary

### **Professional and Departmental Service**

- 2021 Committee Member. Penn Initiative on US-Iranian Relations
- 2021 Website Administrator and Social Media Manager. Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania (Supervisor: Dr. Kathleen Morrison)
- 2017-20 English Text Revisions. [International Journal of the Society of Iranian Archaeologists](#) (Editor: Dr. Hamed Vahdati-Nasab)
- 2017-19 Member. Society for American Archaeology Student Affairs Committee
- 2015-18 Co-Editor. University of Pennsylvania [Graduate Anthropology Blog](#)
- 2015-17 English Abstract Revisions. The International Congress of Young Archaeologists Conference, University of Tehran (Editor: Dr. Reza Naseri)
- 2013-17 English Text Revisions. [Iranian Archaeology](#) (Editor: Dr. Fereidoun Biglari)

### **Peer Reviewer**

- 2021 Archaeologies: Journal of the World Archaeological Congress
- 2021 Heritage & Society
- 2020-21 Journal of Field Archaeology

### **Professional Development and Additional Training**

2016 Digital Methods in Archaeology Seminar (Instructor: Dr. Peter Cobb)  
2016 CORONA Processing and Analysis Workshop, CAST@UArk/Dartmouth College  
2015 Advanced GIS Methods Seminar (Instructor: Dr. Dana Tomlin)  
2013 Ceramic Petrographic Methods Seminar (Instructor: Dr. Marie-Claude Boileau)  
2010 Institutional Review Board Certification, Ohio State University

### **Digital Proficiencies**

QGIS, PostgreSQL, Microsoft Access, AgiSoft PhotoScan, R, Audacity, Hindenburg Journalist, Adobe Illustrator, Inkscape, GIMP

### **Languages**

Persian (Farsi) Speaking: *Advanced*; Reading: *Superior*; Writing: *Advanced*  
Russian Speaking: *Advanced*; Reading: *Advanced*; Writing: *Intermediate*  
French Speaking: *N/A*; Reading: *Intermediate*; Writing: *N/A*  
German Speaking: *N/A*; Reading: *Intermediate*; Writing: *N/A*

### **Professional Memberships**

Association for Iranian Studies (AIS)  
The American Schools of Overseas Research (ASOR)  
Society for American Archaeology (SAA)  
American Anthropological Association (AAA)