

ALIX OLSON

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EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Ph.D. in Political Science, May 2018 (expected)
Fields of Concentration: Contemporary Social and Political Thought, Political Philosophy,
Transnational Feminisms, Queer Theory

Dissertation: “The Promise(s) of Resilience: Governance and Resistance In Complex Times”
Dissertation Advisor: Barbara Cruikshank

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies, May 2013

Wesleyan University

B.A., Major: Government

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

A. Olson. Queer(y)ing Permanent Partnership. *Wagadu: A Journal of Transnational Women's and Gender Studies*, 12, Summer 2014.

A. Olson. Towards A Post-Parsimonious Political Science. *Studying Politics Today: Critical Approaches to Political Science*, eds. Nancy S. Love and Mark Mattern. London: Routledge, 2014 (reprint).

A. Olson. Archiving Optimism in *Agitation with a Smile: Howard Zinn's Legacies and the Future of Activism*, eds. Steven Bird, et al. Boulder: Paradigm Publishers, May 2013.

A. Olson. Towards A Post-Parsimonious Political Science. *New Political Science: A Journal of Politics and Culture* 35:3, September 2013.

Articles in Preparation

A. Olson Resilient Conscripts: Interrogating the U.S. Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Regime, in preparation for submission to *Perspectives on Politics*, October 2017.

A. Olson. Indigenous Resilience at the Arctic: From Savage to Savior, in preparation for submission to *Polity*, June 2017.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Awards

University Distinguished Teaching Award, UMass Amherst, 2013

Residential First Year Experience Student Choice Teaching Award, UMass Amherst, 2012

Instructor of Record, University of Massachusetts Amherst

WGSS 295F: Feminist Art(s) of Politics (upper-level seminar), Fall 2015

POLISCI 391AP: Art and Politics (upper-level seminar), Spring 2015

POLISCI 171: Intro to Political Theory (first-year lecture course), Fall 2014

POLISCI 171: Intro to Political Theory (online), Summers 2014-2017, Winter 2017

WGSS 187: Intro to Women's and Gender Studies (online), Summer 2014

Teaching Assistant, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Biology of Difference

Intro to Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Intro to World Politics

Intro to Political Theory

Intro to American Politics

Intro to Political Theory

American Political Thought

Controversies in U.S. Public Policy

Undergraduate Research Mentor, University of Massachusetts Amherst

University Research Engagement Program (UREP), Worked closely with undergraduate Political Science majors teaching advanced research skills, Department of Political Science, UMass Amherst, 2015-2017.

GRANTS, HONORS, AWARDS

- University Dissertation Writing Fellowship (\$4000), UMass Amherst, 2017
- Five College Women's Studies Research Center, Research Associate, 2016-2017
- University Dissertation Research Grant (\$1000), UMass Amherst, 2016
- WGSS Conference Travel Grant (\$300), UMass Amherst, Fall 2016
- Graduate Research Initiative Grant (\$2500), UMass Amherst PoliSci, 2016
- University Conference Travel Grant (\$650), UMass Amherst, Spring 2016
- Christian Bay Best Paper Award (\$500), American Political Science Assoc., 2014
- Graduate Research Initiative Grant (\$2500), UMass Amherst PoliSci, Summer 2014
- Center for Research on Families Dissertation Fellowship (\$10,000), 2013
- University Distinguished Teaching Award (\$2000) UMass Amherst, 2013
- Graduate Research Initiative Grant (\$2500), UMass Amherst, 2013
- Residential First Year Experience Student Choice Teaching Award, UMass, 2012
- GRIP Travel Grant, Graduate Research Initiative Program, UMass-Amherst, 2012
- Women's and Gender Studies Travel Grant, UMass-Amherst, Fall 2012
- Political Science Conference Travel Grant, UMass-Amherst, Spring 2011
- Distinction, Contemporary Social and Political Thought Comprehensive Exam, 2012
- Distinction, Interdisciplinary Political Science Comprehensive Exam, 2012

COMMENCEMENT SPEECHES

“The Labor of Social Justice,” Commencement Speaker, Smith College (School of Social Work), August 14, 2015.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Invited Talks

“Engaging Politics,” Presented at the invitation of APSA’s Siting and Engagement Committee (SEC) to present at the annual meeting roundtable on the social responsibility of APSA and the profession, Chicago, IL, 2013.

“On Writing Political Life,” Woodstock Writers Festival, Woodstock, NY. May 10, 2012.

“The Cost of Decorative Diversity,” 2nd Annual Interrogating Diversity Conference: Representation, Power and Social Justice, American University, Washington, DC, March 13, 2008.

“Doing Power/Thinking Power,” 5th Annual Women Power and Peace Conference, Omega Institute, September 14-16, 2007.

“Against Beauty,” The Student Body: A Celebration of Women's Beauty, Knox College, TN. February 24-26, 2006.

“Art as Activism,” Feminist Action at Middlebury Symposium: Art as Activism: Exploring the Intersection of Rape, Pornography, and Violence, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, April 7, 2005.

Keynote Speeches

“When The World Is Too Much,” 16th Annual Women and Society Conference, Marist College, October 25, 2007.

“Recasting Feminism in the Academy,” A Third Wave Feminist Conference, University of Colorado-Boulder, March 10, 2005.

Invited Panels

“Can We Stand Together? Thoughts and Perspectives on the Women’s March on Washington,” UMASS Amherst, Feb. 13, 2017.

“Queering the Generations,” LGBT Life Over the Past 25 Years, UMass-Amherst, October 6, 2010.

Papers Presented

“Resilient Conscripts: Theorizing Resistance in Complex Times,” National Women’s Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, 2016.

“Pinkwashing Protest,” Midwestern Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. 2014.

“Queer(y)ing Permanent Partnership,” American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2013. [Winner of American Political Science Association’s Christian Bay Best Paper Award]

“Neoliberalization of the Permanent Partner,” Midwestern Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL, 2013.

“Archiving Optimism,” Northeastern Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, 2011.

Discussant

“The Struggle for Rights at Home and Abroad,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, discussant, Seattle, WA, 2011.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, conducted research on history of U.S. political reform for Dr. Barbara Cruikshank’s manuscript, Northampton, MA. Summer 2011

Researcher, Berkshire Conference, conducted interviews for Valley Historical Archive project, Amherst, MA., Summer 2011

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Disciplinary Activities

Program Chair, New Political Science section, American Political Science Association, Boston, MA., 2018.

Reviewer, Journal of Lesbian Studies, 2016-present.

Caucus Representative, New Political Science Representative for the American Political Science Association, 2015-2017.

Chair, Christian Bay Award Committee, American Political Science Association, 2014.

University Activities

Director, UMass Amherst First-Year Orientation, “Many Voices/One UMass,” chosen by University Vice-Chancellor to organize orientation for 5500 first-year students around themes of diversity and political expression, 2016 and 2017.

Co-Chair, Women Gender Sexuality Studies Graduate Student Conference, UMass Amherst, April 25-26, 2014.

Graduate Representative, WGSS Graduate Studies Committee, represented WGSS graduate students in forming direction of the WGSS department, UMass Amherst, 2013-2014.

Graduate Representative, Search Committee for Associate Director of WGSS, UMass Amherst, 2013-2014.

Training, Humanities Online Teaching Program, Introduced core principles of online pedagogy and course structures for online environments, UMass Amherst, Spring 2014.

Organizer, Initiated and coordinated the Department of Political Science's "Arts of Protest" series as part of the Mellon-funded Interdisciplinary Protest Symposium, UMass-Amherst. Fall 2012.

Organizer, Initiated and coordinator the University-wide Occupy Movement Teach-In, organized speakers from a wide range of departments, October 1, 2011.

Community Activities

Democratic Delegate, 2017 Massachusetts Democratic Delegate Convention, April-June 2017.

Co-Founder, *Emancipate*, project addressing ongoing struggles to rebuild in New Orleans (partnering with Louisiana ACORN, INCITE New Orleans, Friends and Family of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children and the Grand Bayou Community), NYC and New Orleans, LA., 2007-2010.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association

New Political Science Caucus

National Women's Studies Association

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (Select)

I have lectured, performed spoken word poetry and taught social justice, art and politics, and writing at over 300 colleges and universities and at feminist and LGBTQ conferences, high schools, and prisons across the United States and internationally. I include a selection of my work experience as a lifelong writer and educator.

Published Books (Popular Media)

A. Olson, editor, *Word Warriors: 35 Leaders in the Women's Spoken Word Revolution*, 2007. Emeryville: Seal Press (In addition to editorial work, I authored the "introduction" and a chapter in the book).

A. Olson, *Burning Down the House*, coauthored with Roger Bonair-Agard, et. al., 2000. NY: Soft Skull Press.

Published Articles (Popular Media)

A. Olson, "Turn It Down A Notch" in *Word Warriors: 35 Women Leaders in the Spoken Word Revolution*, 2007. Emeryville: Seal Press

A. Olson, "In the Left Lane with Alix Olson," Columnist for *InsideOut Magazine*, 2005-2007.

A. Olson, "Rachel Maddow: Straight Talk," Interview with Rachel Maddow, *Velvet Park Magazine*, Summer 2005.

A. Olson, "Diary of a Slam Poet: Road Poet on a Mission," *Ms. Magazine*, January 2001.

A. Olson, "Let the Poetry Come," *Curve Magazine*, San Francisco, CA, November 2001.

Published Poetry (Journals, Anthologies, Magazines)

My poetry has been published in literary venues including: *The Aunt Lute Anthology of U.S. Women Writers*; *The Seattle Journal for Social Justice*; *The Lesbian Review of Books*; *Utne Magazine*; *The Progressive Magazine*; *The Beloit Poetry Journal*.

Teaching Experience (Political Leadership/Writing Workshops)

Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val Kill's Young Women's Leadership Center, July 2007-2016.

Juniper Writing Institute, UMass Amherst, June 2014-2016.

Summer Arts Institute, California State University, CA. Summer 2010.

Johannesburg and Cape Town Youth Centers, South Africa, March 9-20, 2007.

National Creating Change Conference (NGLTF), Kansas City, MO, November 8-12, 2006.

Hetrick-Martin Institute for GLBT Youth, NYC, 2002-2006.

Rikers Island Correctional Facility, Rose M. Singer Women's Prison, 2001-2005.

Awards (Art/Social Justice)

Hedgebrook Writing Fellowship, 2007.

Artist-Activist of the Year, Out Music Awards, 2004.

Best Documentary Film (producer), for "Left Lane: On The Road With Alix Olson," Paris Feminist Film Festival, 2007.

Outstanding Activist of the Year, *Venus Magazine*, 2004.

Visionary Award, Washington, D.C. Rape Crisis Center, 2004.

New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, 1999.

National Slam Poetry Champion, 1998

National and International Media Appearances (Television, Radio, Print)

NPR ("To The Best of Our Knowledge"); BBC, Australia National Radio; CNN;

Air America ("The Rachel Maddow Show"); HBO ("Def Poetry Jam"); Netherlands Radio ("Vox Humana Series"); WXPB ("World Café with David Dye"); The New York Times;

The Progressive; Time Out NY; The Washington Post; Salon.