**Kyle Gregory Olson, Ph.D.**

Lecturer in Archaeology, Department of Anthropology

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**Appointments**

2022-24 Lecturer. Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Anthropology

2021-22 Post-Doctoral Fellow. Koç University, Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED)

**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/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 Greenewalt Project Fund ($7000) [Declined]

2018 Penn Museum Director’s Field Fund Research Grant ($7500)

2017 American Institute of Iranian Studies Pre-Dissertation Fellowship ($7320)

2011OSU Arts & Sciences Summer Undergraduate Research Scholarship($7000)

2011 OSU Undergraduate Research Office Summer Research Fellowship ($3500)

**Lead Author Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals and Edited Volumes**

(In Prep) Regional Archaeology and River Basin Development: An Alternative Intellectual Genealogy in Disciplinary History. Invited Contribution for Special Issue of *Journal of Field Archaeology*, edited by Gertjan Plets and Lynn Meskell

(Submitted) An Archaeological Polycrisis: Curation, Re-Use, Access, and Labor. For *Crisis and Anthropology*, edited by Daniel Souleles and Michael Scroggins (SAR).

2023 **Olson, K.G.** & Luke, C. Field Archaeology and Foreign Assistance during the Decade of Development in Iran and Turkey. *History & Anthropology.* <https://doi.org/10.1080/02757206.2023.2261972>

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*](https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/american-iranian-dialogues-9781350118720/), 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 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)

**Co-Authored Publications, Conference Proceedings, Reports, and Translations (\*Refereed)**

2022 Cerasetti, B., Arciero, R., Billings, T.N., Cattani, M., D’Ippolito, L., Forni, L., Luneau, E., **Olson, K.G.**, Potenza, A.C., Rouse, L.M., Spengler, R.N. “The Rise and Decline of the Desert Cities: The Last Stages of the BMAC at Togolok 1 (Southern Turkmenistan).” In: *Cultures in Contact Central Asia as Focus of Trade, Cultural Exchange and Knowledge Transmission*, edited by Christoph Baumer, Mirko Novák, and Susanne Rutishauser, pp. 89-116. Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden

2020 McCorriston, 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

2014 Reintroducing Tureng Tepe and the Wulsins'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)

**Magazine, Blog, and Policy Publications (\*Edited and/or Fact-Checked)**

2023\* [Destination Persia: The Development of Iran's Tourism Strategy in the 1960s](https://ajammc.com/2023/07/14/destination-persia-tourism-1960s/). *AjamMC* (7/14)

2022 [The Past, Present, and Future of Beyoğlu.](https://anamedblog.com/post/676887643302379520/the-past-present-and-future-of-beyo%C4%9Flu) *ANAMED Blog* (2/22)

2021\* Mickel, A. & **Olson, K**. [Archaeologists Should Be Activists Too](https://www.sapiens.org/archaeology/archaeology-activists/). *SAPIENS* (7/27)

2021\* [Refusing the Dig Gig](https://refusejournal.com/refusing-the-dig-gig/). *Refuse: A Journal of Iconoclasms* 1

2020\* American Sanctions vs. Iranian Heritage. *Bourse & Bazaar*

I. [American Policy Casts a Shadow Over Persepolis](https://www.bourseandbazaar.com/articles/2020/10/27/the-impact-of-american-foreign-policy-on-irans-cultural-heritage-sector) (10/29)

II. [For Tourism in Iran, It Wasn't Supposed to Be Like This](https://www.bourseandbazaar.com/articles/2020/11/5/for-tourism-in-iran-it-wasnt-supposed-to-be-like-this) (11/5)

III. [Museum Diplomacy Falters in the Face of Iran Sanctions](https://www.bourseandbazaar.com/articles/2020/11/12/museum-diplomacy-falters-in-the-face-of-iran-sanctions) (11/12)

IV. [Iran Archaeology is Awaiting a Sanctions Breakthrough](https://www.bourseandbazaar.com/articles/2020/11/20/iran-archaeology-is-awaiting-a-sanctions-breakthrough) (11/20)

V. [What Archaeology Can Achieve in US-Iran Relations](https://www.bourseandbazaar.com/articles/2020/11/24/what-archaeology-can-achieve-in-us-iran-relations) (11/25)

2017 [A Pioneer in Iran](http://samlingar.varldskulturmuseerna.se/a-pioneer-in-iran/). *Historier från Samlingarna*

2015 [Trekking in Transoxiana](https://www.penn.museum/blog/research/student-fieldwork/trekking-in-transoxiana-my-journey-to-central-asia-and-beyond-kyle-olson/). *Penn Museum Blog*

2014 [Survey Methodology in the Şərur Plain](https://www.penn.museum/blog/museum/survey-methodology-in-the-s%C9%99rur-plain/). *Penn Museum Blog*

**Podcast Production, Editing, and Interview Appearances**

2024 Interviewee. “[Persian Language and Archeology in Iran with Kyle Olson](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uo5F0l06byc&ab_channel=MiddleEastStudiesCenter%2COhioStateUniversity).” *Middle East Studies Center, Ohio State University*

2020 Interviewee. “[Researcher profile](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gl_zjgaQSgA&ab_channel=TheIranianStudiesCollective).” *The Iranian Studies Collective*

2019 Interviewer. “[Collaborative Digital Archaeology](https://soundcloud.com/anthro-airwaves/episode-10-collaborative-digital-archaeology).” *Anthropological Airwaves*

2019 Interviewee.“[Using Drones for Survey with Kyle Olson](https://www.archaeologypodcastnetwork.com/archaeotech/96).” *ArchaeoTech*

2017-19 Lead Editor and Co-Producer(22 episodes)*.* “[Anthropological Airwaves](http://www.americananthropologist.org/anthropological-airwaves-podcast/).” *American Anthropologist* (Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Deborah Thomas)

**Teaching Experience**

2022-23 Lecturer. *Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Anthropology*

“Introduction to Archaeology”

“Introduction to GIS for Anthropologists”

“Meltdown: The Archaeology of Climate Change”

“Reading *The Dawn of Everything* in Context”

“The Archaeology of Politics and the Politics of Archaeology”

“Topics in Anthropology: Recent Advances in Archaeological Dating”

“World Archaeology: Global Perspectives on the Past”

2021 Second Faculty. *Brooklyn Institute for Social Research*

“Archive Theory: Knowledge, Power, and Photography”

“Power and Resistance: Social Movements in Theory and Practice”

2016, 2018 Field School Instructor. *University of Pennsylvania, Department of Anthropology*

“Smith Creek Archaeological Project”

2014-16 Teaching Assistant. *University of Pennsylvania, Department of Anthropology*

“Becoming Human”

“Food & Fire: Archaeology in the Laboratory”

“Globalization”

“Great Transformations: Origins of Agriculture to the Modern World”

**Invited Talks**

2021 "Spotlighting an Author - Kyle Olson: US-Iran Relations through the Lens of Heritage Diplomacy." [*Iran1400 Project*](https://iran1400.org/en/). Jun. 4th

2020 [Community and Polity Geography in Northeastern Iran during the Third Millennium BCE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-A-qfU4ZDQ&t=44s). *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. 30th

2019 The Penn Museum in Iran: an archaeological history. *“Shab-Ahang”: The Iranian Cultural Society of America*. Mar. 1st

**National and International Conference Presentations**

2023 Archaeology and Modernization: A pivotal encounter in the history of Near Eastern Archaeology. *International Congress on the Archaeology of Ancient Near East*. May 25th

2021 The Role of Professional Organizations in American-Iranian Archaeological Cooperation. *Society of Iranian Archaeology Conference*. Nov. 14th

2021 The implications of partage for legacy data re-use in the archaeology of Iran. *12th International Congress on the Archaeology of Ancient Near East*. Apr. 8th

2020 Archaeology as a Lens for US-Iran Relations during the Inter-War Years. *Biannual Association for Iranian Studies Conference*. August 28th.

2019 A. Buffington, **K. Olson**, J. Roe. J. McCorriston. A. Al Kathiri.Homesteads, Holcms (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. 23rd

2019 Reconsidering the Secondary States East of Sumer. *American Schools of Overseas Research Conference*. Nov. 21st

2019 The Partage Divide and its Relationship to Unequal Terms of Collections Access. *Public Archaeology Twitter Conference 4*. Sep. 5th (<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. 13th

2019 Permits, Partage, and Persepolis: legal infrastructure and the value of heritage in early 20th century Iran. *Semiotic Anthropology Conference*. May 3rd

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. 14th

2018 Legacy Data and Ceramic Chronologies: The Case of the Gorgan Plain, Northeastern Iran. *Society for American Archaeology Conference*. Apr. 12th

2018 FETE-LCA: Supercomputer simulations of trade routes in the ancient Near East. *International Congress on the Archaeology of Ancient Near East*. Apr. 6th

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. 23rd

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. 1st

2017 Commercial Routes and Pilgrims' Tracks: landscapes of movement in Iranian Khorasan*. 5th Eurasian Archaeology Conference*. Oct. 28th

2017 Formation and Transformation of Communities in Prehistoric Khorasan. *Society for American Archaeology Conference*. Apr. 1st

2016 Three Narratives, Three Approaches: Trade, Exchange, and Interaction in Third Millennium Iran. *American Schools of Overseas Research Conference*. Nov. 18th

2016 Archaeological Semiotics beyond icons, indexes and symbols: habits and encounters. *Semiotic Anthropology Conference*. May 6th

2016 The Political Economy of Qalas and Canals in Greater Khorasan. *Society for American Archaeology Conference*. Apr. 9th

2015 **آریایان را لازم نداریم: توضیح پدیده ی سفال خاکستاری داغدار هزاره سوم در شمال شرقی ایران.** *International Congress of Young Archaeologists, Tehran*. Oct. 12th

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. 19th

2014 Material Encounters with Cultural Activities: Anthropomorphic Figurines and Figural Semiosis in ancient Iran. *Semiotic Anthropology Conference*. Apr. 5th

2013 The Opening of Iranian-American Archaeological Collaboration: The 1931 Wulsin Expedition. *Int’l Congress of Young Archaeologists*, *Tehran*. Oct. 29th

2013 C.P. Thornton, **K. Olson**, & N. Bayani. The Bronze Age of Northeastern Iran: View from the Frontier. *Society for American Archaeology Conference*. Apr. 5th

2012 Revisiting Tureng Tepe: A new look at an old excavation in northeastern Iran. *Society for American Archaeology Conference*. Apr. 20th

2011The Figurines of Tureng Tepe: A Morphological, Stylistic, and Contextual Analysis. *Central Eurasian Studies Society Conference*. Sep. 17th

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

2021-23 Standing Session 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 27th.

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. 1st

**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 – Wisconsin & Illinois*

2010-12 Research Assistant. *Körös Regional Archaeological Project – Hungary*

**Peer Reviewer**

2023 Archaeological Research in Asia

2023 Advances in Archaeological Practice

2021 Archaeologies: Journal of the World Archaeological Congress

2021 Heritage & Society

2020-23 Journal of Field Archaeology

**Professional and Departmental Service**

2022-2023 English Text Revisions. [Journal of Archaeological Studies](https://jarcs.ut.ac.ir) (Editor: Dr. Hassan Fazeli-Nashly)

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](http://journal.soia.org.ir/) (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](http://upennanthro.tumblr.com/)

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](https://independent.academia.edu/IranianArchaeology) (Editor: Dr. Fereidoun Biglari)

**Professional Development and Additional Training**

2023 “Teaching Triangles” Peer Observation. CTL, Washington University in St. Louis

2022 Early Career Faculty Teaching Seminar. CTL, Washington University in St. Louis

2019 Certificate in Teaching and Learning. CTL, University of Pennsylvania

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

**Campus and Departmental Talks**

2024 What exactly is archaeological about archaeological art? Comparing recent exhibits at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation and the Kemper Museum. *WUSTL Archaeology Fridays*. Feb. 16th

2023 Field Archaeology and Foreign Assistance during the Decade of Development in the Middle East. *WUSTL Archaeology Fridays*. Feb. 10th

2022 Finding Your Way in the Field. *WUSTL Archaeology Fridays*. Sep. 23rd

2022 Archaeology and Dam-Led Development in Mid-Twentieth Century Turkey and Iran: a Cold War History of Foreign Aid, Field Science, and Modernization. *ANAMED Research Talks*. Apr. 14th

2017 Prehistoric Communities, Polities, and Trade: a view from Greater Khorasan. *Annual Kolb Society of Fellows Spring Colloquium*. Apr. 27th

2017 Introducing SUNSPOT for Archaeological Research. Presented in “*Introduction to Digital Methods in Archaeology*,” (Instructor: Dr. Peter Cobb). Mar. 28th

2016 Understanding Archaeology and the Archaeological Record. Presented in “*Becoming Human*,” (Instructor: Dr. Janet Monge). Jan. 21st

2020 Divided Collections in Motion between the United States and Iran. *Center for Ancient Studies Graduate Symposium.* Feb. 29th

2016 Material Culture, Exchange, and Social Groups: Reflections upon the Mediation of Communities. *Center for Ancient Studies Graduate Symposium*. Feb. 26th

2016 What Makes a Fetish a Fetish: On the Materiality and Agency of Things. *TemPennTon Graduate Anthropology Conference*. Feb. 19th

2014 Reconstructing Social Identities in the Ancient Near East: The Cultural Motion of Images of Personhood. *Center for Ancient Studies Graduate Symposium*. Dec. 6th

2014 Archaeological Visibility of Commoners and Elites in Prehistory*. Center for Ancient Studies Graduate Symposium*. Mar. 8th

**Professional Memberships (\*current)**

Association for Iranian Studies (AIS)

The American Schools of Overseas Research (ASOR)\*

Society for American Archaeology (SAA)

American Anthropological Association (AAA)

**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*