Carl Olsson

Email: carl.olsson@cors.lu.se
Website: carlolssongeo.com

Carl Olsson is a geographer, researcher and writer interested in how geographical thought impacts the human body. His work tells stories about geographers who get lost in space, extracting philosophical implications from scenarios that span the mundane and the otherworldly. Carl holds a PhD in Human Geography from Newcastle University. He contributed to the second cycle of The Terraforming at Strelka Institute, has been a visiting scholar at Waseda University and has taught at The New Centre for Research & Practice. He is currently affiliated with the Centre for Oresund Region Studies at Lund University. His writing has appeared with Urbanomic, ŠUM, and different geography journals and edited books.

Recent positions

Writer, Analyst and Researcher **2026**
carlolssongeo
- Independent consultant taking on geographical storytelling, GIS-analysis and research-oriented design projects.

Affiliated Researcher, Centre for Oresund Region Studies **2026**
Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University
- Organized a series of seminars and lectures designed to connect the university, local institutions and curators and internationally active artists around the themes of borders and border crossings.

Project Assistant **2025**
Department of Human Geography, Lund University
- Provided research, administrative and strategic support for revisions of an MSc program in Human Geography, resulting in a concrete proposal.

Instructor **2025**
Critical Philosophy, The New Centre for Research & Practice
- Designed and taught postgraduate seminars on advanced spatial thought. Descriptions available at: https://thenewcentre.org/seminars/the-geographers-that-ate-themselves/; https://thenewcentre.org/seminars/the-questions-concerning-planetarity/

“The Terraforming” Researcher **2021**
Strelka Institute for Media, Architecture and Design
- Conceptualized, designed and communicated novel design and architecture provocations intended for a planetary scale.
- Final project “Peak Face”, available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcfp25LaWjI
- Interim project “Another Kind of Technocracy”, available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNAvJ6Km2vU

Teaching Assistant **2020-2021**
School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University

- Led seminars and graded student work on the following modules:
    - GEO1010: Interconnected World
    - GEO1096: Geographical Skills

Education

PhD in Human Geography **2019-2025**
School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University
- Thesis title: “Geography and Its ‘New’ Problem with Naturalism”.

Certificate Student and Researcher **2019-2022**
Transdisciplinary Research & Practice, The New Centre for Research & Practice
- Participated in seminars and organized artist talks, e.g.: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcTDybW9SU8

KHD, Arts, Crafts and Design **2018-2019**
Grimslöv Folk High School

MSc in Human Geography **2016-2018**
Department of Human Geography, Lund University

BSc in Geography **2013-2016**
Department of Earth Sciences, University of Gothenburg

Books

Olsson, C. (2026) *The Mouth that Eats Itself: Geography and the Problem of Space*. Berlin/Nicosia: Becoming Press. ISBN: 978-9925-647-26-2.

Peer-reviewed articles

Olsson, C. C. (forthcoming) “Geologizing actions: Questioning our place on Earth with Hijikata Tatsumi’s wind motifs“.GeoHumanities.

Olsson, C. C. (2025) “Gymnastics and the philosophy of anti-planetary practice”. Cosmos and History: The Journal of Natural and Social Philosophy 21(1), pp. 280-311. https://cosmosandhistory.org/index.php/journal/article/view/1233

Olsson, C. C. (2025) “Naturalism and the self-effacement of the non-representational subject”. cultural geographies. https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/14744740251319033

Olsson, C. C., Rahal, S. (2024) “Anthropocene ANCESTORS and the art of plotting a temporal heist”. GeoHumanities 10(1), pp. 197-205. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/2373566X.2024.2302157?src=exp-mr

Olsson, C. C. (2021). The Anthropocene conjecture and Wilfrid Sellars’ scientific image: (another) prolegomenon to rethinking the human?. Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human

Geography, 103(2), pp. 103-115.
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/04353684.2021.1891448

Book chapters

Olsson, C. (2026) "Space is an angler and we are the fish" in Sins and Capitals, Neves, E. (ed.). Porto: ESAP.

Olsson, C. (2025) "Fish" in The Promise of Cultural Geography, Zhang, V. and Anderson, B. (eds.). Bristol and Durham, UK: Cultural Geography (Un)limited Editions, p. 83. https://research-information.bris.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/460594732/Zhang_V._and_B._Anderson_Eds._2025_._The_promise_of_cultural_geography._Cultural_Geography_Un_limited_Editions.pdf

Likavčan, L., Olsson, C. C. (2023) "Can artificial neural networks be normative models of reason? Limits and promises of topological accounts of orientation in thinking" in AI Theory in the Humanities. Models, Objects, Practices, Gross, R. and Jordan, R. (eds.). Bielefeld: transcript Verlag, pp. 333-349. https://www.transcript-verlag.de/media/pdf/bc/05/b6/oa9783839466605.pdf.

Olsson, C. (2021). "Study for 'Memories of the Apocalypse'" in Imagining Apocalyptic Politics for the Anthropocene, Harper, E. T. and Specht, D. (eds.). London: Routledge Environmental Humanities Series, pp. 201-12.

Olsson, C. (2021). "Revisiting Deleuze's bestiary: What difference do monsters make?" in Monstrous Ontologies: Politics Ethics Materiality, Nirta, C. and Pavoni, A. (eds.). Wilmington, DE: Vernon Press, pp. 77-94.

Artworks, essays and other writing

Olsson, C. (2026) "A Note on Obscure Precursors". Text for Beyond the City of Time, Solo Exhibition by Sahej Rahal. Curated by Edith Lázár and Eva Drexlerová, Prague: Rudolfinum.

Olsson, C. (2025) "How to Find Inner Peace in the 21st Century". 邊界_RG. https://old.bianjie.systems/how-to-find-inner-peace.

Olsson, C. (2025) "Self-Stalking Prey: A Study for a Portrait of Little Red Riding Hood". 邊界_RG. https://old.bianjie.systems/self-stalking-prey-a-study-for-a-portrait-of-little-red-riding-hood-1.

Olsson, C. C. (2024) "The Game of Hide and Seek". Text for Wayfinder, Solo Exhibition by Sahej Rahal. Curated by Don Handa, Nairobi: NCAI.

Olsson, C. (2024). "After Eden: Meditations on the Mantid Mirror" in ŠUM #22. https://www.sum.si/journal-articles/after-eden-meditations-on-the-mantid-mirror.

Olsson, C. (2023). "Absolute Freedom (The End of History)" in ŠUM #20. https://www.sum.si/journal-articles/absolute-freedom.

Olsson, C. (2023). "Peak Face", Urbanomic Document 0056. https://www.urbanomic.com/document/peak-face/.

Olsson, C. (2022). ”Trespassers”. Text for TRESPASSERS, Solo Exhibition by Agata Szymanek. Copenhagen: Pilipczuk Gallery. https://www.pgallery.dk/trespassers/

Olsson, C., Buey González, M., Abbott, M. C. (2021). Peak Face (video). The Terraforming 2021. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcfp25LaWjI.

Olsson, C., Rahal, S., Amador, E. (2021). New evidence for musical teleology? DCPA C1004 as Sapience Candidate (text for multimedia artwork). Proceedings from *Summa Technologiae: The Stanisław Lem Seminars, I Constructing Time, Reinventing Nature*. Available on request.

Olsson, C., Molzhigit, D., Aparin, D., Abbott, M. C. (2021). Another Kind of Technocracy. StrelkaMag, For Planetary Governance. Available on request.

Olsson, C., Montoya, A., Obleser, J. (2021). The Bore (video). Presented at *TERRARISTA TV: EROS IS A SORE*, 14/Feb/2021. Available on request.

Olsson, C. (2020). “The Beast Beneath”, on &&& Platform. https://tripleampersand.org/the-beast-beneath-2/.

Talks, group exhibitions and conference presentations

The Mouth That Eats Itself Book Tour **2026**
Becoming Press; Supertime books, Copenhagen; BO, Oslo; Nord books, Stockholm
- Presentation title: “The Mouth That Eats Itself“

ODE JOY **2026**
Malmö Art Museum, curated by PLX
- Presentation title: “Animals that eat“.

Virtual Beauty **2025**
Somerset House, London, curated by Gonzalo Herrero Delicado, Mathilde Friis and Bunny Kinney
- Work shown: “Peak Face” (Video) with María Buey González and M. C. Abbott.

Nature Strikes Back: Being Human on Technologized Earth **2025**
Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague
- Presentation title: “Technology and the anti-planetary kinetic trend”.

The Tehran Summit [03] **2025**
The Tehran Summit, curated by Erfan Ghiasi and Una Mathiesen Gjerde
- Presentation title: “Space is angler and we are the fish”.

Scales of Life **2025**
Institute for Critical Inquiry, Berlin
- Presentation title: “The freedom calculus”.

At the Conjuncture: Art and the Imagination **2025**
Center for Critical Inquiry, California Institute of the Arts
- Presentation title: “Stealing the human image”, with Sahej Rahal.

Guest Lecture **2025**
Escola Superior Artística do Porto
- Presentation title: “Geography and the allure of space”.

RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2024 **2024**
RGS-IBG, London
- Presentation title: “’I had no choice!’ Annihilation in the archipelago”.
- Presentation title: “Geography and the passive self: Pacifying space after Deleuze?”, with Evrim Bayindir.
- Session title: “Philosophies of Geography (2): The Ontology Problem and the Challenge of Making Meaning”, with Sam Di Risio (sponsored by the History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group).

II Coloquio de An-arqueología de los Medios **2024**
Línea de Arte, Ciencia y Tecnología at IDARTES, Bogotá, curated by Federico Nieto
- Presentation title: “Geologic subjectivity; or, how to be a patient of the Earth” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55YZijjm9QA&list=PLU5wrYko0XsAyrLFqe0_jFSWM7qvEsyVR.

Double Bill Lecture Series: Cosmo|Gymnastics **2024**
The New Centre for Research & Practice
- Presentation title: “Gymnastics and the philosophy of anti-planetary practice” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2f6K16vyWV0.

UFO Lab Series **2024**
Foreign Objekt
- Presentation title: “Extending the diagonal line / The lure of space after Caillois” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETpK6fhflmg.

RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2023 **2023**
RGS-IBG, London
- Presentation title: “Geographers are not humans”.
- Presentation title: “Anthropocene ANCESTORS and the art of plotting a temporal heist” with Sahej Rahal.

London Conference for Critical Thought **2023**
London Metropolitan University
- Presentation title: “Little Red Riding Hood”.

RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2022 **2022**
Newcastle University
- Presentation title: “Can you think of yourself as a wind?”.

Unlearning Nihilism **2022**
Royal Holloway University of London and The New Centre for Research & Practice
- Presentation title: “What does it mean to disorient ourselves in thinking?”.

AAG Annual Meeting 2022 **2022**
Association of American Geographers
- Presentation title: “Facing infrastructure realism”.

Guest Lecture **2021**
Department of Cultural Sciences, Linnaeus University
- Presentation title: “Non-representational theory and naturalism: What happens to us?”.

RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2021 **2021**
RGS-IBG, London
- Presentation title: “’Legendary Psychasthenia’ and other assimilations to space”.

Literary Geographies Conference **2019**
Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge
- Presentation title: “Literature and its latent geographies”.

Monstrous Ontologies Symposium **2019**
University of Roehampton
- Presentation title: “Revisiting Deleuze’s bestiary”.

RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2017 **2017**
RGS-IBG, London
- Presentation title: “Rhythmanalysis and refrain”.
- Presentation title: “Heroes without Organs?”.

Interviews and media appearances

Portraits of Planetary Selves: From Peak Face to Gravity’s Reach **2025**
Interviewed by Diffractions Collective
- Available at: https://diffractionscollective.com/2015/08/15/portraits-of-a-planetary-self-from-peak-face-to-planetary-gravity-carl-olsson/.

Other projects and fellowships

Seeing (with) Borders Convenor **2026-2027**
Centre for Oresund Region Studies
- Organized interdisciplinary symposia and events on borders, limits and boundaries

Programming Committee Member **2025-2027**
The New Centre for Research & Practice
- Contributed to curating a transdisciplinary education program

Interim Communications Officer **2023-2024**
RGS-IBG History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group
- Responsible for maintaining website, public relations and social media

Curator **2022**
Pilipczuk Gallery, Copenhagen
- Curated an exhibition titled TRESPASSERS, paintings by Agata Szymanek

Visiting Research Fellow **2022**
Graduate School of International Culture and Communication, Waseda University
- Project title: Hijikata Tatsumi’s Existential Naturalism

Posthuman Art, Resident **2022**
Foreign Objekt
- Participated in residency program and am editing a collection of residents' reflections on posthumanism in art and philosophy

Unlearning Nihilism Conference, Main Convenor **2022**
Royal Holloway University of London and The New Centre for Research & Practice
- With Evrim Bayindir, convened a four-day conference with over seventy international contributors. https://unlearningnihilism.org/

Summa Technologiae: The Stanisław Lem Seminars, Contributor **2020-2021**
E-flux, convened by Julieta Aranda
- I Constructing Time, Reinventing Nature organized by Mohammad Salemy and Jozefina Chetko
- VI Nature's Indifference organized by Julieta Aranda and Mareike Dittmer

Center for Discursive Inquiry, Contributor **2020-2024**
California Institute of the Arts
- Participated in discussions and research group

Sheltering Places, Organizer **2020-2021**
The New Centre for Research & Practice
- Participated in programming, planning and curatorial decision making

Social Media Officer **2017-2018**
RGS-IBG Postgraduate Forum
- Responsibility for public relations and social media

Student Exchange Programme **2017-2018**
Graduate School of International Culture and Communication, Waseda University
- Studied critical theory, media and history of ideas

Organizer for "Learn Swedish" at Gothenburg City Library **2015-2016**
Swedish Red Cross, Gothenburg branch
- Overall responsibility for planning, leading and coordinating over forty volunteers to support second language learners

Student Representative **2015-2016**
University of Gothenburg, Göta Student Union, Sciences Section
- Various roles related to work environment and wellbeing

Student Exchange Programme **2014-2015**
School of Human Sciences, Osaka University
- Studied economics and Japanese language

Grants, awards and scholarships

Turing Global Fellowship **2022**
Turing Scheme via Newcastle University
- 2 000 GBP

Strelka Institute Research Stipend **2021**
Strelka Institute for Media, Architecture and Design
- 196 000 RUB

Full Certificate Scholarship **2019**
The New Centre for Research & Practice
- 3 500 USD

JASSO Student Exchange Support Programme **2017**
Graduate School of International Culture and Communication, Waseda University
- 720 000 JPY