

Carl Olsson | CV and Publications

Carl (Christian) Olsson is a geographer and writer interested in the deep structures of geographical thought. 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.

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Recent positions

Affiliated Researcher, Centre for Oresund Region Studies **2026**
Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University

Project Assistant **2025**
Department of Human Geography, Lund University

- Provided research, administrative and strategic support for revisions of an MSc program in Human Geography

Instructor **2025**
Critical Philosophy, The New Centre for Research & Practice

- Designed and taught postgraduate courses 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

- Final project “Peak Face”, available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcfp25LaWjl>
- 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

- 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>

MSc in Human Geography **2016-2018**

Department of Human Geography, Lund University

BSc in Geography **2013-2016**

Department of Earth Sciences, University of Gothenburg

Peer-reviewed articles

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](https://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 creative writing

Olsson, C. 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://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://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

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 Conjunction: 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=55YZijm9QA&list=PLU5wrYko0XsAyrLFqe0_jFSWM7qvEsvVR.

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=ETpK6fhfimg>.

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

Programming Committee Member **2025-2026**
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

- Held responsibility for website, public relations and social media

Curator **2022**
Pilipczuk Gallery, Copenhagen

- Exhibition title: 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 a residency program and am editing a yet-to-be-titled collection of the 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 discussion 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