

Elizabeth Olson

Assistant Professor of Anthropology & Associate Director of the Center for Engaged Teaching & Learning at Southern Utah University

Cedar City, UT, US

Specializing in ethnobiology, ethnobotany, and Indigenous medicinal plants

Biography

Dr. Elizabeth Olson is an assistant professor of anthropology and associate director of the Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning at Southern Utah University. She is currently engaged in research regarding the globalization of medicinal plant knowledge and the relationships between indigenous, professional, and lay uses of medicinal plant knowledge across various ethnomedical systems.

Dr. Olson's anthropological research has looked at traditional healing systems in Utah, the Bolivian Amazon, and Mexico. Leading her to focus on the intersections among health, environments, and economic markets. Her book, "Indigenous Knowledge and Development: Livelihoods, health experiences and medicinal plant knowledge in a Mexican Biosphere Reserve," addresses topics of governance and conservation, ecotourism, and traditional medicine in the context of community development and conservation in the Biosphere Reserve.

Dr. Olson earned a bachelor of arts in anthropology from the University of Utah and a master of arts in anthropology and Ph.D. in anthropology from Case Western Reserve University.

Industry Expertise

Writing and Editing, Alternative Medicine, Education/Learning

Areas of Expertise

Anthropology of Nutrition, Anthropology Research Methods, Community Health, Environmental Anthropology, Ethnobiology, Ethnobotany, Global Conservation, Global Health, Globalization, Health-Environment-Plant Nexus, Indigenous Medicinal Plants, Medical Anthropology, Medicinal Plants, Public Health, Sustainable Development, Traditional Healing Systems

Affiliations

American Anthropological Association, Anthropology and Environment Section of the American Anthropological Association, Council on Undergraduate Research, Culture & Agriculture Section of the American Anthropological Association, Phi Kappa Phi, Society of Ethnobiology, Society for Medical Anthropology

Education

Case Western Reserve University

Ph.D. Anthropology

Case Western Reserve University

M.A. Anthropology

University of Utah

H.B.A. Anthropology

Accomplishments

Community Engaged Scholar

Southern Utah University, 2018

Favorite Professor

Student Residential Program at University of California, 2009

Graduate Dean's Instructional Excellence Award

Case Western Reserve University, 2007

Lenore A. Kola Graduate Student Community Service Award

Case Western Reserve University?, 2007

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