A PROPOSAL TO THE OHIO UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

TITLE OF PROJECT: Littoral Los Angeles: An Ethnography of Wetlands Restoration
NAME OF APPLICANT: Marina Peterson

STATUS: Asst. Prof. X Assoc. Prof. Prof. Full-Time Admin.

CAMPUS ADDRESS: 31 S. Court St. Room 068
E-MAIL ADDRESS: petersom@ohio.edu

RE-SUBMISSION: X YES (Original Submission Date 10/4/2012)

BUDGET: Total Request $7,942 (May not exceed $8,000)

IRB AND IACUC APPROVAL:
To ensure that the University is in compliance with all federal regulations, complete the checklist below. Note: your proposal can be approved prior to IRB or IACUC approval, but funding will be withheld until notification of approval or exemption.

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<th>Policy #</th>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Human Subjects in Research (including surveys, interviews, educational interventions): yes Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval #: submission in preparation Expiration Date:</td>
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<td>Animal Species: Institutional Animal Care &amp; Use Committee (IACUC) Approval #: Expiration Date:</td>
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SIGNATURES

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<td>Name</td>
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<td>Marina Peterson</td>
<td>Charles Buchanan</td>
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Optional:
If selected for funding, I give permission to the Office of the Vice President for Research and Creative Activity to use my proposal as an example during training and workshop exercises. (Sign below)

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
Ohio University Research Committee
Application Checklist

Applicants must complete and sign the checklist. The checklist should be included as the second page of the application (following the cover page).

- [✓] Cover page
- [✓] Checklist
- [✓] Abstract*
- [✓] Introduction (For Re-submissions Only)*
- [✓] New Project Description (For Established Applicants Only)*
- [✓] Discussion
- [✓] Glossary/Definition of Terms* (Not required)
- [✓] Bibliography (Not required)
- [✓] Biographical information (Applicant(s) and key personnel)
- [✓] Other Support (Applicant(s) and key personnel)
- [✓] Budget and Justification
- [✓] Appended Materials
- [ ] Appended Electronic Materials
- [✓] Recommended Reviewers
- [✓] Electronic copy of proposal

use OURC form
use OURC form
1 double-spaced page
1 double-spaced page
1 double-spaced page
10 double-spaced pages
2 double-spaced pages
3 pages
3 pages per person
1 page per person
no limit specified
10 pages
No more than 10 minutes of footage
5 required

Single Acrobat file, containing entire proposal and required signatures

* These sections should be written in language understandable by an informed layperson to assist the committee in its review. Established applicants (†) are faculty members who have tenure and have been at the university at least three years or administrators who have been at the university at least five years.

**Please Note: Proposals that do not conform to these format and section requirements will be returned without review by the committee.**

Applicant signature: ________________________________
3. Abstract

*Littoral Los Angeles* is a book length ethnographic research project that approaches the city from the perspective of the coast. It asks how citizenship is formed through engagements at the interface between land and ocean, and how this work helps shape Los Angeles as a coastal city and situates it in a Pacific context. The littoral, or shoreline, is a zone of circulation where the movement of goods, people, resources, and water connect Los Angeles with the sea, and the nation with the Pacific Rim. The Port of L.A. is the busiest in North America, the city’s sewers and storm drains connect everyday lives of Angelenos with coastal ecologies, and wetlands are crucial for mitigating rising sea levels that are an effect of climate change. Despite the importance of Los Angeles’ coast for the region and beyond, it is largely unexamined in existing scholarship on the city, which focuses almost exclusively on terrestrial dynamics ranging from urban planning and growth to immigrant cultural life. The implications of this project are twofold: first, it provides a new perspective on Los Angeles; and second, it contributes to the study of littoral cities on the Pacific Rim and worldwide at a moment in which they are facing critical issues related to trade, energy, and climate change.

OURC support is sought to conduct ethnographic research on wetlands restoration work. This is the first phase of a four-phase, year-long ethnographic research project. The specific aims for Phase 1 are (1) to complete ethnographic research on wetlands restoration and (2) to sharpen research questions for phases 2-4. Ethnographic research on wetlands restoration will consist of participant-observation in public education programs and tours, attendance of stakeholder meetings, and in depth interviews. This will be followed by phases 2-4, which will examine port labor, waste and energy infrastructure, and arts related to immigration and the Pacific. During the year I will submit a book proposal with the aim of securing an advance contract.
4. Introduction

I have addressed the feedback from the committee in the following ways:

I restructured the proposal so that it opens with a section titled “Project Background and Implications.” Here I discuss the general background of the project and its implications for the study of Los Angeles and globally.

In the section that follows, on “Specific Aims,” I outline the specific aims for the component of the project for which I am seeking OURC funding. These are (1) to complete ethnographic research for Phase 1, which will (2) lay the groundwork for Phases 2-4 and help me sharpen and clarify the research questions for the rest of the project. I include a longer discussion of the subsequent research phases (2-4) in this section. Phase 1, on wetlands restoration work, will lead directly into Phases 2-4. As I will stay in Los Angeles for the duration of the project I am only requesting funds to travel to Los Angeles.

The following points are addressed in the methods section: IRB approval will be obtained for the entire project. I am in the process of preparing the IRB submission. I underscore that I have proposed a reasonable budget for the cost of living in Los Angeles. I reiterate that data analysis following Phase 1 will help sharpen and clarify research questions for the subsequent phases.

I emphasize throughout that this is a book length project for which a contract will be sought during the subsequent research phases.

I revised the abstract to clarify the implications and specific aims of the project.

As there were no major concerns raised by the reviewers, or requests to send my proposal out for further review, I am resubmitting my original list.
5. New Project Description

The study of coastal Los Angeles is a new direction of research for me. My work up to now has explored facets of arts and civic life in downtown Los Angeles. The proposed project sustains a concern with citizenship formation in cities, and of the study of urban form. However, it shifts from an emphasis on downtown as the city center to the coast, and, more crucially, from arts to environmental issues, infrastructure, and marine science. Wetlands, the component of the project for which OURC funds are sought, are an especially different subject of research for me. Ethnographic research will entail engaging with people who have a strong interest in nature, scientific and lay knowledge of wetlands ecology, and an investment in the future of these spaces. Though I will again be using ethnography as my research method, because the subject is so different from my previous work, the methodology will necessarily shift in order to accommodate its terms. Some basis of knowledge on my part will allow me to conduct more directed research, even as approaching ethnographic contexts as a neophyte is beneficial for research insofar as one can see things with fresh eyes. In order to lay the groundwork for this project, I will spend January-May 2013 conducting a thorough literature review in fields of environmental anthropology, studies of urban infrastructure, labor studies, and relevant works in science and technology studies. Lastly, the contribution of this work to the field is new. Approaching Los Angeles from the perspective of the coast represents a new way of conceiving of the city that draws on literatures on other littoral cities and on oceanic geographies more broadly. Much of the work in this area is historical and focused on oceanic spaces and cities other than the Pacific. Hence applying its conceptual frameworks to contemporary cases and Los Angeles specifically requires flexible methodologies that draw out commonalities while acknowledging the specificity of time and place.
6. Discussion

A. Project Background and Implications

*Littoral Los Angeles* is an ethnographic study that aims to develop an understanding of Los Angeles as a coastal city, to situate the city in a framework of transoceanic mobility, and to examine how citizenship is at once emplaced and mobile. Through the study of nature, trade, infrastructure, and art, it explores how concrete engagements and encounters with circulatory processes at the interface between land and water help shape the city’s relationship with the ocean. OURC support is sought to conduct ethnographic research on Ballona Wetlands restoration work from June-August 2013. This is Phase One of a year-long, four-phase project. Phases 2-4 focus on port labor and the movement of shipping containers, the circulation of waste and energy, and artistic engagements with transoceanic crossings.

By definition the area where water meets the shoreline, the littoral is a zone of circulation. Characterized by water lapping onto beaches or waves crashing onto rocks, its indeterminacy suggests how the territorial boundary of a continent is not a neat line, but a space of flux and flow. A littoral city is shaped by its proximity to the sea, often making it a cosmopolitan place where people from around the world mingle, where multiple languages are heard in marketplaces, and where the climate fosters particular lifestyles. In examining how the littoral pervades the city in material and imagined ways, this project posits the importance of taking water as seriously as land, in order to understand how the sea connects people and places in ways that are uniquely urban.

Until their transformation into developable dry land in the early part of the twentieth century, the Ballona Wetlands stretched from Venice to Marina del Rey, making Los Angeles’ coast a marshy, natural ecosystem. After decades of contestation between developers and
wetlands advocates, roughly 600 acres of existing wetlands are now public property owned by the state. Coastal wetlands are important littoral spaces. Marshy areas that lie between the sea and inland waterways, they create a border between salt and fresh water, ocean and land. Wetlands’ unique ecosystems function as water filters, flood control areas, natural habitats for a variety of flora and fauna, and destinations for migratory species. Their role in mitigating the effects of rising sea levels makes them crucial for contemporary land management.

The implications of *Littoral Los Angeles* are twofold:

(1) First, the project offers a reconceptualization of Los Angeles as a coastal city and as located on the Pacific Rim. Approaching Los Angeles from the perspective of the Pacific emphasizes how the city is shaped by interconnections created through circulation and mobility, and how citizenship is produced through material engagements and circulatory processes. This marks a unique contribution to the study of the city, one that starts with global movement of trade, energy, and immigration rather than territorial settlement and stasis. As the space where the city and sea meet, the Los Angeles littoral is also the border between the American frontier and the Pacific Rim. Hence circulation at the coast crosses and connects national and oceanic expanses.

(2) Second, by developing a discussion of the littoral city through the case of Los Angeles, this project supports the comparative study of the consequences of and responses to current trends in international trade, energy production and use, and effects of global climate change (Orlove 2012). In particular, it contributes to research on how residents of large coastal cities – on the Pacific Rim and beyond – are responding to these trends on the level of policy, infrastructure, and everyday life. As a megacity located on the Pacific Rim, Los Angeles’ present and future is deeply connected to coastal cities of Asia and Latin America. Los Angeles plays a
central role in the region as the largest North American port and home to immigrants from all parts of the Pacific Rim. Hence the project encourages a greater awareness of how cities – and coastal regions – across the Pacific are connected through oceanic dynamics such as trade, energy, climate, and migration.

*Littoral Los Angeles* builds on my knowledge of Los Angeles and its civic and cultural life. Research I conducted in Southeast Asian cities provides me with an international perspective on dynamics in L.A.

**B. Specific Aims**

There are two specific aims for the portion of the project for which OURC funding is sought. (1) First, I will conduct ethnographic research on Ballona Wetlands restoration necessary to complete Phase 1 of *Littoral Los Angeles*. This will consist of participant-observation, interviews and site document collection (see Methods below). This is a critical moment for the future of the Ballona Wetlands. In January 2012, the state of California approved funding to restore the wetlands by allowing salt and fresh water to run freely into the area and creating a functional ecosystem with native plant and animal species. Subsequently, diverse environmental groups involved in restoration efforts are debating the proper way in which restoration should transpire, notably whether it should be a large-scale undertaking or a more gradual approach. Research at democratic town hall meetings about wetlands restoration and public programs in the wetlands will explore specific ways in which citizen engagement helps shape the city’s coastal ecology and connects Los Angeles to the ocean.

(2) Second, preliminary research conducted during Phase 1 will lay the groundwork for and inform the subsequent phases of the project. Data analysis of material collected in Phase 1 will help me clarify and sharpen the research questions for Phases 2-4. During the subsequent
phases I will complete all necessary research toward the book. I will also develop and submit a book proposal, with the aim of securing an advance contract. Phases 2-4 follow directly from Phase 1, and will be conducted with the support of an Ohio University Faculty Fellowship; hence, I am only requesting support for one-way travel to Los Angeles.

Phases 2-4 are as follows:

**Phase 2**: The Port of L.A. is currently undergoing a major expansion in order to maintain a U.S. west coast port presence in the face of Panama Canal expansion. Ethnographic research will examine how labor, both embodied practice and expertise, supports or hinders the movement of containers through the port. I will complement ethnographic research with archival research on the politics and engineering of port development and its role in shaping the city of Los Angeles’ boundaries and industrial infrastructure.

**Phase 3**: The extraction of oil and the production of biogas at sewage treatment plants off the coast of Los Angeles maintain dynamic connections between city and sea through the circulation of waste, fuel, and traffic. Research on water monitoring, infrastructural technologies, and anti-littering campaigns will investigate how land and water are integrated through cycles of consumption and production that bind everyday practices and offshore energy production.

**Phase 4**: The fourth phase of the project will focus on art in Los Angeles that is from and about the Pacific. This includes contemporary video and performance art that engages with the ocean, festivals showcasing art of the Pacific Rim, and arts and culture of Pacific immigrant communities. As a mode of civic engagement, art offers the potential for alternative imaginings, with responses to contemporary conditions that might be palliative or resistant, optimistic or critical. Research at area archives, events, and exhibits will consider how Los Angeles is shaped as a space of circulation, and how a Pacific imaginary is produced.
C. Significance

Despite the city’s long relationship to the ocean through trade, leisure, and migration, seminal scholarship on the city has generally followed the history of human settlement and urban development with its inland center and urban sprawl (Fogelson 1967, Dear, Schockman and Hise 1996, Soja 1996). This project re-orient the study of Los Angeles, considering what we might learn by approaching the city from the perspective of the sea. The project draws on interdisciplinary scholarship that speaks to concerns of citizenship formation, Los Angeles as a coastal city, and oceanic geographies.

By putting the littoral at the center of analysis, the project begins with the premise that circulation and mobility are inherent to contemporary citizenship, and do not simply serve to mark internal others or cosmopolitan elites (Caldeira 2000, Holston 2008, Isin 2000, Ong 1999). Hence it considers how citizenship is organized around feelings of belonging and material attachments that are both specific to the city and spread beyond it to natal homes of immigrants, arts and culture born of trade relations, and the oceanic space of travelers. I am especially interested in how citizenship is formed through embodied practices as much as representational mediums, through concrete relationships to the built and natural space of the city as well as festivals, literature, and imagery (Bennett 2010, Ingold 2011, Latour 2005, Stewart 2007). At the wetlands, stewardship of nature shapes participants as environmental citizens (Dobson 2003, Dobson and Bell 2005, Jasanoff 2005), whose ethical stance toward the natural and material world supports sustainable urban futures (Brantz and Dümplemann 2011).

The Pacific is integrated into the urban fabric and imaginary of Los Angeles through vast public beaches, stencils on sidewalks reminding Angelenos of the infrastructure that connects urban waste with ocean waters, and freeways with long lines of trucks carrying containers from
the busiest port in North America. Yet in the scholarship on Los Angeles the coast is accounted for only in parts: the port (Bonacich and Wilson 2008, Erie 2004), beaches as leisure space (Culver 2010), and biographies of power brokers (Sitton 2010). These do not take up the extent of activities along the coast, or address its significance for the city and civic life. Pointing out that many of today’s world cities are also port cities, Cartier (1999) suggests that the lack of discussion of that fact is due to changing technologies of transportation. Hence, while littoral cities continue to be spaces of cosmopolitanism and mobility, they have not been explored as such beyond studies of the mercantile era.

In focusing on Los Angeles, this project aims to contribute to discussions of a Pacific oceanic geography more generally. Oceanic movement has long been at the center of anthropological investigation, from Malinowski’s kula ring (1953) to Mintz’s groundbreaking Sweetness and Power (1985) and the epochal Graves of Tarim (Ho 2006). Missing from these studies is a serious and thorough investigation of the import of oceanic movement for the social, political, and economic life of coastal cities. The rich potential of putting the sea at the center of the investigation of urban social life has its roots in Mediterranean Studies (Braudel 1972). This work laid the groundwork for more recent work invested in conceiving of geographic regions around water rather than national territories or areas (Bentley, Brigenthal and Wigen 2009, Fawaz and Bayly 2002, Lewis and Wigan 1999, Steinberg 2001, 2009). Applying this approach to the Pacific is an area with rich and largely untapped potential (Blank 1999).

Littoral Los Angeles is my second major research project. With a book as the primary goal, research findings will also be disseminated in the form of conference papers (presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meetings) and articles (to be submitted to Cultural Anthropology and International Journal of Urban and Regional Research). As the
publisher of my first book, University of Pennsylvania Press has right of first refusal for my next book. An OURC award will support preliminary work on Littoral Los Angeles. Sources for which I have applied to support the three subsequent phases of the project include an Ohio University Faculty Fellowship, a Getty research fellowship, a Huntington Library research fellowship, and an ACLS fellowship.

D. Preliminary Studies of Applicant

As an anthropologist and ethnographer of Los Angeles, I, like others, have focused on the city’s terrestrial life. My previous work challenged the notion that the city has no center by examining the significance of downtown for civic life (Peterson 2010, 2012). Subsequently, unanswered questions about overlooked parts of downtown such as the industrial district and its infrastructural connections to the region brought me to the port, and the coast more generally. Littoral Los Angeles sustains many of the central concerns of my previous research, notably urban form, civic life, and globalization, even as they are refracted through port infrastructure, coastal ecology, and the environment. My first book, Sound, Space, and the City: Civic Performance in Downtown Los Angeles (UPenn Press 2010), explores the meaning and making of contemporary civic life through an ethnography of a free public concert series in a downtown corporate plaza. As co-editor of Global Downtowns (UPenn Press 2012), I contributed a chapter that examines how the arts used for downtown development in Los Angeles draw class lines that support the exclusion and removal of the poor and homeless, and how a Skid Row theater group engages with the consequences of these dynamics.

Research in Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia in 2009 and 2010, supported by Ohio University’s Center for International Studies, focused on cultural policy in the city-state and historic and contemporary ports in the region. This research provides a basis for studying Los
Los Angeles in a Pacific context, as well as a deeper understanding of some of the global dynamics at play in L.A. Ethnographic research conducted in Appalachian Ohio since 2010 has allowed me to explore current engagements with a past of labor, infrastructure, and resource extraction, giving me an understanding of historic dimensions of these issues in the American Midwest. My co-taught course in spring 2012, Transoceanic Spaces: Arts, Cities, and Mobilities, allowed me to engage with literature on oceanic geographies and mobilities that is crucial for this project.

E. Methods

I will conduct ethnographic research on Ballona Wetlands restoration work from June-August 2013. Ethnography is a multidimensional qualitative research method developed by anthropology and now used by numerous fields from communication studies to performance studies. It is best suited for the investigation of the formation of citizenship and Los Angeles as a littoral city as it affords the possibility of assessing the quality of experience and nuances of meaning generated in encounters with the natural environment and its significance for coastal, and urban, ecology. I am in the process of securing IRB approval for the entire project. I have included a reasonable budget for the cost of living in Los Angeles for this portion of the project.

Ethnographic research on Ballona Wetlands restoration will utilize participant-observation and open ended interviews to investigate the diverse perspectives and motivations of those involved in wetlands restoration; how constituents communicate in public forums; the relationship between scientific expertise and layperson knowledge; and the role of nature in forming urban identities. There are numerous non-profit organizations involved in preserving, celebrating, and restoring the Ballona Wetlands, all with public outreach programs that include tours, educational programs, and beach clean up days. Research will focus on three non-profits that represent divergent positions on the proper course of action for wetlands restoration: Friends
of Ballona Wetlands, Ballona Institute, and the Sierra Club Ballona Wetlands Task Force. All have ample opportunities for public participation. My ethnographic research methods will consist of the following three forms of data collection:

1. **Participant-observation** Participant-observation at public events will provide my entry into wetlands restoration work. Events such as town hall meetings, volunteer opportunities, and nature walks are spaces of citizen engagement, where diverse voices are heard, people physically interact with nature, and Angelenos are educated about wetlands stewardship. In order to not have a privileged position at the outset, I will participate as a member of the public, introducing myself as a researcher in the context of these events. This will allow research to develop organically within the framework of wetlands restoration work. Interview subjects will be identified and recruited in the course of participant-observation. Activities in which I will conduct participant-observation are principally:

   - **Friends of Ballona Wetlands**: Monthly volunteer restoration events
   - **Ballona Institute**: Monthly nature walks led by a biologist/naturalist
   - **Sierra Club Ballona Wetlands Task Force**: Monthly citizen town hall meetings

During participant-observation I will focus on who is involved and why, what is taught about wetlands, and how the public engages with nature (i.e. through information, observation, planting, etc.). Data collection will consist of fieldnotes, entered into small moleskin notebooks. These fieldnotes will be transcribed into digital files on my computer after each event.

2. **Interviews** will be conducted with (6) members of the organizations and with (20) members of the public. I will conduct formal, open-ended interviews with 2 staff members of each of the three organizations, focusing on to how the respective groups interact around the Ballona Wetlands Preserve, what their respective visions of the wetlands are, and how they further those
visions through citizen engagement. During participant-observation I will recruit 20 members of
the general public for formal, open-ended interviews about their motivation for participating in
wetlands work, their experience, and consequences of their participation for an understanding of
Los Angeles. Interviews will be recorded on my iPhone using iTalk lite with the interviewee’s
informed consent. The digital files will be transferred to my laptop. I will create note files that
identify the topic discussed at given times during the interview, with direct transcriptions of key
statements. [See Appended Materials for sample interview questions]

3. Lastly, I will collect site documents produced by the various groups and about wetlands
restoration. These might include scientific studies and reports, policy white papers, flyers for
events, and news articles. These will allow me to understand how they present themselves to the
public, how they legitimize their work, and how the work is taken up in other public settings.

Data analysis Preliminary data analysis following Phase 1 will help sharpen and clarify
research questions for the subsequent phases. Data analysis will consist of thematic coding of
fieldnotes, interviews, and site documents. However, thorough qualitative data analysis will be
completed following the completion of the entire four-phase project. Since the project aims to
understand how a range of coastal dynamics support the formation of a littoral city, it is
ultimately necessary to identify themes across the four areas of research.

Project timeline

Phase 1 (June-August 2013): Ballona Wetlands restoration

Phase 2 (September-November 2013): Port labor and container movement

Phase 3 (December 2013-February 2014): Infrastructure and circulation of waste and energy

Phase 4 (March-May 2014): Arts of and about the Pacific
7. Glossary

**Citizenship.** Citizenship is organized around sets of rights and duties. Scholars discuss citizenship in terms of its formal and informal dimensions. While the former is defined by legal status and participation in governance, citizenship is also structured around much broader forms of identification and belonging. Informal citizenship consists of practices that include rights claims, participation in civic organizations and social clubs, and attendance of public events and debates (Engin Isin, *Acts of Citizenship*). Environmental citizenship emphasizes duties humans have to the natural world and its future (Dobson 2003, Dobson and Bell 2006).

**Ethnography.** Qualitative research method used to examine dimensions of social and cultural life. Ethnography is the primary research method of anthropology, and is characterized principally by its use of participant-observation.

**Littoral.** The part of a body of water at the edge of the shore. A littoral city is one along a sea, lake, or river, often with unique coastal cultural forms.

**Los Angeles.** The City of Los Angeles is at the core of and defines an urbanized area referred to as the *Los Angeles metropolitan region*, or *Greater Los Angeles Area*, a metropolitan area spanning Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Bernardino County, Riverside County, and Ventura County. I use “city” to emphasize the urban focus of the project, but situate the City of Los Angeles in this region in order to address issues that are shared with other cities and counties, such as coastal governance.
Mobility. The concept of mobility, or mobilities, is used to assert the central role of movement in contemporary life. An emergent field of mobility studies in the humanities and social sciences examines large-scale movements of people, the transportation of goods, and everyday movements such as walking, considering how movement is shaped by power relations and how it affects our experience of being in the world today (Adey 2010, Cresswell and Merriman 2011, Hannam, Sheller and Urry 2006).

Oceanic geography. Oceanic geography puts the ocean at the center of inquiry. Taken up largely by historians, anthropologists, and geographers, this is often a way of re-orienting investigation of social and cultural life from the frameworks imposed by national boundaries and area studies. Research organized around oceans as geographic spaces emphasizes movement and interconnectivity between places.

Pacific Rim. While Pacific Rim is sometimes taken to refer specifically to Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, according to Dirlik, the Pacific Rim “refers to societies situated on the boundaries of the Pacific Ocean and within it” (1998:3). Hence the west coast of North, Central and South America as well as East Asian countries are also part of the region. Studies of the Pacific Rim emphasize connections between various locations, especially as formed through trade and migration.

Wetlands. Wetlands are marshy areas at the edges of oceans, lakes and rivers. They are exceptionally diverse ecosystems, hosting unique forms of flora and fauna. Along with serving as water purifiers, they help with flood control and shoreline stability.
8. Bibliography
New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Southeast Asia Studies.
University of California Press.
University Press.
Bentley, Jerry H., Renate Bridenthal, and Karen Wigen, eds. 2007. Seascapes: Maritime
Histories, Littoral Cultures, and Transoceanic Exchanges. Honolulu: University of
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the Twentieth Century. Richmond, VA: University of Virginia Press.
Carse, Ashley. 2012. "Nature as Infrastructure: Making and Managing the Panama Canal
(2, Oceans Connect): 278-289.
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Cresswell, Tim and Peter Merriman. 2011. Geographies of Mobilities: Practices, Spaces,
Subjects. London: Ashgate.
Culver, Lawrence. 2010. The Frontier of Leisure: Southern California and the Shaping of
Davis, Mike. 1998. Ecology of Fear: Los Angeles and the Imagination of Disaster. New York:
Vintage Books.
Deverell, William Francis and Greg Hise. 2005. Land of Sunshine: An Environmental History of
Metropolitan Los Angeles. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.
Dobson, Andrew and Derek Bell, eds. 2006. Environmental Citizenship. Cambridge,
Massachusetts: The MIT Press.


Littoral Los Angeles: An Ethnography of Wetlands Restoration
Marina Peterson


9. Biographical information

Marina Peterson

University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Ph.D. in Anthropology, August 2005

CURRENT POSITION
Ohio University
School of Interdisciplinary Arts
Associate Professor, Performance Studies, 2012-
Assistant Professor, Performance Studies, 2006-2012
Affiliations: Center for Law, Justice & Culture; Southeast Asian Studies; Women’s and Gender Studies

PREVIOUS POSITIONS
University of Chicago
The Transnationalism Project
Postdoctoral Fellow, 2005-06

Social Sciences Collegiate Division & Graham School of General Studies
Lecturer, 2002-06

University of Illinois at Chicago
Department of Anthropology and Geography
Adjunct Assistant Professor, 2005-06

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS AND SPECIAL ISSUES

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS
Littoral Los Angeles: An Ethnography of Wetlands Restoration
Marina Peterson

2012

2012

2012

2010

2007

PAPERS PRESENTED

2012

*2012

2012

2011

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2008


2008  “Performing the City: The Los Angeles Poverty Department and Downtown Redevelopment in Los Angeles.” Presented at the National Cityscapes Conference. Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, Case Western Reserve University. Cleveland, OH, March 27-29.


2007  “Sound – Body – Nation: Experimental Improvised Music as Cultural Exchange.” Presented at the Semiotic Society of America Conference. New Orleans, LA, October 4-7. (Chair)


*invited talks
10. Other Support

A. Previous University Funding


Other support received from the university in the past three years
Southeast Asian Studies, *Arts and Citizenship*, Singapore, 2009, $5000,
Southeast Asian Studies, *Ports*, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, 2010, $3500,
Center for International Studies, *TransOceanic Spaces: Arts, Cities, Mobilities*, course development, 2011, $2500,

There are currently no other funds available for the proposed research from OU sources.

B. External Funding

Appalachian Sound Archives Fellowship, Berea College, *Sonic Matters: Labor, Recording, and Radio in the 1940s Recording Bans*, 2010, $3000

Outcomes:

Publications

Presentations

C. Sustainability

Potential sponsors for continuation support include ACLS, The Getty Research Institute, Huntington Library, Wenner-Gren Foundation, National Science Foundation, and Graham Foundation.

Note: In fall 2012 I applied for fellowships from ACLS, the Huntington, and the Getty, as well as an Ohio University Faculty Fellowship for Phases 2-4 of *Littoral Los Angeles*. All are pending.
11. Budget and Justification

A. Consumable Supplies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fieldnote collection material</th>
<th>$34.55</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moleskine notebooks, 3@$9.60 ea.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pack of 12 roller ball pens, $5.75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For writing unobtrusive fieldnotes during ethnographic research. Cost from amazon.com.

B. Travel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>$637.45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Driving one-way, Athens, OH to Los Angeles, CA, 50% of 2318 miles@.55/mile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The portion of research for which OURC funding is sought will be followed by nine months of ethnographic research in Los Angeles during sabbatical leave. Hence I am only requesting support for one-way travel to Los Angeles. I will drive to Los Angeles in order to have affordable transportation for the duration of my stay. OURC support is requested for half of the mileage rate for one-way travel, with the other half to be matched with personal funds. Travel in Los Angeles will be paid for with personal funds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meals</th>
<th>$3,670</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per diem, 91 days@$40/day, 1 day@$30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The per diem rate for Los Angeles is $71/day. Based on previous experience, $40/day is the minimum average amount needed for per diem in L.A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodging</th>
<th>$3600</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 month sublet, $1200/month</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$1200/month is the minimum needed to rent a one bedroom apartment. Cost based on searches on Craigslist, sabbaticalhomes.com, airbnb.com and word of mouth.

G. Total $7,942
12. Appended Materials

Sample interview questions

The two sets of sample interview questions below are (1) for members of wetlands restoration organizations and (2) for members of the general public who participate in wetlands restoration work. The questions will be used to guide formal, semi-structured interviews, allowing me to address crucial points of interest while letting the conversation follow the direction taken by the interviewee.

1. Wetlands restoration organization staff member

   What is the mission of your organization?
   How long has it existed?
   What was the motivation for its founding?
   What kinds of work does it do?
   What are some of its principal achievements?
   How long have you been involved with the group?
   What motivated you to become involved in wetlands restoration work?
   What is the significance of the wetlands?
   Why should they be restored?
   How should restoration be achieved?
   How does the work of your organization relate to that of other organizations involved in wetlands restoration?
   What is the role of the public in wetlands restoration work?
   How does your organization involve or interface with the public?
   What is the significance of the Ballona Wetlands for Los Angeles?
2. Members of the general public

What is your interest in wetlands?
How long have you done work with wetlands restoration?
How many times have you done this particular activity?
How did you find out about it?
What was your experience like?
Have you participated in events run by other groups?
Do you do other things related to nature or the environment?
What is unique about wetlands?
What is their significance for Los Angeles?
What other natural spaces do you visit in the city? In the region? Elsewhere?
Are you involved in other kinds of civic or public activities?
Do you volunteer elsewhere?
13. List of Recommended Reviewers

Julian Brash
Assistant Professor
Department of Anthropology
Montclair State University
1 Normal Avenue -- DI 127
Montclair, NJ 07043
973.655.7395
973.655.7852 fax
julian.brash@montclair.edu

Julian Brash, like me, is an urban anthropologist working in North America. His research interests include urban development and politics, economic development policy, urban neoliberalism, the politics of space and place, urban identity, political economy, and the study of North American society and culture. His book on neoliberal New York is titled *Bloomberg’s New York: Class and Governance in the Luxury City* (Georgia 2011). Julian Brash and I have presented on conference panels together, published in journal issues and edited volumes, and currently serve on the Society of North America’s board (he as President, I as treasurer). We have not collaborated as researchers, editors, or authors.

Les Howard
Professor
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562.464.4517 fax
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Les Howard is a sociologist who works on labor on the U.S.-Mexican border. He teaches courses on Los Angeles, exploring issues of labor, ethnicity, class, public transportation, public space, and more. We met in the context of my previous research on downtown public performances, but have not collaborated in any way.
Daniel Monterescu
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Central European University
Nador 9
Budapest 1051, Hungary
tel. 003613273000
monterescud@ceu.hu

Daniel Monterescu is an anthropologist who works on mixed cities in Israel, and more broadly on Mediterranean urbanism. Hence he has a deep knowledge of foundational work on oceanic geographies focusing on the Mediterranean. We attended graduate school together but have not collaborated as researchers, editors, or authors.

Mihir Pandya
Postdoctoral Fellow
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Mihir Pandya is one of the few anthropologists other than myself working in Los Angeles. His research is the historical ethnography of the aerospace industry, focusing on notions of stealth. He is currently developing research on the Port of L.A. around security. We attended the same graduate program, though at different times, and have not collaborated.

Sarah Schrank
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sarah.schrank@csulb.edu

Sarah Schrank’s first book is titled Art and the City: Civic Imagination and Cultural Authority in Los Angeles (UPenn 2009). Her current research is on the cult of the body in Southern California, a portion of which explores beaches and leisure. We have presented on the same conference panels but have not collaborated in any way.