

CURRICULUM VITAE

Karen Holmberg

karenholmberg@gmail.com

www.karenholmberg.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Anthropology, Columbia University, New York, NY. 2009

M.Phil., Anthropology, Columbia University, New York, NY. 2001

M.A., Anthropology, Columbia University, New York, NY. 1999

B.A. with Distinction, Anthropology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville. 1995

Phi Beta Kappa, Raven Society, Lawn Residency

RESEARCH INTERESTS

archaeology, volcanism, social theory, science and culture, tephrochronology, risk, disaster, climate change, the uncanny, environmentalism, environmental humanities

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

New York University (2013 - present)

Director of the Cities, Cultures, and Climate Change working group (Institute for Public Knowledge)

History of Science working group member

Science Studies Ethnography working group member

Urban Greening Lab contributor

Stanford University Archaeology Center Lecturer, 2011

Brown University Joukowsky Institute (JIAAW), Post-doctoral Teaching Fellow, 2009-10

Museu Nacional da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro Visiting Scholar, 2006

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Panamá, Fulbright Scholar, 2004-5

PUBLICATIONS

Book Project

My current book project, *Darkness*, examines the role of the volcano in the disciplinary history of archaeology and long-term human experience then explores the intersection of archaeology and volcanism in contemporary conceptions of future environments, geoengineering, and nuclear waste storage.

Refereed Journal Articles

In press 'Archaeology of the Future (time keeps on slipping...)' invited special issue editor, *Archaeological Dialogues*, [mid-2017 publication anticipated]. A transdisciplinary archaeological consideration of the past and futurity that incorporates historians of science, and artists.

In press 'Future tense, past imperfect: Ode to the tenacity of plastic gyres and radioactivity', *Archaeological Dialogues*, [mid-2017 publication anticipated].

2016 ['The cultural nature of tephra: 'Problematic' ecofacts and artifacts and the Barú volcano, Panama'](#), *Quaternary International*, 394, 133-51.

2010 ['Placing immateriality: Situating the material of highland Chiriquí'](#). *Internet Archaeology* 28.

2003 'The Hector Backbone: A quiescent landscape of conflict,' with Delle, J., P. Heaton, J. Boyle, T. Cuddy, K. Holmberg, J. Six, M. Smith, N. Thomas, and K. Wehner in *Historical Archaeology*, vol. 37 (3): 93-110.

2003 'Analyzing the settlement pattern of the Burnt Hill Study Area' with K. Wehner. *Northeast Historical*

Archaeology 32. Special Issue: GIS in Historical Archaeology: A Case Study from Central New York, Edited by J. Delle and P. Heaton: 57-78.

Book Chapters

- 2013 '[An inheritance of loss: archaeology's imagination of disaster](#)', in *Humans and the Environment: New Archaeological Perspectives for the 21st Century*. Edited by M. Davis and F. Nkirete. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press: 197-209.
- 2013 '[The sound of sulfur and smell of lightning: sensing the volcano](#),' in *Making Senses of the Past: Toward a Sensory Archaeology*, Center for Archaeological Investigations Occasional Paper No. 40. Edited by Jo Day. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University: 49-68.
- 2007 '[Beyond the catastrophe: The volcanic landscape of Barú, western Panamá](#),' in *Living Under the Shadow: Cultural Impacts of Volcanic Eruptions*, One World Archaeology Series. Edited by J. Grattan and R. Torrence. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press: 274-297.
- 2006 'Perceptions of landscapes in uncertain times: Chunchucmil, Yucatán, Mexico and the Volcán Barú, Panamá,' with Stanton, T. and S. Hutson in *Space and Spatial Analysis in Archaeology*. Edited by D. Fernandez. Calgary: University of Calgary Press: 15-27.
- 2005 '[The voices of stones: unthinkable materiality in the volcanic context of Western Panamá](#),' in *Archaeologies of Materiality*. Edited by L. Meskell. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing: 190-211.

Book Reviews

- 2011 Review of *Indigenous Peoples and the Collaborative Stewardship of Nature: Knowledge Binds and Institutional Conflicts*, edited by A. Ross et al., 2011, *Anthropological Quarterly*, 84 (4), 1043-46.
- 2011 Review of *Volcano & Geothermal Tourism: Sustainable Geo-resources for Leisure and Recreation*, edited by P. Erfurt-Cooper and M. Cooper, London, Earthscan, 2010, *Journal of Heritage Tourism*, 6 (3), 259-60.
- 2010 Review of *Body and Image. Explorations in Landscape Phenomenology 2* by C. Tilley, 2008, *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*, 20 (2), 286-7.
- 2010 Review of *Archaeologies of Placemaking: Monuments, Memories, and Engagement in Native North America*, edited by P. Rubertone, 2008, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, 66, 300-01.

Web-based publications

- 2016 [Savage Minds](#). Invited guest blog author (multiple posts).
- 2015 [Copses of Corpses](#): Uneasy synecdoche and nonhuman suffering of climate change. EnviroSociety. 23 December. Invited response to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21).

Other Publications

- 2016 [Obsidian in Chiriquí](#), Panamá. *Internat'l Association for Obsidian Studies (IAOS) Bulletin*, 54. 3-4.
- 2016 El Volcán Barú y sus peligros prehistóricos (The Barú volcano and its prehistoric hazards), a chapter in the booklet, *El Volcán Barú: los peligros* on past and current volcanic hazards, distributed free of charge to residents near the Barú volcano in western Panamá.
- 2015 *Serendipity/Serendipia*. Exhibition book for the EstudioNuboso Arte y Ciencia LAB.
- 2015 [Plastic thoughts on disasters: the People's Climate March and the shores of Krakatau](#). *Anthropology News (American Anthropological Association)*. March 56 [03].
- 2010 [Thoughts on a volcano](#), with artwork by Ilana Halperin. *Watershed: Brown and RISD's Journal of Environment and Culture*, 16-23.
- 2008 *An Infernal Dinner Party*. Commissioned preface to the book *Physical Geology/Alchemy Project* by artist Ilana Halperin. Manchester Museum, Manchester, UK.

GRANTS AND AWARD FELLOWSHIPS

- 2011 Mellon Foundation LEAP II grant
- 2010 Cities on Volcanoes 7/EU award, Tenerife, Spain
- 2009 Joukowsky Institute Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellowship, Brown University
- 2004 Wenner-Gren Foundation Individual Research Grant
- 2004 Fulbright IIE Fellowship
- 2000 SMART Seed Grant for interdisciplinary research, Columbia Earth Institute
- 2000 Tinker Grant, Columbia Institute for Latin American Studies
- 1998 Stigler Fund, Columbia Anthropology Department (2 years)
- 1997 President's Fellowship, Columbia (4 years)
- 1997 Federal Employees Education and Assistance Fund
- 1994 NASA Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars (LARSS) Fellowship
- 1994 Arts and Sciences Research Grant, University of Virginia
- 1990 Orrel Fellowship for top history and writing ability in a Virginia public school
- 1990 Time Magazine Century III Leadership Scholarship

Event Organization

- 2016 [A Year Without Winter](#), a multi-sited, 3 year transdisciplinary collaborative project on climate catastrophe stemming from the bicentennial of the 1815 eruption of Tambora volcano and the global climate change and social upheaval it brought. April 10, 2015-April 10, 2018.
- 2016 [The Anthropologist](#) (2015) documentary screening and discussion with Susie Crate in the Chesapeake Bay community of Mathews County where parts of the climate change scenes were filmed.
- 2015 *Estudio Nuboso/Lab de Arte y Ciencia* art-sciences collaboration. Panamá. Oct 19-24.
- 2015 New York University, Theoretical Archaeology Group, [Archaeology of the Future](#) session organizer, which incorporated archaeologists, artists, contemporary dancers, and historians of science. May 22-24.
- 2009 Brown University, JIAAW, [Terra Mobilis: Fire and Ice](#) Transdisciplinary Colloquium that brought philosophers, geographers, ethnographers, archaeologists, and artists into dialogue about changing climates as exemplified by volcanoes and glaciers. Dec 4-6.

INVITED TALKS

- 2016 'Urban landscapes: subversive natures' (on site at the Westbeth Center for the Arts and through the streets of New York) for the Urban Greening Lab. Oct 20.
- 2016 'Creative sympathy and climate change, from Frankenstein to Chtulhu', part of the panel 'A Year Without Summer'. Rauschenberg Art Gallery, Ft. Myers, Florida. Oct 8.
- 2016 'The Collect Pond: nature that refuses to die' (on site), part of the BIG WALK organized by the Gallatin Design Collective and the Urban Democracy Lab.
- 2016 'The design of a volcano: a less civilized archaeology' (PechaKucha). ENVISION: Nature and Design, hosted by Global Design at Gallatin, NYU. Feb 5.
- 2016 'The Anthropologist' documentary screening and discussion in the coastal Chesapeake Bay community where part of it was filmed, Mathews, Virginia. March 18.
- 2015 'Serendipity in art and science', Estudio Nuboso/Lab de Arte y Ciencia (an arts-sciences collaboration). Invited facilitator. Panamá. October 19-24, 2015.
- 2015 'The Sidaorjo mud flow (LUSI): an Anthro-Obscene meditation', Verbal Supply Company, An Audible Writers' Collective. May 9.

- 2014 'Perceptions of nature and disaster: Frankenstein, Fukushima, and the archaeology of the future'. New York University, Environmental Studies, Faculty Presentation. Oct 30.
- 2014 'The Science of Environment & Climate Change, an interdisciplinary panel' (invited panel participant). Ligo Project: connecting science and art. Open Source Gallery, Brooklyn, NY. Sept 28.
- 2013 'Doing archaeology in the Anthropocene'. Invited lecture to the Interpretations of Culture class, Columbia University. March 13.
- 2011 'Frankenstein in Chernobyl: The present imperfect of climate change'. Invited lecture for the Social Ecology colloquium, Stanford University. Feb 4.
- 2011 'Diseased nature often breaks forth: risk and radical reversals'. Invited colloquium seminar for the Methods of Analysis in the Social Sciences Program, Stanford University. Jan 14.
- 2010 'Excavating the idea of Pompeii'. Invited public lecture to accompany the art exhibit 'Volcano' curated by James Hamilton and exhibited July 24-October 31. Compton Verney, Warwickshire, UK. Oct 2.
- 2010 'Cryptic tephra and invented volcanoes: the archaeology of a volcano in western Panamá'. University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography. April 22.
- 2004 'Proyecto Volcán Barú: prehistoric landscapes and volcanism in western Panamá.' Fulbright Enhancement Seminar for Central American scholars, Panama City. June 7-11.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2017 Archaeological Volcanology Forum, invited discussant. 82nd Annual Society for American Archaeology 82nd meeting. March 29-April 2.
- 2016 '3.7 million years and counting (?): The art and science of volcano observation and changing climates'. Cities on Volcanoes 9. Puerto Varas, Chile. Nov 20-25.
- 2016 'Quantifying populations in proximity to potentially active volcanoes', with C. Small (LDEO). Cities on Volcanoes. Puerto Varas, Chile. Nov 20-25.
- 2016 'Mapping decades of development in volcanic zones: Night lights vs. land use', with C. Small (LDEO). Cities on Volcanoes. Puerto Varas, Chile. Nov 20-25.
- 2016 'Let's talk about the weather: Imaging, imagining, and merging the aurora borealis, volcanic lightning, and giant squid in an age of uncanny anxiety'. Royal Anthropological Institute, Anthropology, Weather, and Climate Change conference. British Museum. May 27-29.
- 2015 'People and volcanoes: How many and how close?' with C. Small (LDEO). Advances in Remote Sensing of Natural Hazards, American Geophysical Union meeting. San Francisco. Dec 12-16.
- 2015 'Future tense, past imperfect: Ode to the tenacity of plastic gyres and radioactivity'. Theoretical Archaeology Group (TAG-USA) meeting, New York University. May 22-24.
- 2015 'The vast and secret museum of Chiriqui: Stripping the sharpness and beauty from obsidian'. 80th Annual Society for American Archaeology. San Francisco. April 15-19.
- 2014 'Eruptions that never happened: situating the apocryphal volcanic events of Merapi, Java in 1006 AD and the Volcan Baru, Panama in 1882'. Cities on Volcanoes 8 conference. Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Sept 9-13.
- 2014 'Cryptic tephra: the presence and absence of volcanic events from archaeological stratigraphy at the Volcan Baru, Panama. Cities on Volcanoes 8 conference'. Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Sept 9-13.
- 2010 'The taming of the volcano and conquering of climate'. History of Science Society meeting. Montreal. Nov 4-7.
- 2010 'Vomiting lobsters, burning fields, and a diversity of phenomena: merging our ideas of the past, the volcano, and the artistic process'. Cities on Volcanoes 6 conference. Tenerife, Spain. May 31-June 4.
- 2010 'Revolted objects, de-scribing disasters, and exceptional events in pre-Columbian volcanic landscapes'. Cities on Volcanoes 6 conference. Tenerife, Spain. May 31-June 4.

- 2010 'The Entangled landscape: volcanism, archaeology, and ecotourism'. Cities on Volcanoes 6 conference. Tenerife. May 31-June 4.
- 2010 'A heritage of loss and imagination'. 75th Annual Society for American Archaeology conference. St. Louis. April 14-18.
- 2010 'The sound of sulfur and smell of lightning: sensing the volcano'. 27th Annual Visiting Scholar Conference. Carbondale, Illinois. March 26-27.
- 2008 'An inheritance of loss: archaeology and disaster'. 6th World Archaeological Congress. Dublin. June 29-July 4.
- 2007 'Curiouser cabinets: collections of heritage and material culture in highland Panamá'. 40th Annual Society of Historical Archaeology meeting. Williamsburg, Virginia. Jan 10-14.
- 2006 'Cambios en las interpretaciones de la historia eruptivo del Volcán Barú y su impacto en las ocupaciones humanas del pasado'. IV Congreso de Arqueología en Colombia. Pereira, Colombia. Dec 5-7.
- 2006 'The transformative volcano: changes in interpretations of the Volcán Barú's prehistoric eruptive history and its impact'. 71st Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. San Juan, Puerto Rico. April 26-30.
- 2004 'Materiality vs. the volcano: The Volcán Barú, Panamá'. Materiality workshop, School of American Research, Santa Fe. March 4-7.
- 2003 'The social context of a volcano: Volcán Barú, Panamá'. World Archaeology Congress 5, Washington, D.C. June 21-26.
- 2002 'The conceptual mapping of a volcano in its social landscape: Volcán Barú, Panamá'. 35th Annual Chacmool Conference. Calgary.
- 2002 'Perception of the landscape: The lack of a present perfect'. Social Life in the Past Center for Archaeology graduate conference. Columbia University.
- 2001 'The impact of time on the perception of archaeological landscapes' with T. Stanton. 34th Annual Chacmool Conference. Calgary.
- 2000 'Volcanic Panamanian landscapes revisited'. 99th Annual Association of American Anthropologists Meeting. San Francisco. Nov 15-19.
- 2000 'Historical map usage in Geographic Information Systems' with K. Wehner. 33rd annual Society for Historical Archaeology Meeting, Quebec.
- 1999 'GIS settlement patterns' with K. Wehner. 39th Annual Northeastern Anthropological Association Meetings. Providence.
- 1999 'Ceren and the great outdoors: ethnographic and archaeological use of space at Ceren, El Salvador' with S. Barber. 64th Annual Society of American Archaeologists meeting. Chicago. March 24-28.
- 1999 'Changing settlement patterns in Hector Township: 1857-1944' with K. Wehner. 64th Annual Society for American Anthropology Meeting, Chicago. March 24-28.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Stanford University

Risky Environments: The Nature of Disaster, spring 2011

Nature, Culture, Heritage, spring 2011

Brown University

Archaeology under the Volcano, spring 2010

The Nature and Culture of Disaster, fall 2009

Universidad Autónoma de Chiriquí (UNACHI), Panamá

Visión Arqueológica de Boquete para el Turismo (Archaeology and Tourism), summer 2005

Lehman College (City University of New York)

Ancient Peoples and Cultures, fall 2003

Fordham University

Introduction to Archaeology, spring 2003

New York University

Rise of Civilization, summer 2002

Columbia University

Rise of Civilization, TA, spring 2000

Interpretations of Culture, TA, fall 1998

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2015 **Principal Investigator**, site visit to view flood destruction and discuss volcanic hazards planning with local community members and students, Boquete, Chiriquí, Panamá.
- 2010 **Co-Principal Investigator**, excavations of the Moku'ula royal-sacred site on Maui, Hawaii as part of the Ka I'imi 'ike Program for heritage and restoration.
- 2009 **Ethnographic Participant**, *Akademik Ioffe* research and ecotourism vessel, Antarctic Peninsula.
- 2007 **Ethnographic Participant**, *Projeto Bagagem* project in sustainable development, reforestation, and ecotourism in the Brazilian Amazon through the NGO *Saude y Alegria*.
- 2005 **Lab Analyst**, petrography analysis of tephra samples from western Panamá in the geology lab at Northern Arizona University under the direction of Michael Ort.
- 2005 **Lab Analyst**, ceramics and lithics from Proyecto Volcán Barú, Boquete, Chiriquí, Panamá.
- 2004 **Principal Investigator**, Proyecto Volcán Barú. Boquete, Chiriquí, Panamá. Archaeological survey and ethnographic research.
- 2001 **Principal Investigator**, ground-truthing of Landsat7 satellite overpass in Volcán Barú area, western Panamá to determine land cover change.
- 2000 **Principal Investigator**, field survey of the Volcán Barú area, western Panamá.
- 1999 **Field Supervisor**, University of Texas San Antonio Archaeological Field School, Belize. Late Classic Maya excavation, PI: Fred Valdez.
- 1998 **Ethnographic Researcher**, Ceren, El Salvador. Study of agrarian households in three rural villages near the Ceren archaeology site with Sarah Barber.
- 1997 **Field Excavator**, Garua, Papua New Guinea. Australian Museum survey and excavation of 6,000 BP habitation sites, artifact processing. PI: Robin Torrence.
- 1997 **Lab Assistant**, Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia. Processed obsidian artifacts from Garua, Papua New Guinea. PI: Robin Torrence.
- 1996 **Lab Assistant**, American School. Athens, Greece. Database entry, site survey, physical anthropological analysis of Mycenaen skeletal remains. PI: John Camp.
- 1995 **Lab Assistant**, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY. Artifact processing from St. Catherine's Spanish Mission, PI: David Hurst Thomas.
- 1994 **Lab Assistant**, Gray & Pape Cultural Resource Management Firm, Richmond, VA. Established type collection for Richmond Flood Wall ceramics assemblage.
- 1994 **Research Fellow and Excavation Coordinator**, Historic Preservation of NASA Langley property in Hampton, VA in accordance with federal law.
- 1994 **Field Excavator**, Louisa County, VA. Lesser Dabney House. PI: James Deetz.
- 1992 **Lab Researcher**, Cincinnati, Ohio. X-ray diffraction and hydrochloric acid testing used to analyze mineralogical content of daub remains from Cuello, Belize.

- 1992 **Field School Student**, Cuello and La Milpa, Belize. lab analysis, artifact conservation, site survey, botanical flotation. PI: Norman Hammond.
- 1990 **Field School Student**, Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginia. PI: Barbara Heath, Bill Kelso.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal Review

Advances in Volcanology
American Anthropologist
Anthropological Quarterly
Cambridge Archaeological Journal
Canto Rodado
Human Organization
Journal of Anthropological Research
Journal of Heritage Tourism
Journal of Social Archaeology
Quaternary International
World Archaeology

Grant Review

National Science Foundation

Book Manuscript Review

Aarhus University Press

NONACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Geoarchaeology Research Associates, New York. Contract Archaeologist. 2001; 2010-2012
Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, New York. Research Consultant. 2001-2003
Gray & Pape Cultural Resource Firm, Richmond, Virginia. Contract Archaeologist. 1994-1995

LANGUAGES

Spanish – conversational and research capability
Portuguese - conversational and research capability
French - research capability
German - research capability

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association, American Geophysical Union, History of Science Society, International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of Earth's Interior, Register of Professional Archaeologists, Society for American Archaeology, Society for Historical Archaeology