

# Kim De Wolff

School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts  
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## EDUCATION

- 2014      **PhD Communication & Science Studies.** University of California, San Diego.  
Dissertation: "Gyre Plastic: Science, Circulation and the Matter of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch."  
Committee: Chandra Mukerji (Chair), Joseph Dumit, Kelly Gates, David Serlin, Charles Thorpe.
- 2007      **MA Sociology.** Queen's University.  
Thesis: "H<sub>2</sub>O to Go: Marketing and Materiality in the Normalization of Bottled Water."
- 2003      **Bachelor of Music.** University of British Columbia.

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2015-2017 Postdoctoral Fellow. Center for the Humanities. University of California, Merced.

## PUBLICATIONS

- (Forthcoming). "Plastic Naturecultures: Multi-Species Ethnography and the Dangers of Separating Living from Non-Living Bodies." *Body & Society*.
- 2014      "Garbage Patch." In Max Liboiron, Michele Acuto & Robin Nagle (Eds.) *Discard Studies Compendium*. Online.
- 2012      "Water Treatment." In Bill Rathje and Geoffrey J. Golson (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of Consumption and Waste*. Sage. (pp. 991-993).
- 2011      Review of *Small Tech: the Culture of Digital Tools*, edited by Byron Hawk, David M. Rieder and Ollie Oviedo. *International Journal of Communication* 5: (pp. 570-573).

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

- 2013 National Science Foundation STS Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant.
- 2012-2013 Dissertation Writing Fellowship, UCSD Science Studies Program.
- 2012 Joseph Naiman Fellowship in Japanese Studies.
- 2012 University of California Humanities Research Institute California Studies Consortium Graduate Research Travel Grant.
- 2012 UCSD Dean of Social Sciences Research Travel Award.
- 2011, 2012 Dissertation Writing Fellowship, UCSD Communication Department.
- 2011 Center for Global California Studies Summer Graduate Fellowship.
- 2011 Institute for International, Comparative and Area Studies Research Grant.
- 2007-2011 International Tuition and Fees Fellowship, UCSD Communication Department.
- 2006 SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarships Program MA Scholarship.
- 2005 Queen's University R. Samuel McLaughlin MA Fellowship.

## **INVITED TALKS**

- 2016 "The Plastic Island that Isn't There. How Absences Matter for Science and the Ocean." Science and Technology Studies Annual Lecture. St. Thomas University, Fredericton. Canada. November.
- 2016 "Materiality." Ethnography and Design: Mutual Provocations. UC Collaboratory for Ethnographic Design Conference. San Diego. October.
- 2013 "Dangerous Species and the Matter of Belonging in the Plasticsphere." Accounting for Indeterminacy Workshop. Lancaster. UK. June.

## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

- 2015 "The Substance of Absence: How Missing Things Matter." Panel organizer and Chair. Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting. Denver, US. November.

- 2015 "Encounters with a Trash Island that Isn't There (But Could Be)." Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting. Denver, US. November.
- 2015 "We are *Never Alone*: Sharing Culture through 'World Games.'" (With Stephen Mandiberg). 8<sup>th</sup> DiGRA Conference. Diversity of Play: Games-Cultures-Identities. Lüneburg, Germany. May.
- 2013 "Plastic Materialities: Matter in the Pacific Ocean." Symposium on Information Materialities. University of California, Irvine. December.
- 2013 "Downhill from Everywhere: Watershed Solutions for Plastic Ocean Pollution." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Chicago. US. November.
- 2013 "Current Collections: Material Encounters on a Plastic Beach." Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting. San Diego. US. October.
- 2012 "Oceans of Plastic: Environmental Knowledge and the Circulation of Waste." American Studies Association Annual Meeting. San Juan. Puerto Rico. November.
- 2012 "Dangerous Species: tangled nature-cultures in the plastisphere." Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting. Copenhagen. Denmark. October.
- 2012 "Plastic Witnesses: Algalita Marine Research Foundation and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch." American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting. Madison. US. March.
- 2011 "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch: plastic waste as 'matter of concern.'" Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting. Cleveland. US. November.
- 2010 "Number 7 Plastic: Recycling, classification and the politics of material others." Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting. Tokyo. Japan. August.
- 2008 "H<sub>2</sub>O to Go: Marketing and Materiality in the Normalization of Bottled Water." Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Congress of the Humanities. Vancouver. Canada. June.

## **CAMPUS TALKS**

- 2016 "Plastic Currents: Science, Circulation and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch." Merced Seminar in the Humanities. University of California, Merced. US. March

- 2014 "Plastic Species: Living, Mattering, Belonging in the Plastisphere." Colloquium talk for the University of California, San Diego Science Studies Program. San Diego. US. May.
- 2012 "Trash Island and Plastic Soup: 'Things that Matter' in the Pacific Ocean." University of California, San Diego Department of Communication. San Diego. US. April.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Instructor of Record. Department of Communication. University of California, San Diego.

*Global Economy and Consumer Culture.* Summer 2014

*Junior Seminar in Communication.* Fall 2013

*Cultures of Consumption.* Summer 2013

*Senior Seminar: Plastic, Culture & Consumption.* Summer 2012

Teaching Assistant. Sixth College Culture, Art & Technology Writing Program. University of California, San Diego

*Biomedical Ethics.* Winter 2015

*Media Seductions.* Fall 2014

*Social Text.* Spring 2012

*The Life of Artifacts.* Fall 2011

Teaching Assistant. Department of Communication. University of California, San Diego.

*How to Read a Film.* Spring 2011

*Introduction to Communication.* Winter 2011; Spring 2010

*Introduction to Communication and the Person.* Fall 2010; Fall 2009; Fall 2008

*Introduction to Communication as a Social Force.* Summer 2010; Winter 2010; Winter 2009

*Television, Culture and the Public.* Summer 2009

*Introduction to Communication and Culture.* Spring 2009

Teaching Assistant. Department of Sociology. Queen's University, Kingston.

*Social Statistics.* Winter 2007

*Social Research Methods.* Fall 2006

*Introduction to Sociology.* Fall/Winter 2005-2006

Assistant English Teacher. Yubara Board of Education, Japan. 2003-2004.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2013-2015      Researcher. *UC Collaboratory for Ethnographic Design & UC San Diego Studio for Ethnographic Design*. PI: Dr. Elana Zilberg. University of California, San Diego.
- 2006-2011      Research Assistant. *Analogue to Digital Project*. PI: Dr. Martin Hand. Queen's University. Kingston.

## SERVICE

- 2016              Water and the Humanities Conference Organizing Committee. University of California, Merced.
- 2016              Graduate Research Fellowship Selection Committee. *UC Collaboratory for Ethnographic Design*.
- 2016, 2013      External Peer Reviewer, *Nature & Culture*.
- 2016              Organizer for "Watershed Art + Science: A Vernal Pools Reserve Adventure." University of California, Merced.
- 2016              Co-organizer for Merced node of Art + Feminism Wikipedia-edit-a-thon.
- 2015              Grant Reviewer, Center for the Humanities, University of California, Merced.
- 2015              Co-Organizer for the *UC Collaboratory for Ethnographic Design* inaugural workshop.
- 2011-2012      Faculty Search Committee, Department of Communication. University of California, San Diego.
- 2010-2011      Graduate Curriculum Committee, Department of Communication. University of California, San Diego.
- 2010-2011      Students' Choice Speaker Committee, Science Studies Program. University of California, San Diego.
- 2009-2010      Intellectual Life Committee, Department of Communication. University of California, San Diego.
- 2008              Graduate Advisory Editor, *Science, Technology and Human Values*.