

Heather Craig Olins

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EDUCATION

Harvard University, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Cambridge, MA

Ph.D. in Organismic & Evolutionary Biology, May 2016

Thesis: Abiotic Influences on Free-Living Microbial Communities at Hydrothermal Vents;

Advisor: Dr. Peter Girguis

Microbial Science Initiative (MSI) Graduate Consortium Certificate

Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Teaching Certificate, completed Spring 2015

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

M.A. in Earth & Environmental Sciences, 2006

Thesis: Spatiotemporal Analyses of Benthic Macroinvertebrate Community Structure in Selected Connecticut Streams; Advisor: Dr. Barry Chernoff

B.A. with high honors in Earth & Environmental Sciences, 2005

Honors Thesis: Comparative Methods for Sampling and Analyzing Benthic Macroinvertebrate Communities in the Lower Connecticut River Basin; Advisor: Dr. Barry Chernoff

POSITIONS & TRAINING

2023-present	Associate Professor of the Practice	Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
2017-2023	Assistant Professor of the Practice	Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
2016-2017	Science Faculty	Fessenden School, Newton MA
2009-2016	NSF Graduate Research Fellow	Harvard University, Cambridge MA
2011-2015	Educational Consultant	HHMI Biointeractive, Chevy Chase MD
2006-2009	Science Faculty	St. Mark's School of Texas, Dallas TX
2003	Research Assistant	Williams-Mystic Maritime Studies Program, Mystic CT
2002-2006	Research Assistant	Wesleyan Univ., Middletown CT

AWARDS & HONORS

Selected for Boston College Center for Digital Innovation's Design Thinking Working Group, 2021-2022

Selected for the Scientist Spotlights and Data Nuggets QUBES Faculty Mentoring Network, Spring 2021

Selected for Boston College Center for Teaching Excellence Faculty Cohort on Applying Learning Sciences to teaching, Fall 2019

Selected for the SimBio/QUBES Faculty Mentoring Network, Spring 2019

Selected for Boston College Center for Teaching Excellence Faculty Cohort on Teaching for Inclusion & Social Justice, Fall 2018

Selected to participate in Boston College's inaugural Faculty Teaching Retreat, June 2018

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University Derek Bok Center, Fall 2014
 2014 Harvard Horizons Scholar: selected for months of mentoring and training in science communication culminating in public talk in Sanders Theater
 Participant (50/800 selected) ComSciCon national science communication conference, 2014
 Winning photograph in "The Subjective Objective" science image show, 2014
 Audience Choice Award at (invited) Phoenix ComiCon FameLab competition, 2014
 "Certificate of Mentor Awesomeness" Science Club for Girls (Cambridge, MA) outstanding mentor award, 2010

INTERNAL GRANT & FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT

	Boston College's Undergraduate Research Fellowship	
	200-400 hours support annually (2018-present) for undergraduate researchers	
2019	Boston College Teaching and Mentoring (TAM) Award	\$6,300
	Scientist Spotlight Interviews in Introductory Biology	
2018	Boston College Academic Technology Innovation Grant (ATIG)	\$15,500
	Empowering Biology Students with Cutting-Edge Handheld Sequencing Technology	
2018	Boston College Ignite Award	\$20,000
	Establishing Long-term Monitoring, Engaging Undergraduates, and Conducting Experiments Related to Carbon Cycling and Climate Change	
2018	Boston College Affordable Courses Initiative grant	\$2,000
2018	Boston College Exploratory Technology Grant	

PREVIOUS GRANT & FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2011-2014
 Deep Submergence Science Committee (DESSC) workshop travel grant, 2012
 Harvard's Microbial Sciences Initiative (MSI) travel grant, 2011
 RIDGE2000 travel grant, National Science Foundation, 2010

RECENT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017-present	Assistant/Associate Professor of the Practice	Boston College
	Designed & teach Ecology in a Changing Climate (BIOL4130, ~30 students)	
	Designed & co-teach biennially Our Oceans (BIOL1706/ENVS1075, ~77 students)	
	Co-lead biennially Our Oceans Leadership Seminar (BIOL1709, ~12 students)	
	Teach annually Introduction to Ecology & Evolution (BIOL2010, ~250 students)	
	Teach annually Gateway Biology Discussion (BIOL2060, ~40 students)	
	Designed & teach annually Deep Sea Biology (BIOL4030, ~45 students)	
	Designed & taught Research in Microbial Ecology Lab (BIOL4060, ~12 students)	
	Designed & taught Microbiomes: Invisible Ecosystems (BIOL5050, ~16 students)	
Fall 2021	Guest Interviewee Design Thinking and Creativity	Woods College
Spring 2020	Guest Lecturer Introduction to Digital Media	Boston College
Spring 2018	Guest Lecturer Deep Sea Biology	Harvard Extension School
Spring 2018	Guest Lecturer Business & the Natural Environment	Boston College

2016-2017	Science Faculty in the upper school Taught 4 classes of 7th grade Earth Science	The Fessenden School
2010-2015	Teaching Fellow, Deep Sea Biology (3x) Assisted with course redesign and led students in discussions of scientific literature	Harvard University
2014	Teaching Fellow, Foundations of Biological Diversity Lead weekly lab and discussion section of 19 in course of 110 students.	Harvard University
2014	Instructor, Alien Worlds on Earth Designed, proposed, and taught week-long course funded by the Graduate Student Council. Selected as one of 13 courses out of 32 proposed	Harvard University

MENTORING and ADVISING

Boston College Summer Orientation Advising: Summers 2019-2022
 Gateway to STEM program academic advisor: Fall 2021-present
 Boston College Undergraduate Research Students Mentored
 Erin Lender: Fall 2022 and ongoing
 Mary Clare Earnst: Summer 2023
 Katherine Jeszenszky: 2021/2022 academic year
 Cosette Patterson: 2021/2022 academic year
 Carlos Tramonte (McNair Scholar): Fall 2020-Spring 2021
 Meaghan Grogan: Summer 2020
 Cameron DeAngelo: Summer 2018-Spring 2020
 Josephine Pandji: Spring 2018-Spring 2020 (Thesis won Biology department's Balkema Award for best senior thesis)
 Boston College McNair Exploratory Program (MEP) mentor, Spring 2018-present
 Boston College Gateway Program faculty member, Spring 2018-present
 Boston College First Year Student Orientation Advisor, Summers 2018-present
 Mentored high school intern on independent research project, 2014
 Volunteer Mentor, Science Club For Girls, Cambridge, MA, 2009-2010

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE - Internal (Boston College)

Member: Biology Department Microbiology search committee, Fall 2022-Spring 2023
 Biology Department Liaison to the Core, Summer 2022-present
 Faculty advisor to Sea Eagles club, Fall 2022-present
 Designed and facilitated day-long science communication for Boston College graduate students: July & December 2019, May 2021, January 2022
 Biology department retreat poster/talk judge: Summer 2019, Summer 2022
 Environmental Studies Program Affiliate Faculty, Summer 2019-present
 Biology Depart Library Liaison, Spring 2019-present
 Reviewer: Advanced Study Grant, Spring 2018-present
 Co-facilitator: Robin Wall Kimmerer Lowell Humanities Series event, Fall 2021
 Member: Environmental Studies Visiting Assistant Professor search committee, Spring 2021
 Invited Panelist: "Redefining Inclusion" panel (CTE's Excellence in Teaching Day), Spring 2021

Invited Anchor: CTE's "This Isn't Busywork" Teaching Roundtable, Spring 2021

Member: Biology department Undergrad. Research Opportunities Steering Committee, summer 2020-2021

Faculty Interviewer: Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program, Spring 2020, Spring 2021

B.C. formative education webinar invited panelist, Summer 2020

Faculty Advisor: Boston College Life Sciences Journal, Spring 2018-Spring 2022

Invited keynote panelist: CTE's Graduate Teaching Conference, August 2019

Invited panelist: McNair Exploratory Program Graduate School Panel, March 2019 (invited and declined due to conflict, March 2021)

Living Foods: The Microbiology of Food and Drink. Co-lecturer, SITN Fall Lecture Series. Oct. 2012 ([video link](#))

Beneath the Surface: The Present and Future of Our Oceans. Co-lecturer, SITN Fall Lecture Series, Oct. 2011 ([video link](#))

Writing

earthreads newsletter, personal blog ([link](#)) Spring 2022-present

Teaching Reflections, personal blog ([link](#)), Spring 2020 - present

"The Relaunch of an Ocean Workhorse" ([link](#)) American Scientist Multimedia, 2014

"The Alien Worlds of Hydrothermal Vents" ([link](#)) SITN Flash, 2013

"The Higgs Boson Hoopla Explained" ([link](#)) SITN Flash, 2012

"The Mysterious Lovechild of Geology and Biology: Hydrothermal Vents." Harvard University

Dudley Review: revenant, Volume 16 (2010)

INVITED TALKS

- **Women's Panel at Koftsta Dorm** (female student formation event) panelist, September 2023
- **Boston College Biology Department Teaching Career Seminar** guest speaker and panelist, December 2022
- Working on Land and at Sea. **Sea Eagles Club Meeting**, November 2022
- **EcoPledge Environmental Professor Panel** invited panelist, November 2022
- Careers Beyond the Bench session invited panelist at **Boston Bacterial Meeting**, June 2022
- Abiotic Influences on Free-Living Microbial Communities: From Hydrothermal Vents to Local Freshwater Wetlands. **Boston College Earth & Environmental Sciences Seminar Series**, March 2021.
- **Boston College Earth & Environmental Science Colloquium Seminar** - cancelled due to COVID-19, Spring 2020
- Abiotic Influences on Free-Living Microbial Communities: From Hydrothermal Vents to Local Freshwater Wetlands. **Nayak Lab, UC Berkeley** (remote presentation), May 2020.
- Mineral Colonization Samplers Reveal Patterns in Microbial Community Composition and Structure at Hydrothermal Vents. **Girguis Lab, Harvard University**, Jan. 2019
- Abiotic Influences on Free-Living Communities in Hydrothermal Vent Ecosystems... and coming soon local wetlands. **Boston College Biology Department Retreat**, Aug. 2018
- Life without Light at Deep Sea Volcanoes. **Harvard University Project Teach** program for local middle school students, April 2014
- An Unexpected Distribution of Microbial Activity Within a Hydrothermal Vent Field. **MIT Microbial Systems Seminar**, Dec. 2014
- Microbial Activity at Diffuse Flow Hydrothermal Vents. **Bridgewater State biology seminar**, Oct. 2014
- Life without Light at Deep Sea Volcanoes. One of three invited speakers for **St. Mark's School of Texas STEM conference**, Oct. 2014
- Life without Light at Deep Sea Volcanoes. Invited speaker for **Harvard's Institute for English Language** for international graduate students. Aug. 2014

The Importance of Low Temperature Habitats for Microbial Activity at Hydrothermal Vents.
Microbial Sciences Initiative chalk-talk, Nov. 2013

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Olins H**, Pandji J, DeAngelo C. Spatial Scaling of Microbial Diversity in Nearby Freshwater