

Margaret Willson

Affiliate Associate Professor

Contact info

willsonm@uw.edu

FIELDS OF INTEREST

The Arctic and Northern regions with a specialty in Iceland; Northern coastal communities; fisheries politics and practices; human societies and climate change in Northern areas; gender and sexuality; constructions of inequality; international development; ethno-history

Other sites of interest: Brazil; Melanesia (Papua New Guinea); Overseas Chinese (Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Northwest)

BIOGRAPHY

1990 London School of Economics, PhD Anthropology

Margaret Willson's most recent book, *Seawomen of Iceland: Survival on the Edge* (2016, University of Washington Press: Seattle) was a finalist for the 2017 Washington State Nonfiction Book of the Year. Her other books include: *Dance Lest We All Fall Down: Breaking Cycles of Poverty in Brazil and Beyond* (2010, University Washington Press: Seattle), which was a Silver Medal Winner for Multicultural Nonfiction in the Independent Book Awards; *Taboo: Identity, Sexuality and Erotic Subjectivity in Anthropological Fieldwork*, edited with D. Kulick (1995, Routledge: London); and *The Ethnographic Film Catalogue, Vol. II* (1990, Royal Anthropological Institute: London). She has published numerous articles and book chapters and recently returned from Iceland on a Snorri Sturlusson Icelandic Fellowship (2019) where she was conducting research for her current book on an historical Icelandic female sea captain who was a solitary #MeToo movement 200 years ahead of her time.

Margaret Willson has taught at various universities, worked in ethnographic film, and was International Director of an NGO for 16 years working for gender, racial and international equality.

In the attached tabs:

RESEACH

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

2016. *Seawomen of Iceland: Survival on the Edge*. University of Washington Press: Seattle
(Finalist for 2017 Washington State Nonfiction Book of the Year)

2010. *Dance Lest We All Fall Down: Breaking Cycles of Poverty in Brazil and Beyond*. University Washington Press: Seattle (Silver Medal Winner for Multicultural Nonfiction, Independent Book Awards)
1990. *The Ethnographic Film Catalogue, Vol. II*, Royal Anthropological Institute: London

Edited Volume

1995. *Taboo: Identity, Sexuality and Erotic Subjectivity in Anthropological Fieldwork* (with D. Kulick) Routledge: London

Articles and Book Chapters

- Submitted. "Becoming Nordic in Brazil: Whiteness and Icelandic Heritage in Brazilian Identity Making," (with K. Loftsdóttir and E. Eypórsdóttir), *To Nordic Journal of Migration Research*.
2019. "Recognized Seaworthy: Resistance and Transformation among Icelandic Fisher Women," (with H. Tryggvadóttir), in Tanya King et al (Eds.) *At Home on the Waves*. Berghahn Books: New York
2014. "Resilience in Rural Iceland," (with B. Gunnlaugsdóttir) in E. Paul Durrenberger and Gisli Pálsson (Eds.), *Gambling Debt: Iceland's Struggle with the New World Order*, University of Colorado Press: Boulder
2013. "Icelandic Fisher Women's Experience: Implications, Social Change, and Fisheries Policy," in *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*, April.
2010. "Slipping into Landscape," (with K. Lund) in K. Benediktsson and K. A. Lund (Eds.), *Conversations with Landscape*. Ashgate: Farnham
2009. "Incorporating an Anthropological Consciousness as a Model for Development," in M. Bronson and T. Fields (Eds.). *So What? Now What?: The Anthropology of Consciousness Responds to a World in Crisis*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing: New Castle upon Tyne
2005. "Indulgence," in D. Kulick and A. Meneley (Eds.) *Fat: An Anthropology of an Obsession*, Tarcher/Penguin: New York
2002. "Negotiating Race, Inequality and Gender in the Work of an NGO in Bahia, Brazil," in *Practicing Anthropology*, Vol. 23, No.2
2001. "Designs of Deception: Concepts of Consciousness, Spirituality, and Survival in Capoeira Angola in Salvador, Bahia." in *Anthropology of Consciousness*. Vol. 12, No.1
1997. "Playing the Dance, Dancing the Game: Race, Sex and Stereotype in Anthropological Fieldwork" in *Ethnos*, Vol. 3-4 August
1995. "Different Drummer: Vision and the Anthropological Text" in *Anthropology and Humanism*, December
1994. "Rambo's Wife Saves the Day: Subjugating the Gaze and Subverting the Narrative in a New Guinea Swamp," (with D. Kulick) in *Visual Anthropology Review*, Vol. 10, No. 2 Spring (reprinted in Kelly Askew and Richard Wilk (Eds.), *The Anthropology of Media: A Reader*, Blackwell: Oxford 2002)
1992. "Echoing Images: Constructions of Savagery in a Papua New Guinea Village," (with D. Kulick), in *Visual Anthropology*, Vol. 5, No. 2 Fall
1991. "Kinesiska och västerländska attityder till sexualitet, kärlet och äktenskap (Chinese and Western attitudes toward sexuality, love and marriage)," in D. Kulick (Ed.), *Att Bega*

Karlek: sexualiteten, kroppen och karleken i olika kulturer (To Commit Love: sexuality, the body and love in different cultures); Special issue Ottar No. 2, pp. 20-23.

Recent Popular and Op-Ed

2013. "Um Kletta og Klungur í Framandi Landi (About Craigs and Clambering in a Foreign Land)" (translated by P. D. Kristinsdóttir), in *Útivera: Tímarit um Útivist og Ferðalög* (Outdoor activities: Journal of Travel and Outdoors). Reykjavik. Vol. 10. No. 1. Pp. 68-76.
- 2009 "Að feta viðkvæma stigu (Walking a Fragile Path)" (translation by Á. Lyons Flosadóttir), in *Morgunblaðið* (Iceland's national newspaper, an op-ed article on the potential environmental and social concerns of tourism). August.

Films

1995. *Reflections*, on concepts of gender and sexuality among blind people, Independent (Director)
1991. *Mongolia: People in Search of History*. Channel Four, Britain (Associate Producer and Anthropologist)

Exhibits

- 2015-16. *Seawomen of Iceland*, at the Maritime Museum of Iceland in Reykjavík. (Research, text, photographs and development)

Other Awards

- Jefferson Award 2008 (Public service award for international development work).
- Thomas C. Wales Award for Passionate Citizenship 2007 (Public service award for international development work)

AFFILIATIONS

- University of Washington, Affiliate Associate Professor
Anthropology
Scandinavian Studies Department
Arctic Minor, a partnership between the Jackson School and School of Oceanography
- Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri, Iceland, Senior Associate Scientist