

STEPHEN P. VRLA

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EDUCATION

Michigan State University
Ph.D. in Sociology with specialization in Environment

East Lansing, MI
May 2018 (expected)

- Interdisciplinary specializations:
 - Animal Studies: Social Science & Humanities Perspectives
 - Environmental Science and Policy
- Current research:
 - Measuring and analyzing the effects of humane and environmental education programs on students' attitudes toward animals and the environment and moral development
 - Measuring the effects of exposure to road-killed animals and other forms of violence toward animals on people's attitudes toward animals and moral development

Williams College
B.A. in History, *magna cum laude*

Williamstown, MA
June 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Chinquapin Preparatory School
Teacher and Resident Advisor

Highlands, TX
August 2011 – June 2013

- Developed and taught courses in 12th grade environmental science, 8th grade English, and 6th grade life skills and social studies at school for low-income, inner-city youth
- Developed and implemented residence life program in middle school boys' dormitory

Outback Therapeutic Expeditions
Wilderness Field Instructor

Lehi, UT
January 2011 – May 2011

- Led weeklong, primitive backpacking trips for youth suffering from anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and other psychological disorders
- Collaborated with psychologists and social workers to administer treatment plans

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Michigan State University
Graduate Research Assistant

East Lansing, MI
January 2014 – present

- Collaborating with Dr. Linda Kalof to analyze the interrelationship between photographic representations of non-human animals in *National Geographic* and *National Geographic Kids* magazines and societal attitudes toward animals
- Developing and publishing online teaching modules to teach high school students about the interrelationship between societal representations of animals and attitudes toward animals and how to conduct social scientific research

PUBLICATIONS

Vrla, S. Something to see here: Looking at road-killing and road-killed animals. (in preparation)

Vrla, S. Cute dolphins and fierce owls: Representations of animals on *National Geographic Kids* magazine covers. (in preparation)

Kalof, L., Bell, J., Whitley, C., & **Vrla, S.** On the co-existence of humans with liminal animals: Cultural representations in the northern environment over the twentieth century. (in preparation)

PRESENTATIONS

Vrla, S. Something to see here: Looking at road-killing and road-killed animals. *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, August 2014. (forthcoming)

HONORS AND AWARDS

MSU Environmental Science and Policy Program Doctoral Recruiting Fellowship	2013
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Williams College Phi Beta Kappa Society	2009
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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association (Member)	2014 – present
• Section on Animals and Society	
• Section on Science and Technology	
• Section on Sociology of Education	

Animals and Society Institute (Member)	2014 – present
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MSU Environmental Education Reading Group (Member)	2013 – present
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MSU Graduate Students for Animals (President)	2013 – present
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VOLUNTEER WORK

Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry (Advisory Team Member)	2014 - present
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Keep Michigan Wolves Protected (Public Speaker)	2014 - present
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Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing (Religious Educator)	2013 – present
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The Woods Project (Trip and Camp Leader)	2012 – present
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