

RICHARD STUART OLSON
(April 2011, abbreviated)

Addresses

Department of Politics and International Relations
Florida International University
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Degrees

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Oregon, 1974
(1968-1969, Fulbright Fellow, Colombia, South America)
M.A. in Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles, 1968
B.A. in Political Science, University of California, Davis 1967
(1965-1966, University of Madrid, Spain)

Academic Positions

Professor and Founding Chair, Department of Politics and International Relations,
Florida International University (2009-)

Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, Florida International University
(2005-2008)

Professor of Political Science, Florida International University (1998-)

Associate Professor of Political Science, Arizona State University (1986-1997)

Visiting Associate Professor/Faculty Research Associate, School of Public Affairs,
Arizona State University (1982-1986)

Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Redlands (1979-1982)

Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Redlands (1974-1979)

Administrative Positions

Director of International Programs, Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost,
Arizona State University (1985-1993)

Principal Honors/Awards

Founding President (2000-2002) and Charter Member, Phi Beta Kappa-Epsilon of
Florida, Florida International University
Eminent Scholar, International Hurricane Center, Florida International University, 1998-
2000
Outstanding Teacher 1995-1996, Department of Political Science, Arizona State
University
Professor of the Year, 1979-1980, University of Redlands
Charter Member (1975), Phi Beta Kappa-Omicron of California, University of Redlands
Fulbright Fellow, Colombia, South America, 1968-1969
Phi Beta Kappa, 1967, University of California, Berkeley
Phi Kappa Phi, 1967, University of California, Davis
Pi Sigma Alpha, 1967, University of California, Davis
Graduation *magna cum laude*, University of California, Davis, 1967

Teaching Interests

Politics of Disaster, Comparative Genocide, Comparative Politics, Latin American
Politics, Central American Politics, Politics of Mexico

Research Interests

Critical Juncture Theory, Politics of Disaster (Pre- and Post-Event), Theories of Genocide

Research/Project Administration Experience

Project Co-Director (Juan Pablo Sarmiento, Director), “Phase V of an Assessment of
Risk Management in Latin American and Caribbean Higher Education: The Paul C. Bell
Jr. Risk Management Program,” funded by the U.S. Agency for International
Development, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), \$1,600,000
(9/1/2009-8/30/2012).

Project Director, “Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Americas: Conceptualizing,
Identifying, Analyzing, Stimulating, and Strengthening Transferable DRR Models,”
funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of U.S. Foreign
Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), \$4,515,022 (9/19/2008-9/18/2013).

Project Director, “Phase IV of an Assessment of Risk Management in Latin American
and Caribbean Higher Education: The Paul C. Bell Jr. Risk Management Program,”
funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of U.S. Foreign
Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), \$149,981 (2/01/2008-8/30/2009).

Project Director, “Phase III of an Assessment of Risk Management in Latin American and Caribbean Higher Education: The Paul C. Bell Jr. Risk Management Pilot Program [Central America and the Caribbean],” funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), \$99,633 (9/16/2006-1/30/2008).

Project Director, “Phase II of an Assessment of Risk Management in Latin American and Caribbean Higher Education: The Paul C. Bell Jr. Risk Management Pilot Program [South America],” funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), \$98,733 (8/16/2004-9/15/2006).

Project Director, “An Assessment of Risk Management in Latin American and Caribbean Higher Education,” funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), \$51,455 (9/27/2003-8/15/2004).

Principal Investigator, “*Prevención y Gestión de Crisis en el MERCOSUR*,” funded by the Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, University of South Florida, \$110,901 (7/1/2002-6/30/2003).

Principal Investigator, “Disaster Learning, ‘*Poder Convocatorio*,’ and Coordination in Six Latin American Countries,” funded by the Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, University of South Florida, \$132,586 (5/1/2001-9/30/2002).

Principal Investigator, “Disaster Readiness and Response in Latin America and the Caribbean,” funded by the USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), San José, Costa Rica, \$17,700 (9/1/00-12/31/2000).

Convenor/Chair (Vincent T. Gawronski, PI), “Politics and Disaster: A Workshop,” funded by the National Science Foundation (\$26,809) and the USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (\$14,000), and the International Hurricane Center at Florida International University (\$3,500). The workshop was held in San José, Costa Rica in December 2000.

Principal Investigator, “Disasters and the Stability of Policymaking Environments: A Quantitative Analysis,” funded by the National Science Foundation, \$207,273 (6/5/98-12/30/2001).

Principal Investigator, “The Mexico City 1985 Disaster and Emergent Organizations: A 10-Case Study,” funded by the National Science Foundation, \$218,902 (1/15/97-8/30/2000).

Principal Investigator, “Standing Rubble Again: Hazardous Structure Abatement in Oakland, California 1989-1994,” funded by the National Science Foundation, \$156,982 (10/15/94-12/30/96).

Monitoring/Evaluation Consultant, IRG, Inc. and BHM Inc., for the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), 1989-continuing.

Co-Principal Investigator, “Engineering Solutions and Policy Problems: The Oroville, California Experience with Hazardous-Structure Abatement,” funded by the National Science Foundation, \$70,000 (9/30/85-12/31/87).

Co-Principal Investigator, “The Policy Dilemmas of an Earthquake Prediction: Costa Rica, 1983-1985,” funded by the University Research Fund of Arizona State University, \$14,000 (12/1/84-12/31/85).

Prime Contractor, “The Utah Multi-Hazard Mitigation Project: An Evaluation,” funded by the Utah Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Region VIII) \$15,000 (6/15/85-7/15/85).

Principal Investigator, “The Political, Economic, and Social Effects of an Earthquake Prediction: The Lima-Callao Area of Peru, 1980-1984,” funded by the National Science Foundation, \$317,000 (12/14/82-12/31/85).

Co-Principal Investigator, “A Workshop on Hazards Research, Public Policy Development, and Implementation Incentives: A Focus on Urban Earthquakes,” funded by the National Science Foundation, \$35,000 (6/1/82-7/1/82).

Principal Investigator, “Seismic Safety and Public Policy Processes: A Study of Three Jurisdictions in San Bernardino County, California (with extensions for “The Life History of the Utah Seismic Safety Advisory Council, 1976-1981,” and “Hazardous Structure Abatement in Los Angeles, 1973-1981”),” funded by the National Science Foundation, \$230,000 (6/1/80-11/30/82).

Publications — books and major reports

Olson, Richard S., *The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID): A Critical Juncture Analysis, 1964-2003*, placed on the USAID public website in 2005 at:
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/publications

Olson, Richard Stuart, Ricardo Alvarez, Bruce Baird, Amelia Estrada, Vincent T. Gawronski, and Juan Pablo Sarmiento, *The Storms of '98: Hurricanes Georges and Mitch, Impacts, Institutional Response, and Disaster Politics in Three Countries*, Special Publication 38 (Boulder, CO: University of Colorado Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center, 2001).

The preceding was also published (Special Publication 38-S) in Spanish as *Las Tormentas de '98: los Huracanes Georges y Mitch, sus Impactos, la Respuesta Institucional, y la Política de Desastre en Tres Países*.

Olson, Richard Stuart, Juan Pablo Sarmiento, Robert A. Olson, Vincent T. Gawronski, and Amelia Estrada, *The Marginalization of Disaster Response Institutions: The 1997-1998 El Niño Experiences of Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia*, Special Publication 36 (Boulder, CO: University of Colorado Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center, 2000). This report may also be downloaded at <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards>

The preceding was also published in Spanish as *Marginación de las Instituciones de Respuesta en Casos de Desastre: La Experiencia del Fenómeno El Niño de 1997-1998 en Peru, Bolivia, y Ecuador*. The Spanish version (Special Publication 36-S) is available from the Centro Regional de Información de Desastres (CRID), Apartado Postal 3745-1000, San José, Costa Rica. It may be downloaded at <http://www.crid.or.cr>

Olson, Richard Stuart, Robert A. Olson, and Vincent T. Gawronski, *Some Buildings Just Can't Dance: Politics, Life Safety, Disaster* (Stamford, CN: JAI/Elsevier Press, 1999).

Olson, Richard Stuart, with Joanne M. Nigg and Bruno Podestá, *The Politics of Earthquake Prediction* (Princeton University Press, 1989).

Publications — chapters

Olson, Richard Stuart, “Toward a Politics of Disaster: Losses, Values, Agendas, and Blame,” in R. A. Boin, *Crisis Management, A Three-Volume Set* (London, UK: Sage Publications, 2008). This is in fact a reprint of an article originally published in August 2000 in the *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* (see below).

Gawronski, Vincent T., Richard Stuart Olson, and Pedro Carvalho, “Locally Influenced, Distantly Courageous? Exploring Media Constructions of Katrina’s Gulf Coast Impacts” in Natural Hazards Center, *Learning from Catastrophe: Quick Response Research in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina* (Boulder, CO: Institute of Behavioral Science, 2006), pp. 443-456.

Podestá, Bruno, and Richard Stuart Olson, “Science and the State in Latin America: Decisionmaking in Uncertainty,” in Louise K. Comfort, *Managing Disaster: Strategies and Policy Perspectives* (Duke University Press, 1988), pp. 296-312.

Publications — refereed articles

Olson, Richard Stuart, Juan Pablo Sarmiento, and Gabriela Hoberman, “Establishing public accountability, speaking truth to power, and inducing political will for disaster risk reduction: ‘Ocho Rios’ + 25,” *Environmental Hazards, Human and Policy Dimensions* Volume 10 (2011), pp. 59-68.

Olson, Richard Stuart, Vincent T. Gawronski, "From Disaster Event to Political Crisis: A '5C+A' Framework for Analysis," *International Studies Perspectives* Volume 11 No. 3 (2010), pp. 1-17.

Drury, A. Cooper, Richard Stuart Olson, and Douglas A. Van Belle, "The Politics of Humanitarian Aid: U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, 1964-1995," *The Journal of Politics* Volume 67, No. 2 (May 2005), pp. 454-473.

Olson, Richard Stuart and Vincent T. Gawronski, "Disasters as Critical Junctures? Managua, Nicaragua 1972 and Mexico City 1985," *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* Volume 21, No. 1 (March 2003), pp. 5-35.

Gawronski, Vincent T. and Richard Stuart Olson, "Tapping Collective Memory of Disaster: Getting 'Inside' the 1985 Mexico City Earthquakes," *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 19 (November 2001), pp. 297-322.

Olson, Robert A. and Richard Stuart Olson, "Socioeconomic Reverberations of Earthquake Prediction: A Snapshot in Time, Peru 1979-1981," *Natural Hazards Review* 2 (August 2001), pp. 124-131.

Gawronski, Vincent T. and Richard Stuart Olson, "'Special' versus 'Normal' Time Corruption: An Exploration of Mexican Attitudes," *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 14 (Autumn-Winter 2000), pp. 345-361.

Olson, Richard Stuart, "Toward a Politics of Disaster: Losses, Values, Agendas, and Blame," *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 18 (August 2000), pp. 265-287.

Drury, A. Cooper and Richard Stuart Olson, "Disasters and Political Unrest: An Empirical Investigation," *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management* 6 (September 1998), pp. 153-161.

Olson, Richard Stuart, Robert A. Olson, and Vincent T. Gawronski, "Night and Day: Mitigation Policymaking in Oakland, California Before and After the Loma Prieta Disaster," *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 16 (August 1998), pp. 145-179.

Olson, Richard Stuart and A. Cooper Drury, "Un-Therapeutic Communities: A Cross-National Analysis of Post-Disaster Political Unrest," *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 15 (August 1997), pp. 221-238.

Olson, Richard Stuart and Juan Pablo Sarmiento Prieto, "Guns, Drugs, and Disaster: Cauca/Huila, Colombia 1994," *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 13 (August 1995), pp. 147-160.

- Olson, Richard Stuart and Juan Pablo Sarmiento Prieto, "El desastre de Cauca-Huila en Colombia, no es otro Armero," *La Red, Desastres y Sociedad* 3 (January-June 1995), pp. 65-76.
- Olson, Richard Stuart and Robert A. Olson, "Trapped in Politics: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Utah Seismic Safety Advisory Council," *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 12 (March 1994), pp. 77-94.
- Olson, Richard Stuart and Robert A. Olson, "'The Rubble's Standing Up' in Oroville, California: The Politics of Building Safety," *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 11 (August 1993), pp. 163-188.
- Pijawka, K. David, Beverly Cuthbertson, and Richard S. Olson, "Coping With Extreme Hazard Events: Emerging Themes in Natural and Technological Disaster Research," *Omega* 18 (1987-1988), pp. 281-297.
- Olson, Richard Stuart, and Robert A. Olson, "Urban Heavy Rescue: The Weak Link in Earthquake Response Planning," *Earthquake Spectra* 3 (November 1987), pp. 645-658.
- Podestá, Bruno, and Richard Stuart Olson, "Predicción de un sismo, su trauma y manejo," *Quipú* (Mexico City) 4 (January-April 1987), pp. 33-52.
- Olson, Richard Stuart, and Douglas C. Nilson, "Public Policy Analysis and Hazards Research: Natural Complements," *Social Science Journal* 19 (January 1982), pp. 89-103.
- Olson, Richard Stuart, "Economic Coercion in World Politics: With a Focus on North-South Relations," *World Politics* 31 (July 1979), pp. 471-494.
- Olson, Richard Stuart, "Expropriation and Economic Coercion: A Retrospective Look at Brazil in the 1960's," *Journal of Developing Areas* 13 (April 1979), pp. 247-262.
- Olson, Richard Stuart, "Expropriation and International Economic Coercion: Ceylon and the 'West,' 1961-65," *Journal of Developing Areas* 11 (January 1977), pp. 205- 226.
- Olson, Robert A. and Richard Stuart Olson, "The Guatemala Earthquake of 4 February 1976: Social Science Observations and Research Suggestions," *Mass Emergencies* 2 (1977), pp. 69-81.
- Olson, Richard Stuart, "Economic Coercion in International Disputes: The United States and Peru in the IPC Expropriation Dispute of 1968-71," *Journal of Developing Areas* 9 (April 1975), pp. 395-414.
- Kates, Robert W., J. Eugene Haas, Daniel J. Amaral, Robert A. Olson, Reyes Ramos, and Richard Olson, "Human Impact of the Managua Earthquake Disaster," *Science* 182 (December 7, 1973), pp. 981-990.

Publications — invited

Olson, Richard Stuart, “The Chilean Earthquake Disaster of 3 March 1985: Social Science Reconnaissance Observations,” *Earthquake Spectra* 2 (March 1986), pp. 22-30.

Olson, Richard Stuart, “The Political Economy of Life-Safety: Hazardous Structure Abatement in Los Angeles 1973-1981” *Policy Studies Review* (May 1985), pp. 670- 679.

Olson, Richard Stuart, and Douglas C. Nilson, “California’s Hazardous Structure Problem: A Political Perspective,” *California Geology* 36 (April 1983): 89-91, reprinted in *Building Standards* 52 (July-August 1983), pp. 15-17.

Publications — other non-refereed

Olson, Richard S., “The Legacy of Paul Bell: Doing the Right Thing,” *USAID/OFDA Annual Report 2003* (Washington DC: OFDA), pp. 17-19.

(With Robert A. Olson), “*Standing Rubble*,” A Final Report to the National Science Foundation (Sacramento, California: VSP Associates, Inc., 1988).

Olson, Richard Stuart, “Institutionalizing Hazard Mitigation: Putting Hazard Reduction ‘Inside’ the Development Process,” in Frederick Krimgold (ed.), *Proceedings, International Conference on Disaster Mitigation Program Implementation* (Washington, D.C.: Center for International Development, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1986), pp. 50-55.

Olson, Richard Stuart, “Earthquake Politics,” in Joyce B. Bagwell (ed.) *Proceedings, Workshop On Lessons From California And Utah*, (Charleston, South Carolina: Seismic Safety Consortium, 1986), pp. 4-7.

Olson, Richard Stuart, “The Political, Economic, and Social Problems of Hazardous-Structure Abatement in the United States,” *Proceedings, Workshop on Reducing Seismic Hazards of Existing Buildings* (Washington, D.C.: Federal Emergency Management Agency, 1985), pp. 21-32.

Olson, Richard Stuart, “Earthquake Prediction: Government Problems, Costs, and Opportunities,” in William J. Petak and Elliott Mittler (eds.), *Earthquake Forecasting, Preparedness, and Response* (Los Angeles: City of Los Angeles, 1984), pp. 55-60.

Olson, Richard Stuart, “Earthquake Hazard and Public Policy: A Political Science Perspective,” in *Proceedings, Symposium on Human Settlements on the San Andreas Fault* (Sacramento, California: Seismic Safety Commission, 1979), pp. 308-313.

Selected Papers/Presentations

Keynote Address, “Using Lessons from Earthquakes in Haiti, Chile, and New Zealand to Reduce Global Risk,” to the National Academies of Science/National Research Council, Disasters Roundtable, Washington DC, March 1, 2011.

“A Brief History: The USAID Office of U. S. Foreign Disaster Assistance,” to the National Academies of Science/National Research Council, Disasters Roundtable Workshop, Washington, DC, October 8, 2008.

“Government Accountability in Disasters: Six Dimensions,” to the Pan American Health Organization Corporate Capacity Building Workshop, Miami, Florida, February 22, 2007.

“Fragile Democracies, Major Disasters, and Political Collapses,” to the Inter-American Defense College, Ft. Lesley McNair, Washington, DC, April 5, 2005.

“The Disaster Cycle, Political Dimensions, and Military Roles,” to the Inter-American Defense College, Ft. Lesley McNair, Washington, DC, April 5, 2005.

“OFDA at 40: A Critical Juncture,” to the 22nd Biennial DCHA/OFDA Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference, Washington DC, November 23, 2004.

“Introductory Remarks,” OFDA’s 40th Anniversary, Washington, DC, September 13, 2004

“Politics of Disaster” to the USF-Southcom INTERHANDS IV, Miami, Florida, May 4, 2004.

Hemispheric Strategic Objectives for the Next Decade (US Army War College and FIU-LACC): “Disasters, Politics, and Security,” March 19, 2004.

“Political Considerations in Emergency Situations and Disasters” to the Inter-American Defense College: Ft. Lesley McNair, Washington, DC, December 10, 2003.

“Political Disasters” to the USF-Southcom INTERHANDS III (Interoperable Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Natural Disaster Seminar), Miami, October 17, 2003.

(With A. Cooper Drury), “Domestic Unrest and Natural Disaster,” to the March 2001 International Studies Association meetings, Chicago.

“The Mexico City 1985 Earthquake Disaster and Emergent Organizations,” to the 25th Annual Workshop on Hazards Research and Applications, Boulder, Colorado, July 9-12, 2000

“Political Vulnerability to Disasters,” to the 14th Annual Governor’s Hurricane Conference, Tampa, Florida, May 22-26, 2000.

“The Political Impacts of Disaster,” to the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), *Fuerzas Armadas Humanitarias* regional meetings, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, February 2000.

(With Douglas A. Van Belle and A. Cooper Drury), “Race, News Media, and U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance,” to the March 1998 meetings of the International Studies Association, Minneapolis.

“The Politics of Building Safety Before and After a Major Disaster: Oakland and the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake,” to the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute/Federal Emergency Management Agency Workshop on Strategic Plan 2005, Reno, Nevada, August 12-13, 1997.

Política y Desastre, a short course module for the Florida International University/Universidad de Quintana Roo “Workshop on Emergency Management and Hazard Mitigation,” Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico, August 18-22, 1997.

(With A. Cooper Drury), “Natural Events And Political Consequences: Disasters and Instability,” to the March 1997 meetings of the International Studies Association, Toronto, Canada.

(With Bruno Podestá), “International Scientific Dependence: The Peru Earthquake Prediction Case,” to the May 1985 meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Los Angeles.

“Hazard Reduction in Developing Countries,” to the November 1984 meetings of the First International Conference on Disaster Mitigation, Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

“The Impacts of an Earthquake Prediction: Lima, Peru, 1980-81,” to the October 1984 meetings of the American Society of Civil Engineers, San Francisco.

(With Joanne M. Nigg and W. Henry Lambright), “Scientific Dilemmas and Public Policy: Are ‘Science Courts’ an Answer?” to the August 1984 meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Antonio.

“The Political Economy of Life-Safety: California’s Hazardous Structure Problem” to the August 1982 meetings of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, San Francisco.

(With Douglas C. Nilson), “The Projected Policy and Political Implications of Improved Earthquake Prediction Techniques,” to the September 1981 meetings of the American Political Science Association, New York City.

(With Douglas C. Nilson and Linda Burzotta Nilson), “Facilitating Cooperative Development: Disaster Findings Viewed Through Various Conceptual Prisms,” to the September 1981 meetings of the American Political Science Association, New York City.

(With Douglas C. Nilson), “Public Policy Analysis and Hazards Research: Concepts and Applications,” to the August 1981 meetings of the American Sociological Association, Toronto, Canada.

“Not All in the Same Boat: Life-Safety Risk by Social Class,” to the August 1981 meetings of Society for the Study of Social Problems, Toronto, Canada.

(With Douglas C. Nilson), “Three Renovated Policy Typologies and the Politics of Implementation,” to the April 1981 meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association, Cincinnati.

(With Douglas C. Nilson), “Policies and Implementation: Enforcing the Seismic Provisions of Building Regulations,” to the March 1981 meetings of the Western Political Science Association, Denver.

“Environmental Risk Assessment: Suggested Directions,” to the March 1981 meetings of the International Studies Association, Philadelphia.

(With Douglas C. Nilson), “Public Policy Analysis and Hazards Research: Natural Complements,” to the 1980 meetings of the American Sociological Association, New York City.