





## Professor Kerry Thompson!

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Professor Thompson teaches Introduction to Cell and Molecular Biochemistry, Stem Cell Biology and Neurobiology. His research focuses on the use of engineered cell lines and stem cells to treat epilepsy using a rodent model. He has published articles in Neuroscience, Epilepsia, Experimental Neurology and Brain Research.

(Courtesy of the Biology Department website:  
<http://departments.oxy.edu/biology/biology/faculty.htm>)



### Sneak Peek: Neuroscience: Modeling neurological disease?

Diseases of the brain are particularly debilitating. Our lab studies mechanisms of neuronal cell death and the synaptic plasticity and over-activity that cause seizures and abnormal involuntary movements. We are pursuing stem cell therapy for potential treatments for temporal lobe epilepsy and Parkinson's disease. An important component of our research is selecting, or developing, model systems that can provide insight and a platform for exploration of the basic biological mechanisms of neurological diseases.

**REMEMBER!** Professor Thompson's presentation as well as our last luncheon before the conference will take place this Wednesday, Samuelson Pavilion, 12 pm. See you all there!



“LA Artists and Art Spaces Outside the Canon”



*Blending Social Justice and Art, CTSJ major, Caroline Olsen-Van Stone's summer research lends a voice to LA's passionate yet "marginalized" artistic community.*

1.

**Assuming we do not know anything about your project, please provide a brief description of your project.**

I am interested in the experiences of LA artists whose work exists outside the museums and galleries that are canonized and historicized. The artists I am focusing on right now are female artists and artists of color. For the most part, they are called political artists by others, though they may not identify themselves as such. Their work tends to be shown in alternative spaces, such as First Street Studios, Phantom Galleries and the Southern California Library Gallery. I am interested in why their voices are marginalized, and not allowed to be shown in places like MOCA, LACMA, the Getty Center, etc.

I am interested in why and how this functions, as well as what can be done to counteract the marginalization of important artistic voices.

**2. What inspired/influenced you to take on this project?**

I wanted to explore a project that engaged two of my interests: Social Justice and Art. I think that art is often thought of as expendable, but I think that it is a very viable and powerful way to express oneself. After meeting many artists who are actually doing and creating truly original works that also pack quite a political punch, I am greatly saddened that the art world is lagging behind so much as to make many of them feel "invisible", as one artist explained.

**3. Whom have you collaborated with on this project (or are you working alone)?**

I am working with the help of Professor Donna Maeda, but I cannot thank the artists enough for taking time to be interviewed. Many of the artists have also been surprisingly helpful in getting me additional contacts.

**4. Please tell us a little about your research methods.**

I have been researching artists and alternative art spaces by hunting them down. I was familiar with a few artists at the beginning of the summer who introduced me to others, and now I know quite a few. I am doing a comprehensive study of each of the 6 artists I interviewed: going to the galleries where their work is on display, reading about their lives/careers, reading all of the articles I can cull from the internet to find out how much press their work is actually getting, and in what magazines and newspapers their work is discussed. I am doing interviews in person and they are tape recorded. They last anywhere from 1-2 hours. After that, I transcribe them.

**5. What would you consider to be your greatest challenge throughout the research project? or your greatest accomplishment?**

I knew that it would be difficult to set up interviews with working professionals outside of Oxy, and it has been. They have very busy schedules that sometimes include last minute cancellations. One artist told me "Sorry, we have to reschedule. I just got inspired." I think that I have learned a lot about myself and my interests, though, as well as how to prepare for an interview.

**6. Is there anything else you would like us to know.**

*I cannot count the number of times I have been surprised by what people have to say in my interviews. I feel like I am learning every second, and my curiosity will never be satiated.*