
ROBIN G. NELSON

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EMPLOYMENT

- 2021 – Present** Associate Professor, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- 2020 - 2021** Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA
- 2016 – 2020** Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA
- 2013 – 2016** Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
- 2009 – 2013** Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Riverside; Riverside, CA
- 2008 – 2009** Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Laboratory of Human Biology Research, Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

EDUCATION

- 2002 – 2008** Ph.D. Biological Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Thesis: Investing in Men, Investing in Mothers – Evolutionary Anthropology of Kinship and Health in Jamaica
- 2006** M.A. Biological Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2001** B.A. Anthropology (*Honors*), Brown University, Providence, R.I.

RESEARCH KEYWORDS

Parental investment & child growth and development, alloparental care and human social networking, biocultural anthropological approaches to human growth and health, political economies of health, migration and parental investment, the evolution of kin and social investment, race and racism in science, equity, and opportunity in science

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

My research applies the evolutionary theories of kin and parental investment to studies of sociality and health in contemporary populations. My work on caretaking strategies, residential contexts, and child health outcomes contributes to a broad focus on the influence of social experiences on health outcomes over the lifespan. I am also working with colleagues exploring transgenerational community building and health outcomes amongst farmers in Texas. These

studies reflect my interest in exploring the long-term effects of environment, community building, and social upheaval on social and kin investment practices and health outcomes.

RESEARCH FUNDING

Fall 2022	US National Science Foundation (NSF-SBE) – Cultural Anthropology Program (#2017491); The Cultural Anthropology Methods Program (CAMP); Advanced Training for Ph.D. Students; PI A. Wutich (ASU); Co-PI: H.R. Bernard (ASU); Co-PI: Melissa Beresford; R.G Nelson Role: Co-PI 2022-2025; \$350,000
July 2022	Cultural Evolution Society Transformation Fund (Funded by the John Templeton Foundation, Collaborators: Andrew Buskell (Georgia Tech University); Azita Chellappoo (The Open University); Natália B Dutra (Universidade Federal do Pará)
June 2019	Insight Development Grant , Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; Principal Investigator: Michelle Kline (Simon Fraser University); Collaborators: Robin Nelson (Santa Clara University) and Tanya Broesch (Simon Fraser University)
August 2016	Wenner Gren Engaged Anthropology Grant , Wenner Gren Foundation
October 2015	Travel to Read Grant for Professional Development Skidmore College
October 2014	Travel to Read Grant for Professional Development Skidmore College
October 2013	Travel to Read Grant for Professional Development Skidmore College
September 2012	Academic Senate Grant for Professional Development , University of California, Riverside
September 2011	Academic Senate Grant for Professional Development , University of California, Riverside
April 2011	Wenner Gren Post-PhD Research Grant , Wenner Gren Foundation

- September 2010 **Academic Senate Grant for Professional Development,**
University of California, Riverside
- Sep 2002 – Dec 2007 **Rackham Merit Fellowship for Graduate Studies**
Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan
- June 2005 **Pre-Candidacy Research Award**
Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan
- June 2004 **Pre-Candidacy Summer Research Grant**
Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
- June 2003 **Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Fellowship**
Department of Latin American & Caribbean Studies,
University of Michigan

AWARDS AND HONORS:

- October 2023 **Robert W Sussman Award for Scientific Contributions to**
Anthropology from Section H of the American Association for
the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
- April 2008 **Rackham Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor**
Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan
- December 2007 **Award for Innovation and Originality in Undergraduate**
Teaching for *Darwin, Disease and Decay: Evolutionary*
Anthropology, Culture and Health, Anthrbio 297, Department of
Anthropology, University of Michigan
- April 2005 **Award for Outstanding Contribution to Graduate Student**
Teaching, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

Ruth A., C. SturtzSreetharan, M. Beresford, A. York, A. Wutich, **R.G. Nelson**, J. Maupin, M. Jehn, E. Ilboudo Nébié, D. Hruschka, E. Estrada, C. Drummond Otten, S. BurnSilver & A. Brewis. Mentoring in the Social Science Laboratory: Advancing Graduate Student Research and Training. *submitted to Mentoring and Tutoring: A Partnership in Learning, March 2025*

PUBLICATIONS

Ruth A., C. SturtzSreetharan, M. Beresford, A. Brewis, S. BurnSilver, C. Drummond Otten, E. Estrada, D.J. Hruschka, E. Ilboudo Nébié, M. Jehn, J.N. Maupin, **R.G. Nelson**, A. Wutich & A. York. (2026). How to Organize Undergraduate Lab Training: Evidence from 10 Working Social Science Research Labs. *Journal of Further and Higher Education, in press*

Harper, K., A. Ruth, B. Howard, L.M. Radonic, R. Negrón, A. Wutich, H.R. Bernard, E. Ilboudo Nébié, A.D. Roque, M. Beresford, M. Scott Figueroa, **R.G. Nelson**, & K. Mayfour. 2026. Teaching and Learning Participatory Methods in Anthropology: Recognizing and Overcoming Significant Obstacles. *Teaching and Learning Anthropology*, 8(1): in press

R.G. Nelson. Nelson, R. G. (2026). Adjusting the Aperture: Decolonizing Time in Studies of Human Behavior and Evolution. *American journal of Biological Anthropology*, 189(1), e70187.

Van Arsdale, A. and **R. G. Nelson**. (2025). The Population Problem: Biological Anthropology and the Many Definitions of a Population. *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*, 188(2), e70141.

Ruth A., C. SturtzSreetharan, M. Beresford, A. Brewis, S. BurnSilver, C.R. Caseldine, E. Estrada, D. Hruschka, M. Jehn, E. Ilboudo Nébié, K.J. Knudson, M.V. Kroot, J. Maupin, K. Michelaki, C. Morehart, **R.G. Nelson**, C. Drummond Otten, M.A. Peeples, K.L. Ranhorn, M.E. Smith, C.M. Stojanowski, A. Wutich & A. York. Online Student Engagement in Social Science Research Laboratories: Expert Advice on the Opportunities and Challenges. *Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research*, 8(4), 31-38.

Ruth A., C. SturtzSreetharan, M. Beresford, A. Brewis, S. BurnSilver, C. Drummond Otten, E. Estrada, D.J. Hruschka, E. Ilboudo Nébié, M. Jehn, J.N. Maupin, **R.G. Nelson**, A. Wutich & A. York. Online Student Engagement in Social Science Research Laboratories: Expert Advice on the Opportunities and Challenges. *Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research*, 8(4), 31-38.

Ruth, A., M. Beresford, A. Wutich, H.R. Bernard, C. SturtzSreetharan, L. Gleason, M.V. du Bray, B. Yagüe, A.D. Roque, S. Renkert, **R.G. Nelson**, R. Negrón, M. Moghaddam, K. Mayfour, O. Medina-Ramírez, K. Harper, P. Cruz y Celis Peniche (2025) "Comparing Methods for Research Mentorship: Structuring Graduate Student Feedback Using the Socratic Method versus the Critical Response Process (CRP)." *Teaching in Higher Education*, 1-15.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13562517.2025.2507249>.

Dervarics, A., Pfeiffer, D., & **Nelson, R. G.** (2025). Neighborhood Histories: White Flight Associated with Poor Health in Phoenix, Arizona. *American Journal of Human Biology*, 37(6), e70065

Ruth, A., Oyewole, A. I., **Nelson, R. G.**, Giles, A., Molina, A. L., & Trejo, M. (2025). School Choice and Neighborhood Relationships in Urban Areas: An Exploratory Study in Arizona. *Education and Urban Society*, 1-24.

Wutich, A., **Nelson, R.**, DuBois, L. Z., Astorino, C. M., Knudson, K., Reynolds, A.W., Riley, E.P., Smith, R.W.A., Carroll, S.R., Connors, C.K., Jankovic-Rankovic, J., Mitchell, C.F., Roque, A.D., and Tsosie, K.S. (2025) Rigorous and Systematic Qualitative Data Analysis in Biological Anthropology. *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*, 186, e70008.

Ruth, A., M. Beresford, A. Wutich, H.R. Bernard, L. Gleason, C. SturtzSreetharan, M.V. du Bray, P. Cruz y Celis Peniche, K. Harper, K. Mayfour, O. Medina-Ramírez, M. Moghaddam, R. Negrón, **R.G. Nelson**, S. Renkert, A.D. Roque, and B. Yagüe. 2025. Value Propositions Provide a Roadmap for Teaching Doctoral Students How to Develop Research Proposals: Results from the National Science Foundation Cultural Anthropology Methods Program (NSF CAMP). *Teaching Anthropology*, 14(1): 1-3.

Jeffrey G. Snodgrass, Michael G. Lacy, Amber Wutich, H. Russell Bernard, Kathryn S. Oths, Melissa Beresford, Shawna Bendeck, Julia R. Branstrator, HJ François Dengah II, **Robin G. Nelson**, Alissa Ruth, Seth I. Sagstetter, Cindi SturtzSreetharan, Katya Xinyi Zhao. 2024. Deep hanging out, mixed methods toolkit, or something else? Current ethnographic practices in cultural anthropology. *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 48(2).

R.W.A. Smith, **R.G. Nelson**, A. Magpiong, S.K. South, A. Dervarics, P. Plattner, B.C. Schweiger, A.F. Reynolds. 2024. The Plantation System and the Roots of the Southern Rural Mortality Penalty. *Health and Place* 88:103234.

Brewis, A., B.A. Piperata, H.J. François Dengah II, W.W. Dressler, M.A. Liebert, S. Mattison, R. Negrón, **R.G. Nelson**, K.S. Oths, J.G. Snodgrass, S. Tanner, Z. Thayer, K. Wander, and C.C. Gravlee. 2021. Biocultural Strategies for Stress Measurement in Field-Based Research. *Field Methods* 33(4):315-334.

Nelson, R.G. 2021. Theoretical Constraints: Science, Caretaking, and the Creation of Norms. *American Journal of Human Biology* 33: e23650.

Nelson R.G. 2021. The sex in your violence: patriarchy and power in anthropological world building in everyday life. *Current Anthropology* 62 (S23) S92-S102.

M. Gutmann, RG Nelson, and A Fuentes. 2021. Epidemic errors in understanding masculinity, maleness, and violence: an introduction to supplement 23. *Current Anthropology* 62 (S23), s000-S000.

Broesch, Tanya; Crittenden, Alyssa; Beheim, Bret; Blackwell, Aaron; Bunce, John; Colleran, Heidi; Hagel, Kristen; Kline, Michelle; McElreath, Richard; **Nelson, Robin**; Pisor, Anne; Prall, Sean; Pretelli, Ilaria; Purzycki, Benjamin; Quinn, Elizabeth; Ross, Cody; Scelza, Brooke; Starkweather, Kathrine; Stieglitz, Jonathan; Borgerhoff Mulder, Monique. 2020. "Navigating cross-cultural research: methodological and ethical considerations." *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 287: 20201245

Nelson, R.G. 2020. "Beyond the Household: Caribbean Families and Biocultural Models of Alloparenting." *Annual Reviews of Anthropology*. Vol. 49

Nelson, R.G. 2019. "Methods without Meanings: Moving Beyond Body Counts in Research on Behavior and Health" in *(Re)Discovery of the Strange and Familiar: Theory and Methods for a 21st Century Biological Anthropology* (Cambridge University Press).

Nelson, R.G. 2019. "Hypervisible and Human" an invited contribution to the Vital Topics column in *American Anthropologist* 121(2): 469-470.

Nelson, R. 2018. "Stress and Growth" in *The International Encyclopedia of Biological Anthropology*, Wenda Trevathan (ed). John Wiley and Sons, Inc. (pp.1490-1494.)

Nelson, R.G., Rutherford, J.N., Hinde, K., Clancy, K.B.H., 2017. Signaling Safety: Field Research, Sexual Harassment and Assault, and Career Trajectories. *American Anthropologist* 119 (4): 710-722.

Nelson, R.G. 2017. Reimagining Process in 2016: Deliberations on a year of integrative slow science in Biological Anthropology. *American Anthropologist* 119 (2): 298-307

Downs, J.A., Mathad, J.S., Reif, L.K., McNairy, M.L., Celum, C., Boutin-Foster, C., Deschamps, M-M., Gupta, A., Hokororo, A., Katz, I.T., Konopasek, L., **Nelson, R.G.**, Riviere, C., Glimcher, L.H., and Fitzgerald, D.W. 2016. The ripple effect: why promoting female leadership in global health matters. *Public Health Action*, 6(4):210-211

Nelson, R.G. 2016. Enrichment and Isolation: Institutional Care and Challenges to Child Development in Jamaica. Contributed Book Chapter to text on *Contexts for young child flourishing: Evolution, family, and society*. Eds. Narvaez, D., Braungart-Rieker, J.M., Miller-Graff, L.E., Gettler, L.T., and P.D. Hastings. New York: Oxford University Press.

Nelson, R.G. 2016. Institutional Alloparenting, Place of Residence, and Child Health Outcomes in Jamaica. *American Journal of Human Biology* 28:493-502.

Clancy, K.B.H., **Nelson, R.G.**, Rutherford, J.N., and Hinde, K. 2014. Survey of Academic Field Experiences (SAFE): Trainees Report Harassment and Assault. *PLOS One* 9(7):e102172

Nelson, R.G. 2010. John Hawks and the Public's Consumption of Biological Anthropology. *American Anthropologist*. 112 (2): 309-310.

Nelson, R.G. 2009. Adult health outcomes and their implications for childhood nutritional stress in Jamaica. *American Journal of Human Biology*. 21 (5): 671-678.

Robinson, T.M., **Nelson, R.G.**, Boyer, J.D. 2003. Parasitic Infection and the Th2 Polarized Immune Response Alters a Vaccine Induced Immune Response. *DNA and Cell Biology*, 22:421-430, 2003.

Robinson TM, **Nelson R**, Artis D, Scott P, Boyer JD. 2004. Experimental Leishmania major infection suppresses HIV-1 DNA vaccine induced cellular immune response. *Cells Tissues Organs*. 177 (3): 185-8.

EDITOR REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Nelson, R.G., Connors, C., SturtzSreetharan C., Gleason, L., Bernard, H.R., and Dillon, S.J. (2024). Launching New Research: Highlights from Faculty-Fellow Collaborations at CAMP. *Practicing Anthropology*, 46(2), 88-90.

Nelson, R.G., Moritz, M., Negrón. R., Dressler, W., and Brewis, A. (2024). Facilitating Exchanges Between Applied & Academic Anthropologists: Working Together on Methods Innovations. *Practicing Anthropology* 46 (2), 131-133.

Ruth, A., M. Beresford, E. Nébié, A. Wutich, **R.G. Nelson**, K. Mayfour. (2024). Scaling up through Online Research Mentorship – Lessons Learned. *Practicing Anthropology* 46 (2), 124-127.

Negrón. R., Ruth., A. SturtzSreetharan, C., Gunderson, A., Nébié, E.I.; hussein, shah noor., Beresford, M., Bernard, Russell, H., **Nelson, R.G.**, and Wutich, A. Building an Inclusive Big Tent for Methods: Invitation to a Community of Practice Where Methods Belong to All of Us. *Practicing Anthropology*, 46 (2), 84-87.

DuBois, L.Z., Brewis, A., Burson, R.C., Dillon, S.J., Gibb, J.K., hussein, s.n., Dee Jolly, S.M., **Nelson, R.G.**, Rosas, G.O., Thomas, E.B., SturtzSreetharan, C. 2024. From Gender and Sex to Gender/Sex: Reconceptualizing Critical Research Categories. *Practicing Anthropology* 46 (2), 108-111.

Johnson, J.C., Weller, S., Snodgrass, J., Moritz, M., McCarty, C., Crittenden, A., Dengah, F., Gibb, J.K., and **Nelson, R.G.** 2024. *Practicing Anthropology* 46 (2), 94-96.

Ruth, A., du Bray, M.V., Gleason, L., Beresford, M., SturtzSreetharan, C., Negrón. R., Roque, A., **Nelson, R.G.**, & Wutich, A. 2024. The New NSF CAMP Feedback Method for Research Mentorship. *Practicing Anthropology* 46 (2), 119-123.

COMMENTS AND COMMENTARIES:

Nelson R.G. (2023) “Bridging Biology and Belief: *Review of Race, monogamy and other lies they told you: Busting myths about human nature* (Second Edition)” by Agustín Fuentes. *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*. Online Early View.

Nelson R.G. (2023) The Illusion of Progress in What Does Juneteenth mean in STEMM? *Cell* 186 (12):P2501-2505, June 8, 2023

Nelson, R.G. (2022) How a Virus Exposed the Myth of Rugged Individualism. *Scientific American*. March 2022 Issue.

Nelson R.G. (2021) Prioritize care for a more resilient future. *Nature Human Behavior* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-020-01037-w>

Nelson R.G. (2019) Racism in Science: A Lingering Taint. Book Review of Superior: The Return of Race Science (Beacon Press) by Angela Saini. *Nature* 570: 440-441

Fuentes, Agustín, Ackermann, Rebecca Rogers, Athreya, Sheela, Bolnick, Deborah, Lasisi, Tina, Lee, Sang-Hee, McLean, Shay-Akil, and **Robin Nelson** (2019). AAPA Statement on Race and Racism. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 169 (3):400-402.

Calisi, Rebecca M., and A Working Group of Mothers in Science* (2018) Opinion: How to tackle the childcare-conference conundrum. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 115 (12) 2845-2849.

*I am one of many women scientists with children who helped author this piece. A full listing of the authors is included at the end of the text.

Nelson, R.G. (2014) Commentary for peer-reviewed publication by Hicks, K and Leonard, W.R. (2014) Developmental Systems and Inequality: Linking Evolutionary and Political-Economic Theory in Biological Anthropology *Current Anthropology* 55(5): 523-550.

INVITED TALKS

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| February 2024 | Invited talk entitled “Kin, Community, and the Complexity of Everyday Life” for the CHES Speaker Series at Rutgers University |
| January 2023 | Invited talk entitled “Common Problems: (re)Considering biocultural theory and methods in the study created relations and everyday human crises” for the Speaker Series at Northwestern University |
| October 2022 | Invited talk entitled “A Competitive Advantage? The Human Legacy of Care and Cooperation” for the New Perspectives in Integrative Anthropology Speaker Series at the University of Notre Dame |
| September 2022 | Invited talk entitled “Toward an Equitable Biological Anthropology” for First Friday’s Speaker Series at Wayne State University Anthropology Department |
| February 2022. | Invited Keynote speech entitled “Imagining Care at the End of the World” for the New York Academy of Sciences |
| November 2020 | Invited Keynote talk entitled "The Science of Sexual Harassment" for the annual meetings of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) |
| October 2020 | Invited Keynote talk entitled "Black Bodies and the White Imagination" at the Zombie Apocalypse Medicine Meeting (ZAMM), an interdisciplinary conference hosted at Arizona State University |
| October 2020 | Invited Keynote talk entitled "Field Lessons: Equity, Exclusion, Gender & Labor in Research Settings at the #MeToo Sweden Archaeology Conference in Växjö, Sweden (teleconference attendance) |

- February 2020 Invited talk entitled "The Material and Labor of Carework: Parenting and Progress in the Caribbean" for the Speaker Series Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Davis
- November 2019 Invited keynote speech in the Explorer Series at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History entitled "The Race Prism: How History and Bad Science Shape our Ideas about Family and Community"
- October 2019 Invited plenary talk entitled "Returns on Investment: Understanding Surviving and Thriving in Caribbean Communities: for the Northwest Evolution, Ecology, and Human Behavior (NWEH 6) conference at Boise State
- April 2019 Invited Talk entitled "Carework, Kinship, and Child Thriving in the Caribbean" for the *Annual Jack Glazer Endowed Lecture in Anthropology* at Oberlin College.
- January 2019 Invited Talk entitled "Living Relations: Familial Investment, Care Communities, and Health in the Caribbean and Caribbean Diaspora" for the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto
- October 2018 Invited talk entitled "Responsibility and Our Relations: A Bioanthropology of Kinship and Community" for the Department of Anthropology and Graduate Program in Ecology, Evolution, and Ecosystems at Dartmouth College
- September 2018 Invited Talk entitled "Policy and Practice in Caribbean Parenting: Proximate Constraints and Evolutionary Adaptations" for the Department of Anthropology at Penn State University
- April 2018 Invited Talk entitled "Research and Safety in Anthropological Fieldwork" for a Sexual Harassment Workshop offered by the University of California, Merced Cognitive Science Research Group
- April 2018 Invited Talk entitled "Risk, Reward, and Safety: Experiences of Fieldwork and Career Trajectories in the Sciences" at the third annual Women in Global Health Research Symposium at Weill Cornell Medicine
- February 2018 Invited Talk entitled "Making Do & Making Kin: Child Development, Caretaking Practices, & The Caribbean in the Global Market" for the University of Michigan Four-Field Speaker Series for the Department of Anthropology

- October 2017 Invited talk entitled “Matters of the Home: Institutional Care, Child Growth and Familial Cultures in the Caribbean” for the Jaffe Symposium on Security and Scarcity at the University of Michigan
- September 2016 Invited talk entitled “Of Blood and Bodies: Familial Investment, Alternative Care Strategies, and Child Growth in Jamaica” for the University of Georgia Department of Anthropology Speaker Series
- April 2016 Invited panelist for the American Association of Physical Anthropology Presidential Panel Discussion entitled “Working Together to Change the Future: A dialog on harassment in biological anthropology”
- March 2016 Invited talk entitled “Kin, Care, and Health in Jamaica” for the Department of Anthropology, Speaker Series at SUNY Oneonta
- June 2015 Invited panelist at ComSciCom, a science communications conference at the Microsoft NERD Center, Boston, MA
- February 2015 Invited talk entitled “Living SAFE: Research & Risk in Anthropological Fieldwork,” Women in Global Health Research Symposium, Cornell Weill Medicine
- November 2014 Invited talk entitled “Understanding Kinship & Health in the Caribbean: Data and Process in Biological Anthropology” for the Department of Anthropology, Speaker Series at the University at Albany (SUNY)
- February 2012 “Finding Family: Social Relationships, Kin Investment & Health in Jamaica” Invited talk for the Department of Anthropology, Speaker Series at the San Diego State University
- October 2011 “Contextualizing Kinship: A Biocultural Study of Families and Health in Jamaica” Invited talk for the Behavior, Evolution and Culture Colloquium at the University of California, Los Angeles
- October 2010 “Considering Kin: Blood, Bonds and Health in Jamaica.” Invited talk for the Department of Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- June 2010 “Kin as Capital: Familial Bonds, Romantic Relationships, and Health Outcomes in Jamaica.” Invited talk for the Department of the Biology at the University of California, Riverside
- October 2008 “Kin as Capital: Familial Relationships and Health Outcomes in Jamaica.” Invited talk for the Department of Anthropology at The University of Colorado at Boulder

- February 2008 “Through the Spyglass of Anthropology: An African American Voice in the Bio-cultural Sciences.” Keynote speaker at Bennett College’s Interdisciplinary Research Day, Bennett College, Greensboro, North Carolina
- Dec. 2006 “Think Like a Girl: Becoming a Science Superstar” Keynote Speaker at *Dreams to Reality* a conference for school-aged girls interested in careers in science, COSI Science Museum, Toledo, Ohio
- Aug. 2002 “Indigenous Language Preservation in Namibia: Education, Identity, & Policy” podium presentation at the Ford Foundation Leadership Alliance National Conference in Stone Mountain, GA

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

- March 2025 **R.G. Nelson.** “Adjusting the Aperture: Rethinking Time, Culture, and Studies of Human Behavioral Evolution.” Presentation at the annual conference of the American Association of Biological Anthropology
- November 2024 “Confronting the Legacy: A Roundtable Confrontation of Race Science in Contemporary Biological Anthropology.” Ulises Espinoza, H. Clark Barrett, **Robin Nelson**, Kristine Joy Chua, Agustin Fuentes,
- April 2023 “Infectious Disease Distribution Across an early 20th Century Rural and Urban Divide.” P. Plattner, B. Coe Schweiger, S.K. South, A. Magpiong, **R.G. Nelson**, R.W. Smith, A.W. Reynolds. Presentation at the annual conference of the American Association of Biological Anthropology
- April 2023 “Did I Shave My Legs for This? Ecologies of Settler Sex and Kinship on the Texas Blackland Prairies.” R.W. Smith, **R.G. Nelson**, A.W. Reynolds. Presentation at the annual conference of the American Association of Biological Anthropology
- April 2023 “The impacts of state-sanctioned marriage on morbidities and mortalities in the Blackland prairies of post-emancipation Texas.” S.K. South, A. Magpiong, P. Plattner, B.M. Coe Schweiger, **R. Nelson**, A. Reynolds, R.W. Smith. Presentation at the annual conference of the American Association of Biological Anthropology
- September 2022 “Not WEIRD, Not Other: Making Facts in Learning and Human Development” Presentation for the annual conference of the Cultural Evolution Society
- March 2022 “The Population Problem: A primary unit with no definition” Invited Podium Presentation at the annual meetings of the American

Association of Biological Anthropology

- April 2021 “Rac(ism), Risk, and Accountability: Human Subjects Research, Community Belonging, and Power in Field Research” Presentation at the annual meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropology
- February 2020 "Managing Migration: Familial Dynamic, New Technologies, and Health Outcomes" Accepted Podium Presentation at the annual meetings of the Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
- October 2019 Participant in the SAR Short Seminar entitled "Biological Normalcy: Investigating Relationships between Statistical Norms and the Normative" Co-chaired by Andrea Wiley (University of Indiana) and Jennifer Cullin (University of Indiana)
- August 2019 Participant in Sci Foo, at X (formerly Google X), Mountain View, CA.
- March 2019 “The Science of Biomarkers and the Nuance and Noise in Biocultural Data ” Invited Poster Presentation at the annual meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropology. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 168:175
- November 2018 Invited member of a roundtable discussion entitled "Addressing Sexual Harassment: Practices and Policies for the Future of Anthropology" at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association
- April 2018 “Care Practices & Health Disparities Among Caribbean Children” Invited Speaker in the Human Biology Association Plenary Session entitled “Integrating biosocial perspectives to understand health disparities across the lifespan”
- April 2017 “Alterity and Anthropometrics: Blackness, Vulnerability, and Post-Colonial Identities in Biological Anthropology” Podium Presentation at the annual meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropology. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 162:297
- November 2016 “Contingencies of Care: Parameters of Investment for Mothers and Alloparents in Jamaica” Podium Presentation at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association
- April 2016 ““I don’t have any friends” Narrative Self-Reports of Social Support, Resource Management, and Assessments of Nutritional Status in Jamaicans Across the Lifespan”, Invited Poster Presentation at the annual meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropology. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 159:239.

- November 2015 “Methods without Mechanisms: Beyond Body Counts in human biology research in Anthropology” Podium Presentation at the at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association
- March 2015 “Residential Stability and Gender-Specific Growth Changes in Orphaned Jamaican Children”, Podium Presentation at the annual meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropology. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 156 (S60):234.
- December 2014 Invited participation on panel entitled “Digital Technologies and the Production of Anthropological Ethics” Panel Participation at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association
- October 2014 “What Kin Counts: Child Growth & Development in Jamaica“ Invited participation in Child Flourishing Conference, Notre Dame University
- Feb 2014 “Parental Care, Institutional Alloparenting, & Child Health in Jamaica,” Podium Presentation at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
- November 2013 “Embodiment, Evolution, & Risk: Exploring Kinship & Health in Jamaica.” Podium Presentation at the at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association
- November 2013 “Poverty and Food Choice: Linking Levels of Analysis in Ethnographic Explorations of Dietary Strategies.” Podium presentation at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association (Authors: Kathryn Hicks, Department of Anthropology, University of Memphis & Robin Nelson, Anthropology Department, Skidmore College)
- November 2012 “Who Counts: Evolutionary Theories of Kinship, Reproductive Technologies, & Biological Borders around Parenthood.” Podium Presentation at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association
- April 2013 “The Benefits of Girlhood in the Patriarchy: Natal Familial Composition, Institutional Care Setting and Child Health Outcomes in Jamaica.” Podium Presentation at the annual meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropology. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 150 (S56):205.
- March 2012 “Parental Care, Institutional Alloparenting, and Child Health Outcomes in Jamaica.” Podium presentation at the annual meetings for the Society for Anthropological Sciences

- April 2011 “Gender, Adult Familial Relationships and Health Outcomes in Jamaica” Poster presentation at the annual meetings of the Human Biology Association. *American Journal of Human Biology*. 23: 243.
- November 2010 “The Relationship between involvement in romantic unions and adult health outcomes in Mandeville, Jamaica” Podium presentation at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association
- April 2008 “Adult Health Outcomes and Childhood Nutritional Stress in Jamaica.” Invited podium presentation at the annual meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. v135 (S46):161.
- March 2007 “Family Matters: Health and Kinship in Jamaica” Poster presentation at the annual meetings of the Human Biology Association. *American Journal of Human Biology*. 19:270.

ORGANIZED SYMPOSIA, WORKSHOPS, & CONFERENCES

- September 2023 Co-organized workshop entitled “Culture as a Tool” at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Organized with Andrew Busknell (Georgia Institute of Technology), Azita Chellappoo (Open University), and Natália Dutra (Núcleo de Pesquisa e Teoria de Comportamento)
- August 2019 Conducted a workshop entitled "Responsible Stewardship of Academic Environments: From Classrooms to Collaborations" for the Cell Manufacturing Technologies (CMaT) Retreat at the University of Georgia (material designed with collaborator Katie Hinde, Arizona State University)
- March 2019 Co-organized a Wenner Gren Foundation Symposium entitled "Toward an Anthropological Understanding of Masculinities, Maleness, and Violence" in Sintra, Portugal (co-organized with Matthew Guttman, Brown University and Agustín Fuentes, Notre Dame University)
- October 2018 Co-organized and presented two workshops entitled "Responsible Stewardship of Academic Environments: From Corridors to Classrooms to Field Sites" at Dartmouth College (co-organized with Katie Hinde, Arizona State University).
- June 2018 Co-organized a 3-day workshop Fieldsite Management "Ethics and Practicalities of Longitudinal Research" at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig Germany (co-organizers: Michelle Kline, Simon Frazer University & Katie Starkweather, Max Planck Institute; Hosted by Richard McElreath, Director of MPI).

- April 2018 Gave a talk entitled “Under State Control: Scarcity, Child Growth, and Life Trajectories” for a podium presentation at the annual meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. This talk was part of a co-organized session with Julienne Rutherford entitled “The False Meritocracy of Choice within Social Constructs of Health.” This AAPA executive session included an intersection of clinical and non-clinical health researchers presenting empirical data on health inequities.
- November 2017 Co-organized a roundtable with Jada Benn Torres (Vanderbilt University) entitled Anthropology Matters -Fighting essentialist ideas about poverty, race, and intelligence in the Trump Era at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association. This roundtable brought together anthropologists of different sub-fields to discuss conducting research and teaching critical social science theory in the current political moment.
- November 2011 “Brethren and Sistren: Contextualizing kinship in biocultural studies of health in Jamaica” Podium Presentation at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Part of self-chaired and organized session entitled *Calculating Legacies: Informed Biological Anthropology in the 21st Century*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- August 2025 **Data Collection**, Texas Health and Heritage Project, East Texas, USA w/ Co-PIs Austin Reynolds (Baylor University) and Rick Smith (George Mason University)
- December 2023 **Data Collection**, Texas Health and Heritage Project, East Texas, USA w/ Co-PIs Austin Reynolds (Baylor University) and Rick Smith (George Mason University)
- December 2022 **Pilot Research**, Texas Health and Heritage Project, East Texas, USA w/Co- PIs Austin Reynolds (Baylor University) and Rick Smith (George Mason University)
- September 2019 **Pilot Research** in Scarborough Canada
- September 2018 **Dissemination of Findings & Collection of Follow-Up Data** in Mandeville & Kingston Jamaica
- July-August 2018 **Data Collection** for the "Aging, Health, and Social Networks for Black Canadians" Project, Toronto Canada
- Pilot Season** for the "Migration and Parenting Study”, Toronto, Canada

- November 2016 **Exploratory Field Visit, Secured Research Permissions**, Toronto Canada
This trip to the greater Toronto area enabled me to meet the director of a community health center that specifically serves Black Canadian immigrants.
- August 2015 **Exploratory Field Research** in Toronto, Canada
- June -July 2013 **Field Research**, Manchester Parish, Jamaica, Data collection on the social lives, and physical growth and development of children living with biological kin. Follow-up data collection on the social lives, and physical growth and development of children living in children living in children's homes in Jamaica
- Aug - Sept 2011 **Field Research**, Manchester Parish, Jamaica, Research on the social lives and biological growth and development of children living in children's homes
- Aug 2010 **Explorative Research Trip**, Mandeville, Jamaica, establish research contacts, permissions, and feasibility assessment of research at children's homes
- Aug. 2007 **Ph.D. Laboratory Research**, Laboratory of Human Biology Research, Northwestern University, Supervisor: Thomas McDade, Analyses of dried blood spots for Epstein Bar Virus Antibody Titers and C-reactive protein
- Oct. 2005 **Ph.D. Field Research**, Mandeville, Jamaica
Thesis Advisor: Dr. A. Roberto Frisancho; 13 months of dissertation fieldwork in Mandeville, Jamaica. Data collection included anthropometric measurements, ethnographic interviews regarding kin and social relationships, economics and health, and finger-pricks for blood spot analysis of immunocompetence
- June-Aug. 2004 **Ph.D. Pilot Research**, Mandeville, Jamaica, Pilot research on familial networks and health
- June-Aug. 2003 **Ph.D. Pilot Research**, Jacmel, Haiti, Pilot research on gender dynamics, mate choice and HIV

TEACHINGInstitution/YearsCourses

Arizona State University (2021 – Present)

Evolutionary Medicine and Global Health (Graduate Level Course); *Evolutionary Medicine and Global Health* (Undergraduate Level Course);

- Poverty and Global Health* (Undergraduate Level Course), *Maternal and Child Health* (Undergraduate level)
- Santa Clara University (2016 – 2021) *Introduction to Biological Anthropology* (Lower Division Undergraduate Course), *Evolutionary Medicine* (Upper Division Undergraduate Course), *Measuring Humans* (Introductory Level Cultures and Ideas Course), *Blood, Bodies, & Bonds: Social and Kin Relationships in the Anthropological Canon* (Senior Capstone Course), *The Biology of Poverty* (Upper Division Undergraduate Course)
- Skidmore College (2013-2016) *Anthropology of the Human Past* (Lower Level Undergraduate Course), *Modern Family: Science and Social Experiences of Human Familial Bonds* (Interdisciplinary Introductory Course for First Year Students) *Caribbean Health and Culture* (Upper Level Undergraduate Course), *Biological Approaches to Medical Anthropology* (Upper Level Undergraduate Course) *The Anthropology of Love, Sex, and War* (Upper Level Undergraduate Course)
- University of California Riverside (2009-2013) *Biological Approaches to Medical Anthropology* (Upper Level Undergraduate Course), *Demographic Anthropology* (Upper Level Undergraduate Course), *Introduction to Biological Anthropology* (Lower Level Undergraduate Course), *Theory and Current Research in Biological Anthropology* (Graduate Level Course), *Kinship and Health* (Graduate Level Course), *Human Growth and Development* (Graduate Level Course)

STUDENTS MENTORED & ADVISED

Graduate Students

Elie Nyembo	Arizona State University (SHESC)	Doctoral Committee Co-Chair
Audrey Devarics	Arizona State University (SHESC)	Doctoral Committee Co-Chair

Santa Clara University

Undergraduate Student

Riley Scherr ('21)

Anthropology Major

Research Mentor

Skidmore College***Undergraduate Students***

Isabel Gregg ('14)

Self-Determined Major, Global Health

Thesis Reader

Brittany Smart ('16)

Self-Determined Major, Global Health

Primary Advisor

Ryan Springer-Miller ('17)

Self-Determined Major, Global Health

Primary Advisor

Skidmore College- Laboratory for Biocultural Human Adaptation Research

Kate Judge ('16)

Research Assistant

Abigail Outtersen ('16)

Research Assistant

University of California, Riverside***Graduate Students***

Cindy Oppenheimer ('12)

Terminal MA

Primary Advisor

Jennifer Cullin ('13)

Terminal MA

Primary Advisor

Arianne Schultz ('12)

Completed MA, Continuing PhD

Primary Advisor

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/AFILIATIONS

June 2020-2022

Expert Advisor for an NSF Funded Study "Evidence-based Transformation of Undergraduate Field Schools to Promote Safety and Inclusivity among Southeastern Archaeology" PI: Carol Colaninno-Meeks (SIU Carbondale), Shawn Lambert (University of Mississippi), Emily Beahm (Arkansas Archaeological Survey), Carl Drexler (Arkansas Archaeological Survey)

PROFESSIONALIZATION AND/OR PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING & WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

October 2020

Participant in the NSF sponsored Cultural Anthropology Methods Project Led by Amber Wutich (Arizona State University), Russell Bernard (University of Florida), Sue Weller (University of Texas, Medical Branch), Jeffrey Johnson (University of Florida)

March 2017

Participant in the NSF sponsored "Increasing Diversity in the Social Sciences Workshop: Challenges, Strategies, and Success Stories" Washington, DC

March 2017

Participant in "Workshop for Women in Biological Anthropology" Hosted by Santa Clara University.

October 2014

Invited participation in NESCent Conference entitled "Developing Best Practices for Teaching Evolution in Social Sciences", NESCent (National Evolutionary Synthesis Center), Duke University

CONSULTANCIES & ADVISORY BOARDS

- 2024-2029 **NIH/NINDS R25 – NS141233-01** (PIs: Gomez-Ramirez and Suarez-Jimenez) The NEUROCIDITY initiative: Empowering Underrepresented Scholars to Pursue Careers in Neuroscience Role: Member of the Advisory Board
- 2023- Consultant for the Human Biodiversity Exhibit at the University of New Mexico Maxwell Museum of Anthropology

MEDIA COVERAGE and RESEARCH IMPACT (selected)

Nelson, R.G., Rutherford, J.N., Hinde, K., Clancy, K.B.H., 2017. Signaling Safety: Field Research, Sexual Harassment and Assault, and Career Trajectories. *American Anthropologist*

This article, Signaling Safety, informed the landmark report on sexual harassment published by the National Academies of the Sciences, and was thus covered in many national news outlets.

Sample Coverage:

<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/shstudy/index.htm>

<https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2018/6/13/17453360/sexual-harassment-report-science-metoo>

Clancy KHB, **Nelson RG**, Rutherford JN, and Hinde K (2014) Survey of Academic Field Experiences (SAFE): trainees report harassment and assault. *PLOS ONE* 9(7): e102172 [pdf](#)

Altmetric score (a measure of online reach): 1200 (average altmetric score is 4.9)

By April 2015, the article had reached almost 2.2 million Twitter users and was ranked by Altmetric as 159th of all 3.5 million articles tracked

By April 2015, the paper has been viewed over 64,000 times from the *PLOS ONE* website, made the *PLOS ONE* editors' list of [favorite articles published by the journal in 2014](#), and was the most-tweeted of any *PLOS ONE* article that year:

Nature, "[Social behaviour: Indecent advances](#)"

New York Times, quoted, online and in print, front page of the Science Times: "[Harassment in Science, Replicated](#)"

NPR: "[Young Scientists Say They're Sexually Abused In The Field](#)"

USA Today, online and in print: "[Sex assaults, harassment reported in science fieldwork](#)"

Washington Post: "[Study: Young women scientists face sexual harassment, assault while in the field](#)"

insidehighered.com: "[What Happens in the Field](#)"

Full list of coverage available [here](#)

MEDIA COVERAGE ON RESEARCH ON KINSHIP, PARENTING, & HEALTH, RACE, WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Forbes: What does DNA tell us about Race? by Jennifer Raff

Scientific American "Taking it Personally" by Danielle Lee

NPR "A Toxic Stew: Risks to Women of Public Feminism" by Barbara King

Science Magazine "Are conferences providing enough childcare support? We decided to find out" by Katie Langin

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association for the Advancement of Sciences

American Anthropological Association

-Association of Black Anthropologists

-Association of Biological Anthropologists

Human Biology Association

American Association of Biological Anthropology

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2025- Chair of Section H (Anthropology) of American Association for the Advancement of Science
- 2025 Member of the search committee for the new editor in chief for the *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*
- 2024- Board Member -Black in Biological Anthropology (BiBA) Non-Profit Organization
- 2024 Reviewer for the National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants Program
- 2023-2025 Chair of the Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association
- 2022 Member of the search committee for the new editor of the *Yearbook of Biological Anthropology*
- 2021- Member of the review committee for the Wenner Gren & School for Advanced Research Fellowship in Anthropology and Black Experiences
- 2021-2022 President-Elect of the Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association
- 2021 - Member of the Howells Book Prize Committee for the Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological

	Association
2020-2025	Member of the AAPA committee on Harassment and Equity (HCARE) in Biological Anthropology
2020-	Member of the editorial board for <i>Evolutionary Anthropology</i>
2020-	Member of the editorial board for the <i>American Journal of Human Biology</i>
2019	Reviewer for the National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants Program
2019-2020	Member of the <i>Medical Anthropology Quarterly</i> Editorial Search Committee
2018-2020	Invited Member of the American Anthropological Association "Anthropology and the Proliferation of Border and Security Walls" Task Force (APBWTF)
2018	Member of the Working Group re-writing the American Association of Physical Anthropology Public Statement on Race
2018-2021	Elected Member of the American Association of Physical Anthropology Executive Committee
2017-2018	Invited Member of the American Anthropological Association Executive Programming Committee for the 2018 Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association in San Jose, CA
2016-2017	Member of the American Association of Physical Anthropology (AAPA) 2017 Annual Meetings Programming Committee
2016 - 2018	Invited member of the American Association of Physical Anthropology (AAPA) affiliated/NSF supported Increasing Diversity in Evolutionary Anthropological Sciences (IDEAS) committee
2016	Invited facilitator for the Physical Anthropology Women's Mentoring Network (PAWMN) round table luncheon discussion "How to be a good ally"
2014 - 2015	Ad-Hoc Member of the Human Biology Association Executive Board

- 2012 - 2018 Member of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists Ethics Committee
- 2011 - Reviewer for *American Anthropologist*, *Human Nature* and *American Journal of Human Biology*, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*
- 2011-2013 Elected At-Large Member of the Executive Committee, Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association

DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, & UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2023-2024 Member of the Research Committee, SHESC, Arizona State University
- 2024 Member of the Clinical Assistant Professor in support of Charter Initiatives faculty search committee, SHESC, Arizona State University
- 2024-2025
2021-2022 Member of the Personnel Committee, SHESC, Arizona State University
- 2021-2022 Member of the evolutionary social sciences faculty search committee, SHESC, Arizona State University
- 2020-2021 Member of the Natural Sciences Retention and Tenure Committee for the College of Arts and Sciences at Santa Clara University
- 2019 Member of the Social Science Core Curriculum Committee at Santa Clara University
- 2019 Member of the Anthropology Department Search Committee for the Inclusive Excellence Post-Doctoral Fellow
- 2018 Member of the Dean's Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Group, College of Arts and Sciences, Santa Clara University
- 2018 Faculty organizer for the 45th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference, Hosted by the Departments of Anthropology and Sociology, Santa Clara University
- 2017 Faculty participant for Anthropology Department Preview Days
- 2016 Participated in the Anthropology Department Program Review

2016-2017	Member of the Anthropology Department Search Committee for the hire in Cultural Anthropology
2016-2017	Faculty mentor for the Anthropology Club, Santa Clara University
2015-2016	Member of the Faculty Advisory Board Committee, Skidmore College
2014-2015	Member of the Bias Incident Committee, Skidmore College
2014	Member of the First Year Experience Summer Reading Book Committee, Skidmore College
2012-2013	Chair, Senate Scholarships and Honors Committee, University of California, Riverside
2010-2012	Member of the Academic Senate Scholarships and Honors Committee, University of California, Riverside
2010-2012	Chair of the University of California, Riverside, Department of Anthropology Speaker Series Committee
2010-2011	Member of the Graduate Student Committee, University of California, Riverside, Department of Anthropology
2005	Graduate Student Instructor Mentor
2002-2005	Member of the Michigan Association of Graduate Students

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2025	Served as an Expert Witness for the Immigration Clinic University of Miami School of Law, Executive Office for Immigration Review Asylum Case
2024	Served as an Expert Witness for an Immigration Review Asylum Case, Houston Texas
2024	Served as an Expert Witness for the Immigration Clinic University of Miami School of Law, Executive Office for Immigration Review Asylum Case
2023	Served as an Expert Witness for the Cornell Law School Advocacy for LGBT Communities Clinic in a Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review Asylum Case

- 2015 Served as an Expert Witness for the Cornell Law School Advocacy for LGBT Communities Clinic in a Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review Asylum Case (File No. 205-020-449).
- 2015 Invited member of the NYC ACLU “Intelligence Network” exploring innovative ways to combat over-policing and police brutality in communities of color

LANGUAGES AND LABORATORY PROFICIENCY

Anthropometric measurements for assessment of nutritional status and overall health
Blood spot collection for the measurement of viral antibody titers
Saliva sample collection for the measurement of various hormones in human
ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay)
ELISPOT (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Spot Assay)
Enzyme Immunoassay for C-reactive protein
Fluent competence in Standard French
Fluent competence in Jamaican Patois
Beginner competence in Haitian Creole

PRE-ACADEMIC WORK HISTORY

2001-2002 **Laboratory Technician**, HIV Vaccine Development & Parasite/HIV Co-Infection Research, Department of Pathology, University of Pennsylvania, Supervisor: Dr. Jean D. Boyer, analyzed human, macaque, and murine blood samples for HIV vaccine development, validated an ELISPOT protocol, and developed a Leishmaniasis and HIV co-infection murine model