

Curriculum Vitae
updated 4/2024

ALEXANDRA BREWIS [SLADE]

REGENTS PROFESSOR & PRESIDENT'S PROFESSOR

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Current Positions:

- Regent's Professor, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University.
- President's Professor, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University.
- Founding Director, Center for Global Health, Arizona State University
- Senior Editor -- Medical Anthropology, Social Science and Medicine
- Associate Editor, American Journal of Human Biology
- Series Editor, Water & Society, Johns Hopkins University Press
- External board member, Elsevier Foundation

Education:

- 1992 -1994 Andrew W Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in Anthropological Demography. Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University. Supervisor: ST McGarvey.
- 1992 Ph.D. in Anthropology, University of Arizona.
Biological Anthropology major, Medical Anthropology minor. Committee: Jane H. Underwood (Chair), William Stini, Hermann Bliedtner, Jerrold Levy, Mark Nichter, Marcia Inhorn.
- 1988 Master of Arts in Anthropology (1st class honors), University of Auckland.
Supervisor: Douglas Sutton.
- 1985 Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Academic Appointments:

- 2024-present Regents Professor, Arizona State University.
- 2013-present President's Professor, Arizona State University.
- 2006-2013 Professor (Anthropology and Global Health), School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University.
- 2004-2006 Professor of Ecological/Environmental Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia.
- 1998-2003 Associate Professor of Ecological/Environmental Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia.
- 1997 Assistant Professor of Ecological/Environmental Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia.
- 1992-1997 Lecturer in Biological Anthropology [*equivalent to Assistant Professor*], Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, New Zealand.
- 1992-1994 Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Anthropological Demography, Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University.

Significant Administrative Appointments:

- 2007 - present Founding Director, Center for Global Health, ASU.
- 2022 - present Senior Editor, *Social Science and Medicine* – Medical Anthropology
- 2017 - present Founding Co-Director, Global Impact Collaboratory, ASU and Chemonics International.
- 2017 - 2021 President-Elect, President (2018-2020), and Past President, Human Biology Association
- 2014 - 2017 Associate Vice President for Social Sciences, ASU.
- 2012 - 2017 Co-Director, Mayo Clinic-ASU Obesity Solutions, ASU.
- 2009 - 2017 Director/Executive Director, School of Human Evolution & Social Change, ASU.
- 2008 - 2009 Associate Director, School of Human Evolution & Social Change, ASU.
- 2005 - 2007 Graduate Director, Anthropology Dept, University of Georgia.
- 2002 - 2006 Founding Co-Director, Global Programs in Sustainability [now: Discover Abroad], University of Georgia.
- 2004 - 2005 Undergraduate Director, Anthropology Department, University of Georgia

Honorary Academic Appointments:

- 2021- present Distinguished Global Futures Scientist, ASU
- 2016 - present Affiliated Faculty, Center for Biodiversity Outcomes, ASU
- 2015 - present Affiliated Faculty, Center for Evolution and Medicine, ASU.
- 2016 - present Affiliated Faculty, Institute for Social Science Research, ASU.
- 2014 - 2021 Distinguished Sustainability Scientist, ASU.
- 2013 - 2018 Research Affiliate, Mayo Clinic.
- 2015 Visiting Fellow, Center for Advanced Studies, Oslo, Norway.
- 2010 - 2014 Senior Sustainability Scientist, Global Institute of Sustainability, ASU
- 2006 - 2009 Affiliated Faculty, School of Sustainability, ASU
- 2006 - present Affiliated Faculty, Women and Gender Studies, School of Social Transformation, ASU.
- 1998 - 2005 Associated Faculty, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia.
- 1998 - 2005 Affiliated Faculty, Women's Studies Program, University of Georgia.
- 1999 & 2002 Visiting Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of New Orleans/University of Innsbruck, Austria.

Significant Prizes, Honors, and Awards:

- 2024 Franz Boas Distinguished Achievement Award from the Human Biology Association for exemplary contributions to human biology in science, scholarship, & professional service.
- 2024 Inaugurated as Regent's Professor, ASU.
- 2024 Plenary session co-lead, Human Biology Association.
- 2023 President's Award for Innovation, ASU [to the Online Undergraduate Research Scholars (OURS) program team (team member)]
- 2023 Conrad M. Arensberg Award of the American Anthropological Association [honoring an individual who has furthered anthropology as a natural science].
- 2023 James R. Bindon Endowed Lecture in Biocultural Anthropology and Health, University of Alabama
- 2022 Case Western Reserve University Kassen Lecturer [honoring a "top woman scholar in the social sciences"]
- 2022 Human Biology Association Book Award [for *Lazy, Crazy, and Disgusting*]. Prize is awarded every 2 years.
- 2021 Named as Distinguished Global Futures Scientist, ASU.
- 2020 Winner, Carol R. Ember Book Prize, Society for Anthropological Sciences [for *Lazy, Crazy, and Disgusting*].
- 2020 Finalist, Book of the Year Award, British Sociology Association// Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness [for *Lazy, Crazy, and Disgusting*].
- 2019 Plenary session co-lead, Human Biology Association.
- 2017 Elected Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).
- 2017 Elected President, Human Biology Association.
- 2016 President's Medal for Social Embeddedness, ASU [to Obesity Solutions' FitPhx Energy Zones project team].
- 2014 Named as Distinguished Sustainability Scientist, ASU.

2014	Residential Scholar, Center for Advanced Study, Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters, Oslo, May-June.
2014	School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, Advanced Seminar Award, "Obesity, Upward Mobility, and Symbolic Capital in the Rapidly Changing World" [co-lead with E. Anderson-Fye].
2013	Inaugurated as President's Professor, ASU.
2013	Plenary session lead, Human Biology Association.
2013	Society for Anthropology of Food and Nutrition, Distinguished Lecture.
2011	Outstanding Achievement and Contribution Award, Commission on the Status of Women, ASU.
2010	Plenary session, Human Biology Association.
2001	Sandy Beaver Award for Outstanding Teaching, University of Georgia
2000	Sarah Moss Fellowship, University of Georgia
2000	International Development Fellowship, University of Georgia
1999	MG Michael Award for Excellence in Research, University of Georgia
1992-1994	Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Anthropological Demography.
1992	Aleš Hrdlička Prize for Best Student Podium Paper, American Association of Physical Anthropologists
1989-1991	Rockefeller Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship in Population Sciences.
1989	P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship.
1988	University of Arizona Graduate Fellowship.
1988	Young Investigator Award, Health Research Council of New Zealand.
1986	Australian National University Vacation Scholarship in Prehistory and Demography.
1983-1985	New Zealand University Bursary.
1978-1982	Charles Rhodes Scholarship for General Excellence, St Cuthbert's College, Auckland.

Research Expertise:

I study how low social position and resource insecurities (like inadequate food, water, and health care access) interact with disease meanings, experiences, and diagnoses to exacerbate stress and worsen physical and mental health. A central goal is recognizing and advancing better solutions for complex health and environmental challenges.

- **General**
 - Biocultural anthropology (intersection of medical, demographic, ecological, biological, and cultural anthropology).
 - Design and implementation of transdisciplinary, collaborative, problem-oriented team-based research
- **Culture, Global Health, and Human Biology**, especially dynamic interactions between:
 - **Stigma**
 - **Obesity**, weight, body image
 - **Water** insecurity
 - **Food** insecurity and under/over-nutrition
 - **Stress**, depression, distress
 - **Gender** and other bases for social and economic marginalization
 - **Poverty** and managing low household resources
- **Mixed Methods**
 - **Collaborative community-based and community-centered field research design** and implementation
 - Multi-sited **comparative** research
 - **Ethnographic** methods innovation
 - **Biocultural** stress measurement
 - **Anthropometrics**

- **Demography**
- **Pedagogical Design in Social Science and Global Health**
 - Experiential education: study abroad, multi-modality research practicums
 - Teaching structural awareness/competency
 - Improving undergraduate anthropological instruction
- **Field Research Experience**
 - **Pacific:** Republic of Kiribati, New Zealand, Samoa, Fiji.
 - **North America:** Urban/rural Arizona, US-Mexico border, rural/coastal Georgia, Puerto Rico, Mexico.
 - **Other:** Haiti, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Zambia, West Bank.

Ongoing Research Projects:

Invisible Me: Self, Stigma, and Suffering in Discredited Illness. 2022-ongoing.

Naming a disease condition, such as through diagnosis, can provide a pathway to health and healing. But both naming a disease and being unable to name it (such as conditions without biomarkers) means navigating complex and potentially treacherous social waters, including risks of stigmatization, rejection, and isolation. This is a narrative interview and synthetic writing project about understanding how people redefine self and others based on those labels, and what happens to social relationships and sense of self when the only signal of illness is self-reported and contestable and discreditable symptoms like pain and fatigue. The project is under contract as a trade-academic crossover book for Johns Hopkins University Press.

Rethinking Stigma and Global Health. 2014-ongoing.

A major synthetic project that explores how stigma is deployed accidentally and purposefully as a public health tool, using cases of hygiene, mental health, and obesity. Reveals the unintended consequences for creating illness and reinforcing poverty around the globe and identifies strategies to address it. This project is currently focused on dissemination, such as media, medical training, and other translation efforts. A major book (with Amber Wutich) was published with Johns Hopkins University Press in 2019.

Small World/Big Bodies. 2006 - ongoing.

A long-term and diverse cross-cultural, comparative, multi-phased, data-driven study of how and why stigma toward obesity is spreading globally, even as obesity itself becomes more prevalent, and the consequences of this powerful process. The first community-based phases of the project were based in low-income neighborhoods in Phoenix, Arizona, 2006-7. To date, we have collected community-based data in 19 countries. Other activities include analyses of large secondary datasets from around the globe, including Norway, Korea, and Guatemala. Recently we completed an ethnographic project comparing what it is to live with a large body in four countries (U Toronto Press 2021). In 2017, we launched two new studies of global “fat-talk” under the lead of Cindi SturtzSreetharan, one comparing linguistic and social functions and meanings in 9 very diverse countries, and the other as a local Arizona-based citizen science project on bodies, fat-talk, and aging. Books from this work were published with Rutgers University Press (2010) and University of Toronto Press (2021).

Global Impact Collaboratory (GIC). 2016-ongoing.

The focus of the GIC is to innovate new ethnographic/social science methods for better understanding of how and why development projects are “working” (or not) from the perspectives of the people on the ground they are meant to serve. Peggy Ochandarena, former Director of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning at Chemonics International, is the external GIC co-Director along with me. Signature activities are being conducted with USAID projects in coastal Mozambique on climate change adaptation in highly vulnerable coastal cities, Haiti on advancing access to justice in vulnerable communities, West Bank on human rights and gender-based violence, and Zambia on development efforts against wildlife crime from the perspective of local communities.

Global Ethnohydrology Study (GES), co-PI. 2007-ongoing.

The GES is a multi-sited research data-driven program to understand how variation in local cultural knowledge shapes biocultural capacities to cope with the growing global water crisis. To date, we have collected data in 20+ different countries, and multiple sites within the US. We have published many articles through the GES, including on local knowledge around water governance, wastewater reuse, waterborne disease, hygiene norms, diarrheal disease, inter alia. The GES partners with a large international team each year to test different innovative ideas. Recent examples include new water insecurity screener tools (data collection in 2017 in association with HWISE-RCN), to identify water sharing norms and practices in the wake of disaster (2019), understand “plumbing poverty” and water as social prestige (2020), recognize how water insecurity undermines dignity and increase stigma through “period poverty” (2021), identify the “moral economies” of water (2022) and create new cross-cultural measures of household water insecurity for higher-income countries (2023) and insights on the bodily experience of thirst (2023). PI is Amber Wutich (ASU).

Household Water Insecurity: Mitigating Biocultural Harms. 2019-ongoing.

What are the biocultural mechanisms that accrue harm to those living with chronic water insecurity? For example, how do social processes (like gendering and water sharing) interact with water insecurity to shape the coping options people have and the consequences of those for health and well-being? Working with collaborators at Haramaya University (particularly Dr Kedir T Roba) to analyze recently collected primary data on households in Oromia, Ethiopia. We also recently published primary data we collected in Haiti in 2016, Puerto Rico in 2018-2020, and relevant secondary datasets such as Demographic and Health Surveys. From 2019-25, this work is conducted in collaboration with an NSF-funded multi-sited and multi-institution study of household water insecurity and its impacts across the globe, on which I serve as a steering committee member (PI W. Jepson, TAMU).

Teaching Anthropology Better (TAB). 2010-ongoing.

Working with colleagues in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, I am engaged in a long-term effort to innovate, test, and improve the teaching of anthropology as an impactful field. This includes developing an *Introduction to Anthropology* textbook (as lead author, with WW Norton Publishers) that reflects and synthesizes recent innovations across the four-fields regarding how an engaged and responsible anthropology should and can be done. Other parts of this wider effort, with Alissa Ruth, test our innovations to improve the training in structural competency of pre-health students and clarify the long-term impacts of study abroad, field-based, and other forms of experiential education, while those led by Amber Wutich are testing the best ways to train anthropologists in ethnographic methods.

Citizen Social Science: Living Large, co-I. 2018-ongoing.

Based in the urban Phoenix area, this project uses new models of citizen social science to collect hard-to-capture data on how weight stigma shapes daily lives – including people’s exposure to fat-talk, weight-excluding physical environments, and other discrimination. The project considers also how the physical and social challenges of aging, gender, and minority ethnicity intersect with those of weight, working closely with Arizona citizen-collaborators. Linguist Cindi SturtzSreetharan is PI.

Completed Research Projects:

The Post-Bariatric Lives Project, PI. 2012-2019.

Foundation-funded longitudinal ethnographic study of how people’s changing social and emotional lives interact with their weight loss trajectories in the years following bariatric surgery, with a special focus on the role of stigma. Based on 3+ years of ethnographic fieldwork at Mayo Clinic, Arizona. Data collection was completed in 2016, and articles and a book (with NYU Press, 2021) have been published. Funded by Virginia T. Piper Charitable Trust.

Cross-cultural Study of Children’s Hyperactivity and Inattention, PI. 1996-2005.

A cross-cultural study using ethnographic, ethological/observational, computerized reaction-time, and anthropometric measurement to understand how the symptoms of ADHD become pathologized in some settings but not others. Research in Mexico and US. Funded by NSF and Wenner Gren.

Culture, Ecology, and Health in the Island Pacific, PI. 1990-1997.

Based on ethnographic and demographic fieldwork in Kiribati and Samoa, examined how women's local biologies (infertility, family planning, breastfeeding, body size) and reproductive decisions are shaped by cultural and ecological context. Funded by the Marsden Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Other Major Completed Projects:

DevilSPARC Freshman Study, co-I. 2013-2019.

NIH-funded study following 1450 university freshmen over an academic year, collecting data on multiple aspects of friends and friendship networks via ecological momentary assessments (EMAs), web-based surveys and anthropometric measurements conducted at four times points, and integrated with university databases. The findings will guide the development of more effective interventions to enhance behaviors among college students that protect against weight gain during college. Data collection was completed in mid 2016, and project is now completing final publications. Nutritionist Meg Bruening is PI. Funded by NIH.

Publications:

Authored Books (7)

Brewis, A., K. Knudson, C. Stojanowski, C. SturtzSreetharan, and A. Wutich. 2024 [copyright 2025]. *The Human Story: An Introduction to Anthropology*. WW Norton, New York.

StrutzSreetharan, S., A. Brewis, J. Hardin, S. Trainer, and A. Wutich. 2021. *Fat in Four Cultures: A Global Ethnography of Weight*. University of Toronto Press. Reviewed in *Fat Studies*.

Trainer, S., A. Brewis, and A. Wutich. 2021. *Extreme Weight Loss: Life Before and After Bariatric Surgery*. NYU Press. Reviewed in: *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, *Sociology of Health and Illness*.

Brewis, A, and A. Wutich. 2019. *Lazy, Crazy, and Disgusting: Stigma and the Undoing of Global Health*. Johns Hopkins University Press: Baltimore. Winner, 2020 Carol R. Ember Book Prize, Society for Anthropological Sciences; Winner, 2022 Human Biology Association Book Award; Finalist, Book of the Year Award, British Sociology Association -- Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness. Reviewed in *Scientific American*, *Lancet*, *Nature*, *MAQ*, *Sociology of Health and Illness*, *Teaching Sociology*, *Organization*, *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work*, *Somatosphere*.

Brewis, A. 2011. *Obesity: Cultural and Biocultural Perspectives*. Rutgers University Press. Reviewed in *Current Anthropology* and *American Journal of Human Biology*,

Cambie, C., and A. Brewis. 1997. *Anti-fertility Plants of the Pacific*. CSIRO Press: Melbourne. Reviewed in: *Journal of the Polynesian Society* and *Economic Botany*.

Brewis, A. 1996. *Lives on the Line: Women and Ecology on a Pacific Atoll*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich: Fort Worth. Reviewed in *Journal of Biosocial Science*.

Edited Books (1)

Anderson-Fye, E. and A. Brewis (eds). 2017. *Fat Planet: Obesity, Culture, and Symbolic Body Capital*. SAR Press and University of New Mexico Press. Reviewed in: *POLAR*, *CHOICE*, and *Journal of Anthropological Research*.

Edited Journal Volumes (4)

Rosinger, A., and A. Brewis (eds). 2020. Human Biology of Water. Special Issue of *American Journal of Human Biology*, vol. 32 (1).

Brewis, A. (ed.) 2015. Translating Human Biology. Special Issue of *American Journal of Human Biology*, vol. 27.

Brewis, A (ed.) 2012. Global Obesity. Special Issue of *American Journal of Human Biology*, vol. 24.

Brewis, A., and J.S. Allen (eds) 1994. Biological Anthropology in the Pacific. Special Issue of *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, vol. 103.

Journal Articles and Chapters

Nyirenda, V., A. Brewis, R. Schuster, C. Gegenheimer, and M. Lacy. Identifying shared norms across potentially conflicted groups as a strategy for sustainable programming: Wildlife crime law enforcement versus local community actors in Zambia's protected areas. *Current Research in Environmental Sustainability* 7: 100250.

Negrón, R., A. Wutich, H.R. Bernard, A. Brewis, A. Ruth, K. Mayfour, B. Piperata, M. Beresford, C. SturtzSreetharan, P. Mahdavi, J. Hardin, R. Zarger, K. Harper, J. Holland Jones, C.C. Gravlee, B. Brayboy. Ethnographic methods training norms and practices and the future of American Anthropology. *American Anthropologist*, accepted.

Ruth, A., A. Brewis, M. Beresford, & C.M. Stojanowski. 2024. Research supervisors and undergraduate students' perceived gains from undergraduate research experiences in the social sciences. *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, in press.

Brewis, A., and S. Trainer. 2024. No 'easy' weight loss: Don't overlook the social cost of anti-obesity drugs. *Nature Communications** 626: 258-260 [*editor reviewed].

Roba, AR, A. Brewis, Ö. Başdaş and KT Roba. 2024. Maternal and household factors affecting the dietary diversity of preschool children in Eastern Ethiopia: A cross-sectional study. *BMJ Open* 14:e080616. doi:10.1136/ bmjopen-2023-080616

Nébié, E.I., A. Brewis, A. Wutich, Y. Pérenne, K. Magassa, and S. Ouédraogo. 2024. Why livelihoods matter in the gendering of household water insecurity. *Water, Climate, and Society*, <https://doi.org/10.1175/WCAS-D-22-0105.1>

Staddon, C., and A. Brewis. 2024. Household water containers: Mitigating risks for improved Modular, Adaptive, and Decentralized (MAD) water systems. *Water Security* 21: 100163. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wasec.2023.100163>

Brewis, A. & A. Ruth. 2024. Art-based Methods for Qualitative Research with Younger Children. In *The Handbook of Teaching Qualitative and Mixed Research Methods: A Step-by-Step Guide for Instructors*, edited by A. Ruth, A. Wutich, and H.R. Bernard, pp. 190-193. Oxford, England: Routledge.

Beresford, M., A. Brewis, N. Choudhary, G. Drew, N. Escobedo Garcia, D. Garrick, Md J Hossain, E. Lopez, E. Ilboudo Nébié, R. Pacheco-Vega, A. Roque, and A. Wutich. 2024. Justice and moral economies in Modular, Adaptive, and Decentralized (MAD) water systems. *Water Security* 100148.

Ulian, M., R. Unsain, R. Rocha Franco, M. Santo, A. Brewis, S. Trainer, C. SturtzSreetharan, A. Wutich, B. Gualano, and F. Scagliusi. 2023. More than meets the eye: A qualitative investigation of the complex weight history constructions of Brazilian women who underwent bariatric surgery. *Journal of Psychological Research* 5 (4): 50-67.

Ruth, A., K. Mayfour, J. Hardin, T. Sangaramoorthy, A. Wutich, HR. Bernard, A. Brewis, M. Beresford, C. SturtzSreetharan, B. Brayboy, HJF. Dengah II, C. Gravlee, G. Guest, K. Harper, P. Mahdavi, SM. Mattison, M. Moritz, R. Negrón, BA. Piperata, JG. Snodgrass and R. Zarger. 2023. Teaching ethnographic methods: The state of the art. *Human Organization* 81 (4): 401–412.

Ruth A., A. Brewis, M. Beresford, M.E. Smith, C.M. Stojanowski, C. SturtzSreetharan, and A. Wutich. 2023. Lab-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (LUREs): Evidence of effectiveness from the

social sciences. *Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research* 7(1): 43-53.
<https://doi.org/10.18833/spur/7/1/3>

SturtzSreetharan, C., M. Ghorbani, A. Brewis, and A. Wutich. 2023. Deny, reassure, and deflect: Global forms (and norms) of women's fat talk. *Cross Cultural Research* 10693971231199373.

Roque, A., A. Wutich, A. Brewis, M. Beresford, L. Landes, O. Morales-Pate, R. Lucero, W. Jepson, Y. Tsai, Yushiou, M. Hanemann, and the Water Equity Consortium. 2023. Community-based participant-observation (CBPO): Basic tenets and an example. *Field Methods* 36(2),
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1525822X2311989>

Feye, D., T. Gobena, A. Brewis, and KT Roba. 2023. Adolescent breakfast skipping is associated with poorer academic performance: A school-based study from Hidhabu Abote District, Ethiopia. *Journal of Health, Population, and Nutrition* 42:79. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41043-023-00424-z>

Roque, A, A. Brewis, M. Beresford, A. Wutich, W. Jepson, H Lloréns, and C. García-Quijano. 2023. Water sharing as disaster response in Puerto Rico: Coping with water insecurity in the aftermath of Hurricane María. *Human Organization* 82 (3): 248–260. <https://doi.org/10.17730/1938-3525-82.3.248>

Brewis, A, L.Z. Dubois, A. Wutich, E.A. Adams, S. Dickin, S.J. Elliott, V.L. Epinotti, L. Harris, E. Ilboudo Nébié, and M. Korzenevica. 2023. Gender identities, water insecurity, and risk: Re-theorizing the connections for a gender-inclusive toolkit for water insecurity research. *WIREs Water*,
10.1002/wat2.1685.

Brewis, A., N. Choudhary, and A. Wutich. 2023. Men's water collection in India: Testing hypotheses of (in)equity and gendered risks. *American Journal of Human Biology*, <http://doi.org/10.1002/ajhb.23990>

Ulian, M, R. Unsain, R. Franco, M. Santo, A. Brewis, S. Trainer, C. SturtzSreetharan, A. Wutich, B. Gualano, and F. Scagliusi. 2023. Weight stigma after bariatric surgery: A qualitative study with Brazilian women. *PLoS ONE* 18(7): e0287822. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0287822>

Schuster, R., A. Wutich, K. Wachter, A. Brewis, C. SturtzSreetharan, and G. Boateng. 2023. Design for longitudinal cross-cultural mixed methods research. *International Journal of Behavioral Development (supplement)* 43(7):6-9.

Choudhary, N., C. SturtzSreetharan, S. Trainer, A Brewis, A Wutich, K Clancy, U Fatima, and MJ Hossain. 2023. Managing menstruation with dignity: Worries, stress, and mental health in two water-scarce urban communities in India. *Global Public Health* 18(1): 2233996. doi:
10.1080/17441692.2023.2233996.

Rhue, S. J., Torrico, G., Amuzie, C., Collins, S. M., Lemaitre A., Workman, C. L., Rosinger A. Y., Pearson, A. L., Piperata, B. A., Wutich, A. Brewis, A., & Stoler, J. 2023. The effects of household water insecurity on child health and well-being. *WIREs Water*, doi:10.1002/wat2.1666.

Stoler, J., W. Jepson, A. Brewis, and A. Wutich. 2023. Frontiers of household water insecurity metrics: Severity, adaptation and resilience. *BMJ Global Health* 8:e011756.

Quimby, B., A. Roque, E Ilboudo Nébié, A. Levine, S. Akeli Amaama, A. Wutich, A. Brewis, and E. Sameulu. 2023. Blue food sovereignty benefits social-ecological resilience: A case study of small-scale fisheries comanagement and mariculture in Samoa. *Human Ecology* 10.1007/s10745-023-00401-4

Roba, KT, A. Brewis, M. Manning, and JY Hassan. 2023. Parental khat use and early childhood growth status in Eastern Ethiopia. *Nutrition and Health* 10.1177/02601060221148898.

Snodgrass, J., A. Brewis, H.J.F. Dengah II, W.W. Dressler, B.N. Kaiser, B. Kohrt, E.

Mendenhall, S. Sagstetter, L.J. Weaver, and K. X. Zhao. 2023. Ethnographic methods for identifying cultural concepts of distress: Developing reliable and valid measures. *Field Methods* 5(3), 175-197. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1525822X221113178>

Schuster, R., A. Brewis, C. Safi, A. Wutich, C. SturtzSreetharan, T. Eligido, G. Bowen, and P. Ochandarena. 2023. Individual interviews versus focus groups for evaluations of international development programs: Systematic testing of method performance to elicit sensitive information in a justice study in Haiti. *Evaluation and Program Planning* 97: 102208. DOI: 10.1016/j.evalproplan.2022.10220

Shah, S., V. Shah, S.H., Harris, L.M., Menghwani, V., Stoler, J., Brewis, A., Miller, J.D., Workman, C.L., Adams, E.A., Pearson, A.L., Hagaman, A., Wutich, A., Young, S.L. and HWISE-RCN. 2023. Variations in household water affordability and water insecurity: An intersectional perspective from 18 low- and middle-income countries. *Environment and Planning F*, 26349825231156900

Ford, L. H. Bethancourt, Z. Swanson, R. Nzunza, A. Wutich, A. Brewis, S. Young, A. Almeida, M. Douglass, EK Ndiema, DR Braun, H. Pontzer, and A. Rosinger, inter alia. 2023. Water insecurity, water borrowing, and psychosocial stress among Daasanach pastoralists. *Water International*, 48:1, 63-86. DOI: 10.1080/02508060.2022.2138050

Tabar, Mir Mohamad SA., A Brewis, and M. Sohrabi. 2023. Status, social norms, or safety? Understanding intended and reported bottled water use in urban Mashhad, Iran. *Journal of Water and Health*, 10.2166/wh.2022.319.

Schuster RC, Wutich A, Brewis A, SturtzSreetharan C. 2022. Ethnographic methods in cross-cultural research. In: Pranee Liamputtong (ed.), *Handbook of Qualitative Cross-Cultural Research: A Social Science Perspective*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, p. 273-289.

Choudhary, N., A. Brewis, A. Wutich, M. Beresford, and C. Workman. 2022. Water, economic systems, and mental health: A review of theorized relationships. *CABI Reviews* <https://doi.org/10.1079/cabireviews202217042>

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Trainer, S, A. Wutich, and A. Brewis. 2017. Eating in the panopticon: Surveillance before and after bariatric surgery. *Medical Anthropology* 36(5):500-514.

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Brewis, A., P. Schoeffel-Meleisea, H. Mavoa, and K. Maconaghie. 1996. Gender and non-communicable disease in the Pacific. *Pacific Health Dialog* 3(1):107-112.

Brewis, A., and K. Peddie. 1996. Hydatidiform mole pregnancy in Micronesian women. *New Zealand Medical Journal*, 9 February, 38-39.

Brewis, A., G. Irwin, and J. Allen. 1995. Patterns of colonisation and the "thrifty genotype" in Pacific prehistory. *Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 4:361-65.

Brewis, A. and G. Regmi. 1995. Post-partum amenorrhoea differentials in a rural Pacific island population. *Perspectives in Human Biology* 1:37-51.

Brewis, A., and C. Cambie. 1995. Anti-fertility plants in traditional Pacific medicine. *Australasian Science* 16(4):40-43.

Brewis, A. 1995. Fertility and analogy in Pacific prehistory. *Asian Perspectives* 34(1):1-20.

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Brewis, A. 1994. Reproductive ethnophysiology and contraceptive use in a rural Micronesian population. *Journal of the Polynesian Society* 103:53-74.

Brewis, A. 1994. Secondary sex ratios and patterns of sexual behavior: A test of James' proposition. In K. Campbell and J. Wood (eds), *Human Reproductive Ecology: Interactions of Environment, Fertility, and Behavior*. Proceedings of the New York Academy of Sciences vol. 703, pp. 225-6.

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Brewis, A. 1989. Reconstructions of prehistoric fertility: The Maori case. *Man and Culture in Oceania* 5:21-36.

Brewis, A. 1988. Assessing infant mortality in prehistoric New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Archaeology* 10:73-82.

Grants/Contracts Awarded (PI unless otherwise noted):

2022 Reach-WISER water insecurity, REACH International funding through University of Oxford. (\$39,920, 100% recognition)

2020-2021 Cultural norms and wildlife conservation in N and S Luangwa National Park, Zambia, for innovations in cultural data collection for project monitoring. US Agency for International Development (USAID) (>\$92,000, 50% recognition [with R. Schuster]).

2017-2022 Justice Sector Strengthening Project - Haiti, for innovations in cultural data collection for project monitoring. US Agency for International Development (USAID). (\$145,000, 100% recognition).

2012-2018 Obesity Solutions. Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust (\$1,631,968 direct, 100% recognition).

2014-2015 Salud es Vida: A child obesity and health program for underserved children in Arizona. Boeing Corporation (\$100,000, co-PI, James Levine PI); through Mayo Clinic

2013-2018 The role of friendship networks on BMI and behaviors among college freshman. HHS-NIH (\$1.25 million, Co PI, Meg Bruening PI [9% recognition])

2013-2014 BUILDing Scholars. NIH P20 Planning Grant for Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (Co-I, PIs at UTEP Renato Aguilera and Timothy Collins; ASU is a partner institution and all funds went directly to UTEP).

2012 Upward mobility, symbolic body capital, and obesity in cross –cultural perspective. National Science Foundation EAGER (~\$75,000; PI E. Anderson-Fye, 50% recognition, but all funds went directly to Case Western University)

2008-2012 Agents of Change: Social dynamics in response to shifting immigration policy and practice: Latino social networks, resource flow, and household reorganization. Human and Social Dynamics Program, National Science Foundation (\$747,249; PI Jennifer Glick; 45% recognition)

2008-2013 The South Phoenix Collaborative: Leveraging culture & history to support healthy, resilient, and just communities. 'Late Lessons from Early History' Research Program, President's Strategic Initiative Fund, Arizona State University (\$430,000)

2008-2009 Interactions of culture, environment, and childhood nutritional wellbeing in South Phoenix. Institute for Social Science Research Catalyst Grant (\$20,000; PI Amber Wutich)

2006 Pastoralist children's foraging and the hunger gap in East Africa: A biocultural study of coping in adverse conditions. National Science Foundation Dissertation Project to support Tammy Watkins (\$8,000)

2006 Cultural meanings and acceptance of genetically modified food and crop technology in the United States and New Zealand. National Science Foundation Dissertation Project to support Tiffany Rinne (\$12,000)

2004 Health and nutritional outcomes of children's provisioning behavior in a marginal urban environment (Mexico), National Science Foundation Dissertation Project to support Sarah Lee (\$6,850)

2001-2004 Gender & population variation in children's hyperactive, inattentive, and impulsive behavior, National Science Foundation (Physical & Cultural Anthropology Programs) (\$255,207)

2001 NSF Research Experience for Undergraduate Students supplemental grant (Physical Anthropology Program) (\$2,900)

2001 NSF Research Experience for Graduate Students supplemental grant (Cultural

- Anthropology Program) (\$4,288)
- 2001 Population variation in ADHD-type behavior, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research (\$19,900)
- 2000-2005 National Science Foundation (Cultural Anthropology Program) Ethnographic Research Training Grant, (\$50,000) (PI Ted Gragson)
- 1995-1998 Reproductive ecology in Pacific Island women, Marsden Foundation (\$114,000)
- 1995 Social interaction in Pacific Island families and implications for household production of health, Health Research Council (\$5,000)
- 1989 Reproductive health of Pacific Island women, New Zealand Medical Research Council (\$4,800).

International Development/Applied Experience

- 2020-2021 Design and testing of new assessment tools/modules with USAID-funded Vukanow project: Combatting Wildlife Crime in Southern Africa, based in Zambia.
- 2018 Design and testing of new assessment tools/modules with USAID-funded Enhanced Palestinian Justice Program (EPJP) (focus on gender-based violence), based in Ramallah, West Bank.
- 2017-2022 USAID Justice-Sector Strengthening Program (JSSP) on rule of law, monitoring and evaluation. Providing technical support for monitoring and evaluation of a USAID-funded development program in Haiti focused on strengthening access to formal and informal justice, with a focus on vulnerable groups (food/water insecure, women, LGBT, disabled). Baseline data collection was completed in 2017.
- 2016-2017 Working with Coastal Cities Adaptation Project (CCAP), to test new project monitoring tools, in northern Mozambique.
- 1996 Foundation for Peoples of the South Pacific. Two-month contract to identify local barriers to family planning uptake. Part of the Kiribati Child Survival Project, Republic of Kiribati.

Instructional Expertise:

- Anthropology, Global Health, International Development; Biocultural Anthropology; Research Design; Ethnographic and Field Methods.
- Experiential education innovation, including study abroad, practicum, and research mentoring/apprenticeships.
- Integrating research experiences as skills development for students into core undergraduate curriculum/courses.
- Trans-disciplinary degree program design, development, and implementation.
- New scalable and collaborative technologies/modalities, including virtual/online instruction.

Instructional Experience:

Arizona State University, University of Georgia, University of Auckland, Pima Community College (AZ), University of Arizona.

Study Abroad Programs Developed and Directed

Switzerland: Global Challenges, European Solutions
 Fiji: Adventures in Culture, Health, and Environment

New Zealand: Adventures in Culture, Health, and Environment
Australia: Human Dimensions of Sustainability
New Zealand and Australia: Semester Abroad
China: The Roaring Dragon
Antarctica: The Fragile Continent
London: The World in One City/ Plague Pits and Body Snatchers
Belize: Reef to Rainforest
France: Food and Culture
Chennai, India: AIDS Prevention Education Internship
Trujillo, Peru: Community Partnerships for Global Health Internship

Other Study Abroad Programs as Instructor

UGA France program
University of New Orleans Summer School, Innsbruck, Austria

Field School Developed and Directed

UGA Ethnographic Field School, Georgia coast

Degree Programs Developed

B.A. in Global Health, launched 2009
Ph.D. in Global Health, launched 2008
M.A. in Global Health, launched 2010
B.S. in Anthropology, launched 2013
B.A. in Global Health (online), launched 2014
B.A. in Anthropology (online), launched 2015
Undergraduate Certificate in Social Research Methods, launched 2017

Graduate Courses Developed and Taught

*Urban and Environmental Health
*Ethnographic Research (field school)
*Research Design and Proposal Development
*Professionalism (for entering Ph.D. students)
Health: Social and Biocultural Theories
Theory in Biological & Medical Anthropology
Medical Anthropology
Ethnographic Field Methods
Ecology and Evolution of Human Disease
Health Research Methods
Research in Biological Anthropology
Human Population Ecology
Cross-cultural Human Development
Human Behavior
Biological Anthropology Core
Field Studies in Humans and the Environment
Advanced Ecological Anthropology
Research Methods
Field Methods
Data Analysis
Instructional Pedagogy and Technique for New Teachers
Graduate Pro-seminar
Professional Seminar in Global Health

Undergraduate Courses Developed/Taught (*currently or recently offered)

*Applying Anthropology
*Community Partnerships for Global Health

- *Cross-cultural Studies in Global Health
- *Introduction to Global Health
- *Food and Culture
- *Urban & Environmental Health
- *Poverty, Social Justice, and Global Health/ Poverty and Global Health
- *Introduction to Anthropology
- Introduction to Biological Anthropology
- Introduction to Prehistory and Biological Anthropology
- Medical Anthropology
- Women in Other Cultures
- Biomedical Anthropology
- Ecology and Evolution of Human Disease
- Human Sexuality/ Anthropology of Human Sexuality
- Demographic Anthropology
- Anthropology of Eating
- Nutritional Anthropology
- Human Biology in the Pacific
- Peoples of the Pacific
- Human Adaptation
- Human Evolution
- Gender and Anthropology
- Field Studies in Natural Resource Management
- Human Biology
- Issues in Human Evolution
- Biological Anthropology Laboratory
- Field Methods
- Peoples of the World
- Freshman Seminar: Mother Nature
- Cultural Anthropology
- Field Studies in Humans and the Environment
- Senior Seminar in Global Health (capstone)
- Beginning Social Research

*Courses currently or recently offered

Training Developed for CHES Credits

Recognizing and Challenging Stigma. Western Public Health Training Center online modules launched July 2020. <https://wrphct.arizona.edu/training/recognizing-and-challenging-stigma>

Service:

International/National Service:

- Board member, Elsevier Foundation, 2023-2026.
- Senior Editor (Medical Anthropology), *Social Science and Medicine*, 2022-2025.
- Associate Editor, *American Journal of Human Biology*, 2021-present.
- International Editorial Advisory Board, *Social Science and Medicine*, 2021-2022.
- Founding Lead, Human Biology Association Anti-Harassment and Discrimination initiative, 2021-present.
- President, Human Biology Association, 2018-2020 (President Elect 2017, Past President 2021)
- Editorial Board, *American Journal of Human Biology*, 2011-present
- School of American Research, Staley Book Prize Panel, 2011
- Board Member, International Council on Women's Health Issues, 2006-2010
- Publications Committee, Human Biology Association, 2007-2011
- Fulbright National Screening Committee, 2004-2007

Significant Service at Arizona State University

- Founding Director, Center for Global Health, 2010-present.

Chair, Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee, The College of Arts and Sciences [College level P and T committee], 2020-2022.
Director, Global Impact Collaboratory, 2017-present.
Co-Director/Director of Operations, ASU-Mayo Clinic Obesity Solutions Initiative, 2012-2018
Associate Vice President, Social Sciences, 2014-2017
Founding Chair, University Study Abroad Committee, 2014-2018
Director, School of Human Evolution & Social Change, 2012-2017
Executive Director, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, 2009-2011
Associate/Acting Director, School of Human Evolution & Social Change, 2008-2009
CLAS Dean's Advisory Committee (Promotion and Tenure), 2009
Regent's Professor Selection Committee, 2009-2012
University Graduate Council, 2008-2011
University Senate, 2006-2009
Director, Graduate Programs in Global Health, 2007-2009

Significant Service at University of Georgia

Co-Director/Founder, Global Programs in Sustainability (GPS), Franklin College of Arts & Sciences, 2002-06: *GPS was recognized by the 2012 Heiskell Award for Best Practices in Internationalization, Study Abroad.* <http://www.iie.org/Who-We-Are/IENetwork-Membership/Heiskell-Awards/University-of-Georgia>
International Education Provost's Task Force, 2004
Institutional Review Board (IRB), 1999-2006
Deans' Forum on Education and Teaching, 2002-2005
College Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2004-2007
Chair, University Libraries Committee, 2001-2003
University Executive Committee, 2001-2003
University Council, 1999-2002
University Academic Honesty Panel, 1999-2006
Anthropology Department Graduate Director, 2003-2006
Anthropology Department Executive Committee Chair, 2004-2006
Anthropology Department Executive Committee, 1999-2006
Anthropology Department Undergraduate Director, 2002

Recent Media:

The Pulse/NPR, 2022. Vox Media, weight stigma "Explainer" videos, September 2022 (<https://www.vox.com/ad/23274653/the-not-so-ancient-history-of-weight-stigma>), November 2022 (<https://www.vox.com/ad/23292474/the-global-spread-of-weight-stigma>). Arizona PBS Horizon on anti-stigma work August 23, 2022 (<https://azpbs.org/horizon/2022/08/stigmas-in-healthcare/>). BBC "Thinking Allowed", interview on new book on extreme weight loss, May 2021 (www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000w33c). From leprosy to COVID-19, how stigma makes it harder to fight epidemics, AAAS Science blog, Sept 16, 2020. Do runners need to wear masks? Work in stigma quoted in the New York Times, May 30, 2020. Demographic work on global patterns of marital sex from mid 1990s cited in New York Times, Dec 3, 2017 ("8 ways to have a better relationship"). Bariatric study publications (October 2016), discussed in New York Times Review Section, October 2nd, 2016. Current Anthropology* study (March 2011) and American Journal of Public Health* study (May 2011). NY Times: article about Current Anthropology study published online March 30th, with then a longer version published front page (A1) and page 3 (A3) of the national print version March 31st. "Quotation of the Day" in NY Times on March 31st. Other periodicals: San Francisco Chronicle (page 2, April 1) and Village Voice (May 14). Online Stories: Wall Street Journal Scientific American; Google News, US News, Yahoo! News, The Times of India, Live Science, myFOXla.com, myfoxphoenix.com, MyFoxNational Twitter, examiner.com, The Business Journals, deseretnews.com, timesunion.com, huliq.com, Clutch, therandomforest.com, redorbit.com, San Francisco Chronicle, Time, MSNBC, Discovery News, Herald Tribune, Mail Online (Daily Mail), The Slate Edition, Medical News Today, Phoenix New Times, IBTimes, haiboss.com, Christian Science Monitor, SciGuru, inquist.com, HotSpot, Well-Being Wire by MeYou Health, Jezebel.com, Science News, State Press, UPI.com, Science Daily, opposingviews.com, newser.com, Mother Nature Network, Irish Health, AAA Members in the News (aaanet.org), Softpedia,

Medical News Today, So Stadium Status blog, my9tv.com, physorg.com, myfoxboston.com, drug-expert.com, 24newsdaily.com, science20.com, livestrongandsore.com, labspaces.net. TV News: KNBC-LA (NBC)-Los Angeles, CA. KTVU-SF (FOX)-San Francisco, CA. WJW-CLE (FOX)-Cleveland, OH. WLS-CHI (ABC)-Chicago, IL. WOHL (FOX)-Lima, OH. WJBK-DET (FOX)-Detroit, MI. NEWS12NJ-Newark, NJ. KSL-SLC (NBC)-Salt Lake City, UT. KTVK-PHX-Phoenix, AZ, CNN headline news on Saturday, Saturday Night Live. Radio Interviews: WDEL Radio, Wilmington, Del., ABC Radio Australia, Radio New Zealand, ISTOE (Brazilian), Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), interview. "Q. with Jian Ghomeshi", NewsRadio105.5 WERC-FM (Birmingham, AL). Foreign Language News: BBC News in Spanish, Prensa Latina (Spanish), semana.com (Spanish), O Globo (Portuguese), elnuevodia.com, BBC Mundo, Le Figaro, Irish Health, el-nacional.com, The Globe and Mail, latina lista, kopalniaweidzy.pl (from Poland). Work from 2004 discussed/cited in T. Parker-Pope article on "How to Have a Good Relationship" New York Times, October 2017.

Podcasts

- 2020 Period Podcast [with Amber Wutich]. [Illness, stigma, and the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)
- 2020 Psych Central [with Amber Wutich]. [How stigma is everywhere.](#)
- 2020 The Sausage of Science [with Amber Wutich]. [Water pirates.](#)
- 2018 The Sausage of Science. [How stigma shapes us.](#)

Short Recent Bio

Alexandra Brewis is a Regents Professor and a President's Professor in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University, where she founded the Center for Global Health in 2006 and served as Director of the School of Human Evolution and Social Change from 2011-17. Trained in human biology, medical anthropology, and demography, she does collaborative biocultural research designed to understand and solve complex health and environmental challenges, including stigma in health care and household water insecurity. Her scholarship includes over 200 articles and 7 books developed with collaborators in many different fields, and includes the multi-award winning *Lazy, Crazy, and Disgusting: Stigma and the Undoing of Global Health* (Johns Hopkins, 2019). Her most recent book, *The Human Story* (2024), is an integrative *Introduction to Anthropology* textbook. Brewis is currently Senior Editor (Medical Anthropology) for the journal *Social Science and Medicine*, external board member of the Elsevier Foundation, and recently served as President of the Human Biology Association. Professional recognitions include election as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2013, the Conrad M. Arensberg Award from the American Anthropological Association in 2023, and the Human Biology Association Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award in 2024.

Extended Biographical Narrative: Alexandra Brewis (Slade)

Alex Brewis grew up in New Zealand and did her BA (1986) and MA (1988) in Anthropology at University of Auckland, focused on Pacific anthropology. In 1992, she completed her PhD in Anthropology at University of Arizona, based on extended fieldwork in the Republic of Kiribati in Micronesia on women's reproduction, family planning, and infertility. In her PhD program, she was supervised by committees in both biological anthropology (Jane Underwood, William Stini, Hermann Bleibtreu) and cultural/medical/psychological anthropology (Mark Nichter, Marcia Inhorn, and Jerry Levy). She has since gone on to focus her scholarship in advancing the field of "biocultural anthropology," with seven authored books, additional edited volumes, and over 200 articles in peer-reviewed journals or chapters in books. Most of this work focuses on better understanding how culture and social arrangements interact with human health.

Her first academic appointment was as Lecturer in Biological Anthropology (equivalent to Assistant Professor) at the University of Auckland in New Zealand (her natal country), teaching medical anthropology, research design, and biological anthropology. Over the next three years, Alex commuted between Rhode Island and New Zealand to complete a Mellon Foundation postdoctoral fellowship at Brown University in the Population Studies and Training Center. This allowed collaboration on Steve McGarvey's long-term medically focused studies of obesity and cardiovascular risk in Samoa and spurred her first research into cultural ideas about large bodies. This research is still ongoing and included new

and follow-up collaborations on body image in Samoa in 2016-18. While teaching at University of Auckland she also wrote her first book (*Lives on the Line: Women and Ecology on a Pacific Atoll*, 1996, subsequently adopted at more than 50 different universities as a teaching text), and another book about *Anti-fertility Plants of the Pacific* (with organic chemist Con Cambie).

In 1997 she moved to a position as Assistant Professor of Ecological Anthropology at the University of Georgia (UGA), where she was promoted to Professor in 2001. At UGA she developed an array of courses in ecological anthropology, continued to teach research design and methods, and discovered the joys of experiential education when she developed her first ethnographic field-school on the Georgia coast. At that time, she also initiated new fieldwork on the cultural context of children's health and nutrition, based on new long-term community-based research in both rural Georgia and central Mexico.

In her decade at UGA she served as the Anthropology Department's undergraduate then graduate director and set up (with Michael Tarrant) an award-winning set of transdisciplinary study abroad programs. Over a period of thirty years, well over a thousand undergraduates have traveled with her on study abroad programs to Australia, Austria, Belize, China, England, Fiji, France, India, New Zealand, and Switzerland. She also led the development of a multi-institutional consortium that offered the first such program to Antarctica in 2006 (still running), allowing thousands of students to travel there through an array of different universities in the years since.

Alex moved from UGA to the newly formed school of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University in 2005 as Professor of Medical Anthropology. Charged with the development of innovative initiatives in health social science, she designed and launched the nation's first BA and PhD in Global Health in 2007. The innovative undergraduate program remains the largest, most diverse global health program in the nation, and proved to be a core model for programs developed since at other major institutions. She designed and launched ASU's [Center for Global Health](#) and continues to support it as Founding Director. Alex served as Director the [School of Human Evolution and Social Change](#) (SHESC) for some eight years, a period of growth in the scope and impact of the School that ended with Anthropology at ASU being ranked [#1 in the US for both research scale](#) (NSF HERD) and [faculty research productivity](#) (CWUR). She also served as ASU's Associate Vice President for Social Science for four years from 2014-18, another period of exciting growth in otherwise uncertain times that took the university's NSF HERD national ranking in social science from #15 to #4.

Alex's research interests in global health grew alongside these initiatives. She continues to closely work with the Center for Global Health to advance new modes of social science international and transdisciplinary collaboration with a focus on global health as a core element of social justice. This has been a long-term commitment that includes action close to home. In 2005, Alex also initiated the South Phoenix Collaborative, connecting a wide array of academic experts and external stakeholders to identify and address health issues of local community concern in lower-income areas in downtown Phoenix near ASU. Two years of community-based participatory research (with Seline Szkupinski-Quiroga) highlighted obesity as the major community-identified concern and spurred a range of applied test projects (funded mainly by the Virginia G Piper Charitable Trust) on the best ways to improve health and prevent chronic disease in low-resource communities in Arizona. In a well-reviewed 2011 book, spurred by the community concerns raised, *Obesity: Cultural and Biocultural Perspectives* (Rutgers University Press), Alex provided an anthropological synthesis of the causes and consequences of global obesity through the lens of her two decades of fieldwork on the topic in Phoenix and multiple sites around the world.

Much of Alex's significant scholarly research in the last 20 years has been conducted in collaboration with fellow ASU anthropologist Amber Wutich. In 2007, they published a seminal study on "fat stigma" in *Current Anthropology* based on field studies at multiple international sites. The findings were reported on the front page of the New York Times, showing that stigma around obesity - thought of as mainly a higher-income country issue previously - was rapidly globalizing. This *Small World/Big Bodies* project then seeded several follow-up studies around the globe that confirmed the findings, an edited volume (*Fat Planet*, University of New Mexico/SAR Press), and led to a fellowship at the School for Advanced Studies in Oslo, Norway. She subsequently initiated a four-country, collaborative and comparative ethnographic study of how people worry and act on "being fat" in Japan, Paraguay, Samoa, and the US published with

University of Toronto Press as *Fat in Four Cultures: A Global Ethnography of Weight* (2021). This book, first authored by Cindi SturtzSreetharan, exposes how weight concerns have come to dominate the everyday lives of adults across the globe, but is also considered an important example of news forms of collaborative and comparative ethnographic research.

In 2015 she began (with postdoctoral fellow Sarah Trainer) a longitudinal ethnographic study of the changing lives of patients at Mayo Clinic as they go through weight-loss surgery, including how weight-related stigma affects the process. One goal of the study was to use social science insights to understand and so improve long-term surgical “success” and “failure” (i.e., weight regain), both from the clinical and patient perspective. Trainer, Brewis, and Wutich published the ethnography *Extreme Weight Loss* (NYU Press, 2021) based on the findings of the study. She continues to study the bases and consequences of weight-related stigma as a growing global problem. Challenging the wider orthodoxy of how stigma is employed as a tool for behavior change within the field of Public Health, she also wrote a related multi-award-winning book, *Lazy, Crazy, and Disgusting: Stigma and the Undoing of Global Health* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019, with Amber Wutich). Related to this, she does significant public outreach and training in anti-stigma.

Alex also partners extensively with Wutich on the *Global Ethnohydrology Study* (GES), a major long-term, comparative study of how people understand and respond to growing water challenges and climate change around the globe. The large, diverse scholarly team brought together by the GES includes water experts from a massive array of fields, including hydrology, engineering, geography, public policy, and political science. To date, over 1,500 ASU undergraduate student-collaborators have participated in international data collection as part of the GES, learning about data collection firsthand at multiple sites (from New Zealand to Fiji, Switzerland, and Guatemala). The GES also collaborates closely with a large international research collaboration on Household Water Insecurity Experiences (*HWISE*), working on how to best understand, explain, and solve water insecurity in low-resource households globally. Her focus in that collaboration includes newer research on water sharing, and understanding how water insecurity underpins biocultural stress, and includes data collection in eastern Ethiopia in collaboration with Haramaya University.

One important and substantial recent project that combines teaching and research has seen Alex leading a team of anthropologists (Chris Stojanowski, Cindi SturtzSreetharan, Kelly Knudson, and Amber Wutich – all award-winning instructors) in rethinking how Introductory Anthropology should be taught. Working with Norton Publishers, the team has co-authored *The Human Story: An Introduction to Anthropology* (2024), a textbook that reorients anthropology to align better both with recent shifts in the field and current concerns and priorities of undergraduate students.

One other major effort in the last several years has been working closely with major development contractor Chemonics International to develop and test new tools that can better allow community needs and values to be incorporated into large-scale international development (ID) projects. In this capacity she is Founding Director of the [Global Impact Collaboratory](#) and this effort has also involved training many students in these innovative social science methods for ID with USAID teams in Palestine, Mozambique, Haiti, and Zambia, as part of an effort to build in-country capacity in social science research for such projects.

Alex does international service mainly in the fields of medical anthropology and human biology. She is a Senior Editor (Medical Anthropology) at *Social Science and Medicine*, an Associate Editor of *American Journal of Human Biology*, is a longtime member and fellow of the *Human Biology Association*, and a lifetime member of the *Society for Evolution, Medicine, and Public Health* and the *American Anthropological Association*. Alex also served as President of the international *Human Biology Association*, 2018-20, currently serves of the board of the Elsevier Foundation, is an elected Fellow of the *American Association for the Advancement of Science*. Recent awards include the Conrad M. Arensberg Award from the American Anthropological Association in 2023, and the Human Biology Association Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award in 2024. Alex engages in public science communication and training for health professionals as part of her anti-stigma efforts, and has a blog at *Psychology Today* called [Diagnosis: Human](#).