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## ROBIN GAIR NELSON

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Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University, 1810 Hinman Avenue,  
Evanston, IL 60208-1330;  
7713 N. Sheridan Rd. Apt. 3U, Chicago, IL 60626  
Tel.: (856) 404-1338 • Email: robin-nelson@northwestern.edu

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### EMPLOYMENT

**September 2008 – Present** Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Laboratory of Human Biology Research, Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

### EDUCATION

**Sept. 2002 – May 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*

**Sept. 2006** M.A. Biological Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

**May 2001** B.A. Anthropology (*Honors*), Brown University, Providence, R.I.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Biocultural anthropology approaches to disease, human adaptation, Caribbean kinship, human behavioral ecology with a focus in the evolution of kin and social investment, political economies of health, growth and development

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**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- Nov.2006** **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 family networks and health

- June-Aug. 2003 **Ph.D. Pilot Research**, Jacmel, Haiti, Pilot research on gender dynamics, mate choice and HIV
- June 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

### GRANTS AND AWARDS

- April 2008 **Rackham Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor**  
Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan
- Sep 2002 – Dec 2007 **Rackham Merit Fellowship for Graduate Studies**  
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
- June 2005 **Pre-Candidacy Research Award**  
Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan
- April 2005 **Award for Outstanding Contribution to Graduate Student Teaching**, Department of Anthropology, 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

### PUBLICATIONS

- 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.

### **PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS**

**Nelson, R.G.** 2008. Adult health outcomes and their implications for childhood nutritional stress in Jamaica. Submitted to the American Journal of Human Biology.

**Nelson, R.G.** Kinship, Migration and Material Exchange in Haiti and Jamaica. To be submitted to *Current Anthropology*

**Nelson, R.G.** Conjugal Unions, Social Investment and Health in Mandeville, Jamaica. To be submitted to the *American Journal of Human Biology*

### **PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS**

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

April 2008 “Adult Health Outcomes and Childhood Nutritional Stress in Jamaica.” Podium Presentation at the annual meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists

**Nelson, R.G.** 2008. Adult Health Outcomes and Childhood Nutritional Stress in Jamaica.” *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 135 (S46):123.

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

March 2007 “Family Matters: Health and Kinship in Jamaica” Poster presentation at the annual meetings of the Human Biology Association

**Nelson, R.G.** 2007. Family Matters: Health and Kinship in Jamaica. *American Journal of Human Biology*. 19:270.

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

## TEACHING

- Winter 2008 **Graduate Student Instructor**, Overview of Topics in Biological Anthropology (Graduate Level Course), Anthrbio 570 (Inst. Laura MacLatchy) University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology, *Led 1 weekly discussion and review session for fellow graduate students*
- May-June 2007 **Instructor**, Darwin, Disease and Decay: Evolutionary Anthropology, Culture and Health, Anthrbio 297, University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology, *Developed course with lectures, exams and laboratory activities*
- Winter 2007 **Graduate Student Instructor**, Human Adaptation (Graduate Level Course), Anthrbio 563 (Inst. A. Roberto Frisancho) University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology, *Led 3 weekly discussion sections with 20 students each; Developed exams in consultation with the instructor*
- Winter 2005 **Graduate Student Instructor**, Overview of Topics in Biological Anthropology (Graduate Level Course), Anthrbio 570 (Inst. Laura MacLatchy) University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology, *Led 1 weekly discussion and review session for fellow graduate students*
- Fall 2004 **Head Graduate Student Instructor**, Introduction to Biological Anthropology, Anthrbio 161 (Inst. John Mitani) University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology, *Led 3 weekly discussion sections with 25 students each; Aided 3 additional GSI's with their teaching responsibilities*
- Winter 2004 **Head Graduate Student Instructor**, Introduction to Biological Anthropology, Anthrbio 161 (Inst. A. Roberto Frisancho) University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology, *Led 3 weekly discussion sections with 25 students each; Developed exams in consultation with the instructor and aided 3 additional GSI's with their teaching responsibilities*

Fall 2003

**Graduate Student Instructor**, Primate Social Behavior,  
Anthrbio 368 (Inst. John Mitani) University of Michigan,  
Department of Anthropology, *Led 2 weekly discussion  
sections with 25 students each; Writing Intensive Course*

**LANGUAGES AND LABORATORY PROFICIENCY**

Anthropometric measurements for assessment of nutritional status and overall health

ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay)

ELISPOT (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Spot Assay)

Enzyme Immunoassay for C-reactive protein

Fluid competence in Standard French

Beginner competence in Haitian Creole

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Anthropological Association

-Association of Black Anthropologists

-Association of Biological Anthropologists

Human Biology Association

American Association of Physical Anthropology

**SERVICE**

2005

Graduate Student Instructor Mentor

2002-2005

Member of the Michigan Association of Graduate Student