Evolutionary Anthropology

Human Behavioral Ecology
Cultural Evolution
Human Biology
Evolutionary Psychology
Evolutionary Medicine
Medical Anthropology

Graduate Studies in Anthropology at WSU

The Evolutionary Anthropology program is actively seeking graduate students interested in applying evolutionary theory to cutting-edge anthropological questions.

Prospective Students
For more information, please visit: https://anthro.wsu.edu/graduate-studies/evolutionary-program/

Please contact faculty directly if you have any questions about the program or would like to discuss your research goals.

Conducting interviews with the Chabu of Ethiopia.

Analyzing nicotine metabolites in saliva from Congo Basin hunter-gatherers.

Prepping samples for DNA extraction for a study of how early environments affect mother-infant microbiomes.

wsuanthropology
Evolutionary Anthropology at WSU

The Evolutionary Anthropology program at the WSU Department of Anthropology offers comprehensive training in evolutionary approaches to human behavior and biology. Our faculty contribute important findings to cultural evolution, human behavioral ecology, human biology, evolutionary psychology, evolutionary medicine, and medical anthropology. Our intellectual vision spans molecules to multi-level models, intimate ethnography to cross-cultural comparison, and we integrate this vision through a shared theoretical framework that incorporates perspectives from multiple disciplines and values applied research.

We train graduate students according to our global, interdisciplinary, and collaborative vision. Faculty maintain national and international collaborations that facilitate comparative research and a broad student experience. Many of our graduate students obtain experience at several field sites and laboratories early in their careers, and most participate in research and teaching beginning in their first semester. We encourage students to tailor their program of study to their dissertation projects and future career plans. This often involves completing coursework from relevant disciplines such as evolutionary biology, economics, and global animal health.

Faculty-led research at field sites in Argentina, Bolivia, Central African Republic, Commonwealth of Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Tanzania, and the United States provides important and unique fieldwork opportunities for students.

Anne Pisor studies the evolution of human sociality and its contemporary relevance to globalization in Latin America, collective action, and climate change.

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Ed Hagen studies evolutionary medicine with a focus on psychoactive substance use and mental health.

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Barry Hewlett studies the anthropology of childhood and the anthropology of infectious and parasitic diseases with an interest in evolutionary approaches to culture.

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Aaron Blackwell studies human immune function, effects of early life environments on health, and life history in Honduras, Bolivia, and Ecuador.

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Courtney Meehan studies relationships between human environments, our microbiomes, milk composition, parental investment, and cooperative breeding through international cross-cultural studies.

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Luke Premo studies cultural evolution in structured populations, the origins of high fidelity cultural transmission in humans, and the evolution of cooperation.

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Rob Quinlan studies adaptive responses to environmental unpredictability involving reproductive strategies, household production, cognition, and health in East Africa and the Caribbean.

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Shannon Tushingham studies human-environmental relationships and the evolutionary archaeology of hunter-gatherer-fishers in western North America.

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