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Program in Human Development and Social Policy
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Professional positions

- 2008-present Assistant Professor, Human Development and Social Policy, School of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University
- 2008-present Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University
- 2008-present Director, Laboratory for Population Psychophysiology, Center for Social Disparities and Health (Cells 2 Society), Northwestern University
- 2008-present Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Northwestern University (courtesy appointment)
- 2008-present Assistant Adjunct Professor, Center for Advanced Study of Language (CASL), University of Maryland.

Education

- 2006 – 2008 Postdoctoral Fellowship in Population Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Health and Society Scholars Program, University of California – San Francisco / Berkeley.
- 2006 Ph.D., Anthropology, Emory University. *Committee:* Carol M. Worthman, PhD (Advisor), Melvin Konner, MD, PhD; Bradd Shore, PhD, E. Jane Costello, PhD.
- 2002 MA, Anthropology, Emory University. *Advisor:* Carol M. Worthman, PhD.
- 1998 BA, Anthropology (Minor in Folklore), *Summa cum laude*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. *Honors thesis committee:* Bruce Winterhalder, PhD (Advisor); Jean-Louis Gariépy, PhD; Paul Leslie, PhD.

Research support

- 2009 Mendes, WB, Brown RA. NIH (NICHD) R01. *The effect of race, status, and discrimination on acute stress reactivity*. Role: Co-PI on R01 [\$1,637,516]; PI on subcontract to Northwestern [\$474,157]. Submitted to the National Institutes of Health (NICHD) on January 13, 2009. Part of P01 [\$8,414,016] solicited by NICHD. *Pending*

- 2007 – 2008 PI: *UC-San Francisco Health Disparities Working Group - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation* [\$27,868]. Race-ethnicity, acculturation, and disparities in risk-taking behavior: the role of enculturated worldview, acculturative stress, family processes, and social norms. Co-investigator: Bonnie Halpern-Felsher.
- 2007 – 2008 PI: *UC-Berkeley Population Health and Human Development Working Group – Robert Wood Johnson Foundation* [\$10,000]. Anger in social context: implications for physical disease and psychobehavioral risk. Co-investigator: Margaret E. Kemeny.
- 2002-2006 Co-PI: *William T. Grant Foundation* [\$555,434 / \$243,305 to Emory University]. Adolescence to adulthood: Resilience to poverty in American Indian and Anglo youth in rural America. Co-investigators: E. Jane Costello, Carol M. Worthman, Alaattin Erkanli.
- 2002 *Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Grant* [\$27,400]. Award for research on stress, psychophysiology, and the transition to adulthood in Egypt (not taken due to post-9/11 ban on U.S. biological research in Egypt).

Peer-reviewed papers

- 2009 Brown, R. A., Hruschka, D. J., & Worthman, C. M. Cultural models and fertility timing among Cherokee and white youth: Beyond the mode. *American Anthropologist*, forthcoming.
- 2009 Brown, R. A., Kuzara, J., Copeland, W. E., Costello, E. J., Angold, A., & Worthman, C. M. Moving from ethnography to epidemiology: lessons learned in Appalachia. *Annals of Human Biology*, forthcoming.
- 2009 Brown RA, Copeland WC, Costello EJ, Angold A, Worthman CM. Family and community influences on educational outcomes among Appalachian youth. *Journal of Community Psychology*, forthcoming.
- 2009 Brown, RA. Crystal methamphetamine use among American Indian and White youth in Appalachia: Social context, masculinity, and desistance. *Addiction Research & Theory*, forthcoming.
- 2009 Brown RA, Rehkopf DH, Copeland WC, Costello EJ, Worthman CM. Life course priorities among Appalachian emerging adults: revisiting Wallace's organization of diversity. *Ethos*, 37(1).
- 2008 Brown RA, Adler NE, Worthman CM, Copeland WE, Costello EJ, Angold A. Cultural and community determinants of subjective social status among Cherokee and White youth. *Ethnicity and Health*, 13(4):289-303.

- 2008 Weden M, Brown RA. Historical and life course timing of the male mortality disadvantage in Europe: Epidemiological transitions, evolution, and behavior. *Social Biology*, 53(1-2).
- 2006 Worthman CM, Brown RA. Companionable sleep: Social regulation of sleep and co-sleeping in Egyptian families. In R Dahl, M El-Sheikh (Eds), Special Issue on Sleep and Family Functioning, *Journal of Family Psychology*, 21(1):124-135.
- 2006 Brown RA, Worthman CM, Costello EJ, Erkanli A. The life trajectory interview for youth (LTI-Y): Method development and psychometrics of an instrument to assess life course models and achievement. *International Journal for Methods in Psychiatric Research*, 15(4): 192-206.
- 2001 Brown RA, Armelagos GJ. Apportionment of racial diversity: a review. *Evolutionary Anthropology*; 10: 34-40.

Book chapters

- 2005 Worthman CM, Brown RA. A biocultural life history approach to the developmental psychobiology of male aggression. In DM Stoff, EJ Susman (Eds) *Developmental Psychobiology of Aggression*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 187-222.

Manuscripts submitted

- 2009 Brown RA, Seligman R. Anthropology and cultural neuroscience: Creating productive intersections in parallel fields. *Manuscript under preparation for invited contribution in edited Progress in Brain Science (PBR) volume, "Cultural neuroscience: Cultural influences on brain function."*

Manuscripts under preparation

- 2009 Seligman R, Brown RA. New engagements of anthropology and neuroscience: An interdisciplinary approach to culture, brain, and embodiment. *Manuscript under preparation for invited paper in edited volume, Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (SCAN)*.
- 2009 Nobles J, Brown RA, Catalano R. Emancipation and Female Health: A Prospective Examination of Life Expectancy in Norway. For submission to *Social Science & Medicine*.
- 2009 Brown RA, Yeung W, Kemeny ME. Anger expression associated with lower cortisol reactivity during social evaluative threat. *Manuscript under preparation*.

Presentations and organized sessions

- 2009 Brown RA, Kemeny ME. Emotional responses to social threat: Physiological and behavioral consequences. Presentation at the *Neuroeconomic, Social, Cultural, and Affective Neuroscience (NESCAN)* Workshop, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, January 13.
- 2008 Brown RA, Kemeny ME. The brain in culture: Emotional responses to social threat. Invited paper in “The Encultured Brain” at the *American Anthropological Association*, San Francisco, CA, November 20.
- 2008 Brown RA. Invited discussant, Anthropologies of Population. *American Anthropological Association*, San Francisco, CA, November 19. Organizers: Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, Webb Sprague.
- 2008 Brown RA, Kemeny ME. Anger and shame in social context: Health consequences of social threat. Invited poster at the *Robert Wood Johnson Society Health and Society Scholars Program*. San Antonio, TX, May 8.
- 2008 Brown RA, Halpern-Felsher B. Cultural variation in risk-taking and self-other constructions: the role of risk perception. Invited paper in “Personal and Collective Dimensions of the Self: Ethnic, Cultural and National Divergence” at the *International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development*. Wurzburg, Germany, July 16.
- 2008 Brown RA. Cultural differences in life course models: An example from American Indian and white U.S. youth. Invited paper at the *International Association for Cross Cultural Psychology*. Bremen, Germany, July 30.
- 2008 Brown, RA. Transformation of an anthropologist: Retrospective, preliminary data, and future directions. Invited talk at UC-San Francisco for the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*. San Francisco, CA, April 18.
- 2007 Brown RA. Assessing life course models in a longitudinal study of mental health. Invited paper “Culture in Epidemiology: Identifying Local Culture in Large-scale Studies” at the *American Anthropological Association*, . Washington DC, November 30.
- 2007 Brown RA, Copeland W, Worthman CW, Costello EJ, Angold A. Rural context matters: Area effects on educational goals and attainment among Appalachian emerging adults. Invited poster at the *Society for Life History*. Atlanta, GA, April 28-30.
- 2007 Weden MM, Brown RA. Historical and life course timing of the male mortality disadvantage in Europe: Epidemiologic transitions, evolution, and behavior." *Population Association of America*. New York, NY, March 30.

- 2007 Brown RA. From Boredom to Hope: Insecurity in the Lives of Anglo and Cherokee Appalachian Youth. Session: Insecurity: Meaning, Measurement, and Consequence (Hadley C, Chair). Invited paper at the *Society for Applied Anthropology*. Tampa, FL, March 28.
- 2007 Brown RA, Copeland W, Worthman CM, Angold A, Costello EJ. Community in mind: Area effects on life course models in Appalachia. Paper at the *Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood*. Tucson, AZ, February 17.
- 2006 Brown RA, Hruschka DJ. Psychological anthropology and human behavioral ecology converge on health and well-being: Life history, sociality, and ecocultural context. Session organized for the *American Anthropological Association* (SPA section). Participants: Brown R, DeCaro JA, Gravlee C, Hadley C, Hagen E, Hruschka DJ, Izquierdo C, Lende D, Lowe E, Neill D, Odden H, Patil C, Ross N, Schechter D, Tucker B, Worthman CM. San Jose, CA, November 19.
- 2006 Brown, RA. Resource deprivation, risk, and life course diversity: Ecocultural pathways to resilience. Paper at the *American Anthropological Association* (SPA section), San Jose, CA, November 19.
- 2006 Brown, RA. Integrating qualitative and quantitative methods: Towards an interdisciplinary toolkit. Invited session at the *Robert Wood Johnson Scholars Meeting*, Ann Arbor, MI, October 16.
- 2006 DeCaro JA, Brown RA, Worthman CM. Up close and personal: examining well-being in relation to everyday social ecology. Paper presentation at the *Society for Applied Anthropology*, Vancouver, March 29.
- 2005 Odden HA, Hruschka DJ, Brown RA. The organization of diversity: a developmental perspective. Session organized for the *American Anthropological Association*. Participants: Brown R, Hruschka DJ, Odden H, Weisner TS, Worthman CM. Washington, DC. December 2.
- 2005 Brown, RA, Worthman CM. Epidemiology of habitus. Paper presentation at the *American Anthropological Association*. Washington, D.C., December 2.
- 2005 Brown RA, Worthman CM, Early poverty and constructing the life course: Bridging anthropology and epidemiology. Invited paper presentation at the *Society for Psychological Anthropology*, San Diego, CA, April 13.
- 2005 Brown RA, Worthman CM, Life history approaches to risk-taking and the life course: Filling the cognitive gap. Poster presentation at the *Foundation for Psychocultural Research*, Los Angeles, CA, February 12.

- 2002 Brown RA, DeCaro JA, Worthman CM. Becoming human: Anthropology and human development. Session organized at the *American Anthropological Association*. Participants: Desjarlais R, McDade T, Harkness S, Rilling J, Panter-Brick C, Hinton A. New Orleans, LA. November 20-24.
- 2001 Worthman CM, Brown RA, Divan AY. Sleeping patterns of Egyptian families: Variable, populous, and non-consolidated. Paper at the *Human Biology Association*, Kansas City, KS, March 26.
- 2001 Brown RA, Armelagos GJ. Apportionment of racial diversity: a review. Paper at the *American Association of Physical Anthropologists*, Kansas City, KS, March 29.
- 2001 Armelagos GJ, Brown RA. Rape, rage, evolution, science, and the media. Invited paper at *Culture in Public: Anthropologists Talk Back About Race, Gender, War, and Globalization*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, October 19-21.
- 2000 Melby MK, Brown RA, Smith EO. Jealousy and guilt: Different dimensions of reproductive behavior. Paper at the *Association for Politics and the Life Sciences*, Washington D.C., August 31-September 3.
- 1998 Brown RA. Invited panelist, *Conference on Applied Anthropology*, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC, September 16.

Service

- 2009-present Committee Member and Reviewer, Lemelson / Society for Psychological Anthropology student fellowships and conference fund
- 2008-present Faculty Sponsor, Neuroeconomics, Social, Cultural and Affective Neuroscience (NESCAN) Workshop (Northwestern University)
- 2008-present Faculty Facilitator, Cells 2 Society Journal Club
- 2008-2009 Undergraduate Research Grant Committee (Northwestern University)
- 1999-2000 Chair, Graduate Interdisciplinary Initiatives (Emory University)

Fellowships and awards

- 2006-2008 *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Health and Society Scholars Program. Research and Training Fellowship. University of California - San Francisco / Berkeley.*

- 2002-2004 *National Institute of Mental Health National Research Service Award* (NIMH NRSA) [Tuition, stipend, research funds; 2 years]. Training grant for psychophysiology, developmental psychology, psychiatric epidemiology during youth-adult transition.
- 1998-2003 *Woodruff Graduate Fellowship* [Tuition, stipend; 5 years]. Emory University.
- 1998-2001 *National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship* (NSF GRFP) [Tuition, stipend, research funds; 3 years].
- 2000 *Violence Studies Fellow* [\$500], Violence Studies Program, Emory University.
- 1998 *Top Honors Thesis*, Dept. of Anthropology, UNC-Chapel Hill (2 awards given).
- 1997 *Thompson Honors Research Award* [\$500], UNC-Chapel Hill.
- 1997 *Howard Hughes / National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Experience Fellow* [\$3500]. Emory University, Dept. of Anthropology.
- 1996 *Non-profit Summer Fellow* [\$1500]. UNC-Chapel Hill, Smithsonian Institution (Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Studies).

Method development

- 2008 Brown RA, Halpern-Felsher B, Anderson T. Making decisions during the transition to adulthood. Survey on culture and risk-taking administered with nationally representative sample of youth (n=600).
- 2006 Brown RA, Worthman CM. Life Course Trajectory Interview for Youth – short form (LTI-YS). Life course card sort interview. Currently in field with sample of 1,402 at age 25.
- 2004 Brown RA, Worthman CM, Costello EJ, Cyr G. Life Course Trajectory Interview for Youth (LTI-Y): Life course card sort interview.
- 2002 Brown RA and DeCaro JA. Acknowledge application notes: Impedance cardiography and pre-ejection period [data analysis guidelines]. <http://www.biopac.com/AppNotes/app199PEP/pepappnote.htm>
- 2002 DeCaro JA, Worthman CM, Ternullo NJ, Brown RA, and the Laboratory for Comparative Human Biology. Configuration and Research Manual: PROUST for PalmOS v1.1b [behavioral monitoring application]. <http://www.emory.edu/COLLEGE/ANTHROPOLOGY/CHB/PROUST.html>

Training and research experience

- 2008 Workshop on Social and Affective Neuroscience at the *International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development*. Wurzburg, Germany, July 10-11.
- 2006-2008 Training / primary research. *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars Program, UCSF / UC-Berkeley*. Weekly seminars on emerging methods and theories in population health. Structured mentorship with leaders in multidisciplinary approaches to public health. Bi-weekly lab meetings with research unit on adolescent risk-taking (P.I.: Bonnie Halpern-Felscher, PhD) and participation in research on social threat and health (P.I.: Margaret Kemeny, PhD).
- 2002-2006 Primary research / field coordinator / data analysis. *Adolescence to adulthood: Resilience to poverty in American Indian and Anglo youth in rural America*. Coordinated 3-year field study of mental health resilience and poverty, involving investigators at Emory University and Duke University, as well as an 8-member field staff. Performed ethnographic method development with 150 participants, implemented method with 350 participants, integrated data set and analyses with ongoing epidemiological study.
- 1999-2006 Training / method development / research. *Center for Developmental Epidemiology (CDE), Duke University Medical Center (NIMH CADPRC)*. Developed methods for assessing attention, arousal, and life course perspectives. Participated in yearly meetings with psychiatrists, epidemiologists, geneticists, and statisticians. Designed and implemented anthropological component of longitudinal mental health study.
- 1998-2006 Training / method development / research. *Laboratory for Comparative Human Biology (LCHB), Emory University*. Led the development of the psychophysiology research core, participated in weekly meetings on attention and arousal, world mental health, developmental epidemiology, and assay development.
- 2002 Psychophysiology methods consultant. Dr. Helen Egger, *Center for Developmental Epidemiology, Duke University*. Coordinated impedance cardiography and skin conductance measurement for pilot study of anxiety in 4-year old twins.
- 2002 Psychiatric interview training course. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Assessment (CAPA), Young Adult Psychiatric Assessment (YAPA)*. Center for Developmental Epidemiology, Duke University. Training in psychiatric field instruments, focusing on ages 9-25.
- 2001 Study design / data collection / data analysis. *Psychophysiology pilot study: Sympathetic/parasympathetic dominance*. Study of skin conductance reactivity and sympathetic/parasympathetic outflow to the heart in response to stress and performance anxiety (n=22).

- 2000 Study design / method development / field data collection. *Egyptian sleep patterns and disorders*. Egyptian Ministry of Health, (Field Epidemiology Training Program), LCHB. Helped conduct study of the sleep ecology, sleep physiology, and activity patterns of Egyptian families. Performed interviews with adolescents on life goals and socioemotional challenges in the transition to adulthood.
- 1999-2000 Committee chair. *Graduate Interdisciplinary Initiatives*, Emory University. Responsible for organizing bi-weekly symposia to increase interdisciplinary communication among the social sciences, biological sciences, and biomedical / health sciences. <http://www.college.emory.edu/fsc/graduate/series.html>
- 1999 Method development. *Stroop Emotional Burden Assessment*. Developed and piloted a modified cognitive task to assess the impact of early physical, sexual, and psychological abuse on cognitive functioning. Presented results at Center for Developmental Epidemiology and at the Research Triangle Institute (2000).
- 1997-1998 Project design / data collection / analysis. *The highway as social battleground: Evolutionary perspectives on aggressive driving* [honors thesis]. Collaborated with UNC Highway Safety Research Center, American Automobile Association. Conducted survey of driving attitudes and road rage incidents (n=265). Analyzed demographic patterns in police, media reports of road rage (n=133).
- 1997 Student representative. *UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Anthropology Curriculum Committee*. Helped faculty design new undergraduate courses and course requirements, co-wrote departmental majors' guide for undergraduates.
- 1997 Fellow. *Howard Hughes / NSF Undergraduate Research Experience*. Emory University. Summer program for career development in the biological and medical sciences. Performed basic research and research design in human evolution and behavior (presented results in student poster session).
- 1995-1997 Academic consultant / primary research / videography. *African American Stonemasons of Chapel Hill, UNC-CH / PBS*. Two-year ethnographic and historical study of an African American stone mason and his family (72 hours of video, 100 hours of interviews). Helped produce PBS documentary, "North Carolina Folkways."
- 1996 Anthropology intern. *Smithsonian Institution (Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Studies)*. Washington, D.C. Head photographer for Festival of American Folklife. Assisted commercial audio production of traditional music, performed archival research for visiting scholars.

Teaching

- 2005 Co-instructor. *Biosocial Approaches to Global Health*. Emory University. Designed and taught new course with Dr. Carol Worthman integrating biomedical, epidemiological, and anthropological perspectives on world health. Lectured / led half of class sessions. Designed course website.
- 2001 Teaching assistant / lecturer. *Introduction to Anthropology*. Emory University. Conducted multiple lectures and review sessions, graded exams. Instructor: Bradd Shore, PhD
- 2000 Section leader / teaching assistant. *Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology: Biological Bases of Human Behavior*. Emory University. Ran weekly review section, helped write and grade exams. Co-instructors: Melvin Konner, PhD; Patricia Whitten, PhD.

Manuscript review

Current Anthropology
 Ethos
 Social Cultural and Affective Neuroscience (SCAN)
 Social Science & Medicine

Professional Memberships

American Anthropological Association
 Evolutionary Anthropology Society
 International Association for Cross Cultural Psychology
 International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development
 Society for Anthropological Sciences
 Society for Medical Anthropology
 Society for Psychological Anthropology

Languages

Arabic: basic reading / writing / conversation
 German: basic reading / writing / conversation
 Flemish: basic reading / conversation