

Jessica K. Hlay
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APPOINTMENTS

2025 - present	Post-Doctoral Research Associate Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame
2024 – present	Co-Director , The Utila Child Health Project
2024 – 2025	Post-Doctoral Scholar Anthropology Department, Boston University

EDUCATION

2024	Ph.D. , Anthropology Boston University, Boston, MA Thesis: <i>Evolutionary, ontogenetic, and environmental origins of human pathogen disgust sensitivity</i> Field Site: <i>Utila, Islas de bahía, Honduras</i>
2018	B.A. Anthropology; Psychology Minors: Spanish; Sexuality & Gender Studies The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

GRANTS & AWARDS

2023	Cora Du Bois Dissertation Writing Fellowship (\$35,000)
2023	Center of Innovation in Social Science Mini-Grant (\$500)
2022	Boston University Dean's Fellowship (\$12,400)
2022	Wenner Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant #10309 (\$19,890) Study: <i>How and why do children vary in disgust?</i>
2022	National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant #2149052 (\$25,054) Study: <i>Ontogenetic and environmental origins of pathogen disgust sensitivity</i>
2022	Boston University Travel Grant (\$750)
2021	National Science Foundation Research Experience for Graduate Students Grant #1945725 (\$5,685) Study: <i>How & when do children acquire disgust?</i>
2018 - 2021	Boston University Dean's Fellowship (\$23,340, annually)
2020	Remote Teacher Training Professional Development (\$3,000)
2020	Boston University Summer Research Grant (\$2,000)
2020	Boston University Conference Travel Grant (\$800)
2019	Boston University Summer Research Grant (\$3,000)
2019	Boston University Conference Travel Grant (\$800)
2018	Penn State Liberal Arts Enrichment Grant (\$1,500)

PUBLICATIONS (N=14)

Peer-reviewed Articles

Gaffney, M.R., **Hlay, J.K.**, Rodriguez James, I., Syme, K.L., Blackwell, A.D., Hodges-Simeon, C.R., Hagen, E. (accepted). The natural history of child signals of need in Utila, Honduras: An exploratory study. *Human Nature*.

Hlay, J.K., Johnson, B.N., Hodges-Simeon, C.R., Levy, K.N. (2024). A psychometric evaluation of the Tend-and-Befriend Questionnaire. *Journal of Personality Assessment*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00223891.2024.2413148>

Hlay, J.K., Albert, G., Batres, C., Richardson, G., Placek, C., Landry, N., Arnocky, S.A., Blackwell, A.D., Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2024). Greater self-reported health is associated with lower disgust: evidence for individual calibration of the behavioral immune system. *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40750-024-00243-4>

Hodges-Simeon, C.R., Albert, G., McHale, T., Gaulin, S.J.C., Gurven, M., Landry, N., **Hlay, J.K.**, Merullo, N., Puts, D.A., Arnocky, S.S. (2024). Masculine voice is associated with better mucosal immune defense in adolescent and adult males. *Evolution and Human Behavior*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2024.05.004>

Albert, G., Davis, A., Bird, B. M., Arnocky, S., **Hlay, J. K.**, McGee, N., Richardson, G. B., & Hodges-Simeon, C. R. (2024). Validating the Revised Mating Effort Questionnaire. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 1-19.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-023-02793-2>

Aung, T., Hill, A., **Hlay, J.K.**, ... Puts, D.A. (2024). Effects of Voice Pitch on Social Perceptions Vary With Relational Mobility and Homicide Rate. *Psychological Science*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/095679762312222>

Arnocky, S., Denomme, B., Hodges-Simeon, C.R., **Hlay, J.K.**, Davis, A., Brennan, H. (2023). Self-perceived mate value is predicted by biological and self-reported indices of health in young adults. *Adaptive Behavior and Physiology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40750-022-00209-4>

Albert, G., Wells, E., Arnocky, S., Liu, C.H., **Hlay, J.K.**, Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2023). Does Men's Facial Sexual Dimorphism Affect Male Observers' Selective Attention? *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40750-022-00205-8>

Hlay, J.K., Albert, G., Waldron, K., Batres, C., Richardson, G., Placek, C., Arnocky, S.A., Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2022). A cross-cultural analysis of the relationship between disgust and sociosexuality. *Evolution and Human Behavior*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2022.04.005>

Albert, G., **Hlay, J.K.**, Chen, M., Wells, E., Arnocky, S.A., Hong Liu, C., Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2022). Masculinized Faces are Perceived as More Dangerous, but Are Not More Memorable. *Human Ethology*.

<https://doi.org/10.22330/he/37/016-029>

Hlay, J.K., Johnson, B.N., Levy, K.N. (2022). Attachment security predicts tend-and-befriend behaviors: A replication. *Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences*.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/ebs0000284>

Albert, G., Richardson, G.B., Arnocky, S.A., Senveli, Z., **Hlay, J.K.**, Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2022). The psychometric evaluation of the intrasexual competition scale. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-021-02167-6>

Hlay, J. K., Albert, G., Batres, C., Richardson, G., Placek, C., Arnocky, S., Lieberman, D., & Hodges-Simeon, C. R. (2021). The evolution of disgust for pathogen detection and avoidance. *Scientific Reports*, 11(1), 1–12.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-91712-3>

Levy, K.N., **Hlay, J.K.**, Johnson, B.N., Witmer, C.P. (2019). An attachment theoretical perspective on tend-and-befriend stress reactions. *Evolutionary Psychological Science*, 1-14.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40806-019-00197-x>

Manuscripts in Progress

Dean, R., Richardson, G.B., **Hlay, J. K.**, & Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (submitted). Do sexual attitudes and behaviors cause or reflect alcohol use? Longitudinal results from a cross-cultural sample. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.

Arnocky, S., Hodges-Simeon, C.R., & **Hlay, J. K.** (submitted). Eyelash Morphology is Unrelated to Markers of Immunocompetence and Health. *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology*.

Albert, G., Chen, Y., Wells, E., Arnocky, S., Liu, C.H., **Hlay, J.K.**, & Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (under review). Are people faster to find masculinized faces during a Face-in-the-Crowd task? *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology*.

Invited Articles

Hlay, J., Hodges-Simeon, C. Does high infection risk influence casual sex attitudes, desires, and behavior? These results may surprise you. *Human Behavior & Evolution Society Blog*. December 2022.

https://www.hbes.com/infection-risk-and-casual-sex-attitudes/?mc_cid=oee9d1b647&mc_eid=85fb47462d

INVITED TALKS & GUEST LECTURES

“Disgust as an evolved motivational system”. (Summer 2024). Lecture presented in undergraduate Evolutionary Psychology course. Online.

“The Role of Pathogen Disgust Sensitivity in the Behavioral Immune System”. (Spring 2023). Boston University Biological Anthropology Seminar. Online.

“Does disgust exist across species?”. (Spring 2021). Boston University Biological Anthropology Seminar. Boston, MA.

“Disgust and the Behavioral Immune System”. (Fall 2020). Lecture presented in undergraduate Evolutionary Psychology course. Boston, MA.

“The Evolution of Disgust for Pathogen Detection and Avoidance”. (Summer 2020). Talk given during an evolution and psychology graduate student online conference. Zoom.

“Disgust and the Behavioral Immune System”. (Fall 2019). Lecture presented in undergraduate Evolution of Life History course. Boston, MA.

“An Evolutionary Psychological Perspective on Attraction”. (Fall 2019). Lecture presented in undergraduate Introduction to Biological Anthropology course. Boston, MA.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS ($N=30$)

Podium

Hagen, E.; Gaffney, M.; **Hlay, J.K.**; James, I.; Syme, K.; Blackwell, A.D.; Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2025). *The Natural History of Child Signals of Need in Utila, Honduras: An Exploratory Study*. Paper presentation at the meeting of the Human Behavior & Evolution Society. Atlantic City, NJ.

Hlay, J.K., Johnson, B.N., Rodríguez James, I., Hönig, M.A.C., Merullo, N., Rothamer, B.A., Smith, C.B., Gaffney, M., Blackwell, A.D., Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2025). *Investigating childhood sex differences in pathogen disgust sensitivity*. Paper presentation at the meeting of the Human Behavior & Evolution Society. Atlantic City, NJ.

Hlay, J.K., Albert, G., Batres, C., Richardson, G., Placek, C., Landry, N., Arnocky, S.A., Blackwell, A.D., Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2025). Greater self-reported health is associated with lower disgust: evidence for individual calibration of the behavioral immune system. Paper presentation at the 18th annual meeting of the NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society. Atlantic City, NJ.

Hodges-Simeon, C.R., Albert, G., McHale, T., Gaulin, S.J.C., Gurven, M., **Hlay, J.K.**, Arnocky, S.A. (2025). *The low male voice is associated with better disease resistance*. Paper presentation at the 18th annual meeting of the NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society. Atlantic City, NJ.

Hodges-Simeon, C.R., Albert, G., McHale, T., Gaulin, S.J.C., Gurven, M., **Hlay, J.K.**, Arnocky, S.A. (2023, June). *The low male voice is associated with better disease resistance*. Paper presented at the 34rd annual Human Behavior & Evolution Society conference. Palm Springs, CA.

Hlay, J.K., Albert, G., Batres, C., Richardson, G., Placek, C., Landry, N., Arnocky, S., Blackwell, A.D., Garcia, A., Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2023, April). *Pathogen disgust sensitivity patterns across the lifespan*. Paper presentation at the 16th annual meeting of the NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society. Online.

Aung, T., Hill, A., **Hlay, J.K.**, ... Puts, D.A. (2022, April). *Effects of voice pitch on social perceptions vary with relational mobility and other socioecological variables*. Paper presented at the 33rd annual Human Behavior & Evolution Society conference. Online.

Hodges-Simeon, C. R., Albert, G., Mchale, T., Gaulin, S. J., Gurven, M., **Hlay, J. K.**, & Arnocky, S. A. (2022, April). *Masculine voice is associated with better mucosal immune defense in adolescent and adult males*. Paper presentation at the 91st annual meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists. Denver, CO.

Hlay, J.K., Albert, G., Batres, C., Waldron, K., Richardson, G., Placek, C., Arnocky, S., Senveli, Z., Lieberman, D., Hodges-Simeon, C.R., (2021, March). *Disgust sensitivity predicts sociosexuality across cultures*. Paper presentation at the 15th annual meeting of the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association. Online.

***Hlay, J.K.**, Albert, G., Batres, C., Arnocky, S., Senveli, Z., Hodges-Simeon, C.R., (2020, April). *A cross-cultural analysis of the relationship between disgust and sociosexuality*. Paper presentation at the 15th annual meeting of the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association. Krakow, Poland.

Hlay, J.K., Johnson, B.N., Hodges-Simeon, C.R., Levy, K.N. (2019, June). *The relationship between attachment style and stress responses in men and women*. Paper presentation at the 13th annual meeting of the NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society. Boston, MA.

Albert, G., Senveli, Z., **Hlay, J.K.**, Richardson, G.B., Arnocky, S., Hodges-Simeon, C.R., (2019, June). *The psychometric evaluation of the Intrasexual Competition Scale*. Paper presentation at the 13th annual meeting of the NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society. Boston, MA.

Posters

Rothamer, B.A.; Blackwell, A.D.; Glowacki, L.; **Hlay, JK**; Hönig, M.A.C.; Merullo, N.; Rodríguez-James, I.; Smith, C.B.; Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2025). *Child Playmate Networks: How Age and Sex Shape Kin and Non-Kin as Play Partners*. Poster presentation at the meeting of the Human Behavior & Evolution Society. Atlantic City, NJ.

Hodges-Simeon, C.R., **Hlay, J.K.**, Hönig, M.A.C., Merullo, N., Rodríguez James, I., Rothamer, B.A., Smith, C.B., Blackwell, A.D. (2025). *Life-history variation in hematocrit among children in Utila, Honduras*. Poster presentation at the meeting of the Human Behavior & Evolution Society. Atlantic City, NJ.

Hodges-Simeon, C.R., **Hlay, J.K.**, Hönig, M.A.C., Merullo, N., Rodríguez James, I., Rothamer, B.A., Smith, C.B., Blackwell, A.D. (2025, March). *Life-history variation in hematocrit among children in Utila, Honduras*. Poster presentation at the meeting of the Human Biology Association. Baltimore, MD.

Rothamer, B.A.; Blackwell, A.D.; Glowacki, L.; **Hlay, JK**; Hönig, M.A.C.; Merullo, N.; Rodríguez-James, I.; Smith, C.B.; Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2025, March). *Age and sex patterns in the size and kin-makeup of children's playmate networks*. Poster presented at the meeting of the Human Biology Association. Baltimore, MD.

Merullo, N., Blackwell, A.D., Busi, G., **Hlay, J.K.**, Hönig, M.A.C., Rodríguez James, I., Rothamer, B.A., Smith, C.B., Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2025, March). *What explains variation in childhood blood pressure? An exploration of life history variables affecting Blood Pressure in Utila Honduras*. Poster presented at the meeting of the Human Biology Association. Baltimore, MD.

Rothamer, B.A., Blackwell, A.D., Smith, C.B., Rodríguez James, I., **Hlay, J.K.**, Glowacki, L., Hönig, M.A.C., Merullo, N., Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2025). *Sex-Specific Patterns in Children's Playmate Number and Identities after Moving to a New Community*. Poster presented at the meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Minneapolis, MN.

Hönig, M., Owens, C., Garcia, A., **Hlay, J.K.**, ... (2024, March). *Factors predicting the need for food amongst residents of Utila, Honduras during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Poster presented at the 49th annual Human Biology Association meeting. Los Angeles, CA.

Hönig, M., **Hlay, J.K.**, Smith, C.B., & Blackwell, A.D. (2023, March). *Perceptions of drinking water quality in a Honduran island community*. Washington State University Academic Showcase. Pullman, WA.

Albert, G., Davis, A., Bird, B.M. Arnocky, S., **Hlay, J. K.**, Richardson, G.B., Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2022). *Validating the Revised Mating Effort Questionnaire*. Poster presented at the 33rd annual Human Behavior & Evolution Society conference. Online.

Albert, G., Wells, E., Arnocky, S., Liu, C. H., **Hlay, J. K.**, Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2021). *Does men's facial sexual dimorphism affect male observers' selective attention?* Poster presented at the 32nd annual Human Behavior and Evolution Society conference. Online.

***Hlay, J.K.**, Albert, G., Batres, C., Arnocky, S., Hodges-Simeon, C.R., (2020, April). *Variation in health-protective sexual behavior may be influenced by individual differences in self-perceived health, immunity, and disgust: A cross-cultural examination.* Poster presentation at the 89th annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Los Angeles, CA.

***Hlay, J.K.**, Albert, G., Senveli, Z., Arnocky, S., Hodges-Simeon, C.R., (2020, April). *The relationship between disgust levels and sexual behaviors as moderated by environmental pathogen load.* Poster presentation at the 45th annual meeting of the Human Biology Association. Los Angeles, CA.

Senveli, Z., Albert, G., Richardson, G.B., Arnocky, S., **Hlay, J.K.**, Hodges-Simeon, C.R., (2019, June). *The psychometric evaluation of the Intrasexual Competition Scale.* Poster presentation at the 31st annual meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society. Boston, MA.

Senveli, Z., Albert, G., **Hlay, J.K.**, Bird, B.M., Arnocky, S., & Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2019, May). *Observers can accurately assess self-reported male health from facial photographs.* Poster presentation at the 13th annual meeting of the NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society. Boston, MA.

Hlay, J.K., Albert, G., Senveli, Z., Arnocky, S.A., Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2019, May). *The relationship between disgust levels and sexual behaviors as moderated by self-perceived pathogen exposure.* Poster presentation at the 31st annual meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society. Boston, MA.

Albert, G., **Hlay, J.K.**, Senveli, Z., Bird, B.M., Arnocky, S., Puts, D.A., & Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2019, May). *Observers can accurately assess self-reported male health from facial photographs.* Poster presentation at the 31st annual meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society. Boston, MA.

Albert, G., **Hlay, J.K.**, Senveli, Z., Arnocky, S. A., Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2019, March). *Observers accurately assess self-reported male health from facial photographs alone.* Poster presented at the 44th annual meeting of the Human Biology Association. Cleveland, OH.

Hlay, J.K., Albert, G., Arnocky, S.A., Hodges-Simeon, C.R. (2019, March). *How do immune functioning and pathogen-avoidance psychology relate to health-protective sexual behavior?* Poster presented at the 44th annual meeting of the Human Biology Association. Cleveland, OH.

Aung, T., Hess, C., **Hlay, J.K.**, Puts, D.A., & Collaborators (2017, May). *Mating competition-relevant perceptions of voice pitch across 739 individuals from 11 nations*. Poster presented at Penn State's Anthropology Day. State College, PA.

**canceled due to 2020 COVID-19 pandemic*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Boston University

Summer 2023, 2024, 2025	Evolutionary Psychology
Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Summer 2021	Introduction to Biological Anthropology
Spring 2021	Evolutionary Biology of Human Variation
Spring 2020	Behavioral Biology of Women

Pennsylvania State University

Spring 2018	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Fall 2017	Sex & Evolution

SERVICE

2022-present	Ad-Hoc Reviewer <i>Journal of Personality and Individual Differences</i> <i>Archives of Sexual Behavior</i> <i>Evolution and Human Behavior</i> <i>Evolutionary Psychology</i> <i>Scientific Reports</i> <i>Royal Society Open Science</i>
2020-present	Skype a Scientist Mentored high-schoolers and English language student about university and my research
2019	Human Behavior and Evolution Society conference volunteer Boston, MA
2017	Women in Science Workshop Created and ran interactive workshop with students on the evolution of the brain

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

2020	<i>Ew, Gross! Four Ways Disgust is Shaping the Coronavirus Pandemic</i> BU's The Brink
2020	<i>Disgust Tanks Sexual Desire During Pandemics Like This</i> futurity.org

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association
Human Behavior and Evolution Society
Human Biology Association
American Association of Biological Anthropology

SKILLS

Programs

Expert:	SPSS	Otranscribe	Audacity	
Intermediate:	R Studio	Express Scribe	Qualtrics	Praat
	Photoshop			

Languages

English - native
Spanish - advanced (reading, writing, speaking)

Continuing Education & Professional Development

2020	Remote Teacher Training
2020	Responsible Conduct of Research Training