

# Alicia A. Breakey

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## EDUCATION

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA

*Master of Arts* in Human Evolutionary Biology, May 2010

*Doctor of Philosophy* in Human Evolutionary Biology, expected May 2015

Honors & Awards: Presidential Scholar

**Yale University**, New Haven, CT

*Bachelor of Arts* in Anthropology, May 2008

Honors & Awards: Magna Cum Laude, Honors degree in Anthropology, Phi Beta Kappa, Best Senior Thesis in Biological Anthropology

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Lactation

Infant growth

Labor and Childbirth

Human Reproductive Ecology

Behavioral Endocrinology

Life History Theory

Evolutionary Medicine

## PUBLICATIONS

**Breakey A.A.**, Hinde K., Valeggia C.R., Sinofsky A., & Ellison P.T. (2015). Illness in breastfeeding infants relates to concentration of lactoferrin and secretory Immunoglobulin A in mother's milk. *Evolution, Medicine, and Public Health*, 2015(1), 21-31.

Rudzik A.E.F., **Breakey A.**, & Bribiescas R.G. (2014). Oxytocin and Epstein-Barr Virus: Stress Biomarkers in the Postpartum Period Among First-Time Mothers from São Paulo, Brazil. *American Journal of Human Biology*, 26, 43-50.

Ellison P.T., Reiche M.W., Shattuck-Faegre H., **Breakey A.**, Konecna M., Urlacher S., & Wobber V. (2012). Puberty as a life history transition. *Annals of Human Biology*, 39(5), 352-360.

Anestis S.F., **Breakey A.A.**, Beuerlein M.M., & Bribiescas R.G. (2008). Specific gravity as an alternative to creatinine for estimating urine concentration in captive and wild chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) samples. *American Journal of Primatology*, 70, 1-6.

## RESEARCH GRANTS

**David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard** Summer Research Travel Grant [2012]

**Mellon Forum** Grant for Undergraduate Senior Research [2007]

## LABORATORY EXPERIENCE

**Enzyme immunoassay development, Reproductive Ecology Lab, Harvard University**

Adapted commercially-available and in-house enzyme immunoassays for use with milk.

Participated in the development of a progesterone enzyme immunoassay to be used in field

research at our Gambian field station.

**Enzyme immunoassay techniques, Reproductive Ecology Laboratory, Yale University**

Trained with Dr. Stephanie Anestis. Includes experience in sample handling and preservation, hormone value assessment in a variety of biological media, reagent preparation, and creatinine and specific gravity measurement in urine. Participated in the development of a cortisol EIA. Extensive experience in experimental design and independent laboratory work.

FIELD AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Dissertation fieldwork among the Toba of Northeastern Argentina, July 2012-January 2013**

Worked under the umbrella of the CARE Project at the University of Pennsylvania (Dr. Claudia Valeggia, PI) collecting interview data, biological samples, and anthropometric data from Toba mothers and infants in Barrio Namqom, Formosa, Argentina.

**Undergraduate senior thesis project with the Yale Debate Association, September 2007-May 2008.**

Collected saliva samples and interview data for a project investigating the effect of competition on the testosterone levels of elite male and female college debaters.

CURRENT PROJECTS

**The life history significance of human breast milk: immune and endocrine factors as indicators of maternal condition and predictors of infant growth**

This study will investigate the relationship between maternal energetic condition, milk composition, and infant growth with a special focus on the role of immune factors and metabolic hormones in milk.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Hormones and Behavior**, Teaching Fellow, Spring 2014

Harvard University, undergraduate course in Human Evolutionary Biology

**Birth**, Co-founder and Teaching Fellow, Fall 2011; Spring 2013

Harvard University, undergraduate course in Human Evolutionary Biology and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

**Evolutionary Medicine**, Head Teaching Fellow, Spring 2011; Teaching Fellow, Spring 2012

Harvard University, undergraduate General Education

**Biology of Aging**, Teaching Fellow, Fall 2010

Harvard University, undergraduate course in Human Evolutionary Biology  
Harvard Extension School

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS

**Spanish**, Advanced conversational level

**French**, Intermediate reading level