

Melanie Martin
HBA Publications Committee candidacy

Candidate Bio

Dr. Melanie Martin is an Assistant Professor of Biological Anthropology at the University of Washington. She has been a member of HBA since 2014, and is also active in the AAPA and AAA (Evolutionary Anthropology Society). Her research examines biocultural influences on growth, development, and reproduction, particularly in relation to infant feeding practices and lactation. She has conducted mixed-methods research with the Tsimane of Bolivia and the Qom/Toba of Argentina, incorporating field surveys, behavioral observations, and laboratory and statistical biomarker analysis. As Co-PI of the Chaco Area Reproductive Ecology (CARE) Program with Dr. Claudia Valeggia, she is expanding her research to examine relationships between birth outcomes, feeding practices, and growth and metabolic development among indigenous and non-indigenous families in Formosa, Argentina. She is also committed to increasing participatory research and promoting transparent, reproducible, and biologically relevant analytical methods.

Platform Statement

I am honored to be nominated to the HBA Publications Committee. I have been attending HBA meetings and events regularly since I was graduate student, and have presented a poster or podium talk at the HBA meetings nearly every year since 2014. In December of 2018, I had my first AJHB manuscript published.

As a student and early career scholar, my work and professional development have benefitted immensely from exposure to HBA member research and participation in HBA mentoring and networking events. I would enthusiastically welcome the opportunity to become more active in the organization and continue the tradition of promoting community and scholarly excellence in human biological research. If elected to the Publications Committee, I will work with other committee members to perform required functions—including judging student presentations, compiling annual reports, and assisting with revised editions of the Association textbook—expeditiously and collegially.