

Dr. Masako Fujita

Candidate Bio: I am Associate Professor of Anthropology at Michigan State University. I have been a member of the HBA for over 15 years. As a biological anthropologist with dual training in biological and social sciences, my research has focused on theory-guided empirical studies drawing on human biology and ethnographic literatures to increase our understanding of the interrelationships between maternal and infant health in specific ecological and sociocultural contexts. I tend to focus on human milk content as a vehicle that connects maternal and infant nutrition and health. My research has contributed to a nuanced understanding of milk nutrient content variation in relation to maternal chronic energy deficiency, micronutrient deficiency, anemia, inflammation, infant sex, and household poverty. On a more personal note, I was born and raised in Japan, educated in Canada, and trained in the United States. I initially began my career in business, but was utterly unhappy. That is why I returned to academia and eventually “discovered” Anthropology in North America.

Platform Statement: I am honored to be nominated for a position in the International Representative of the Human Biology Association. I joined the HBA as an international student member, and have received many benefits throughout my academic career, ranging from the family-like atmosphere of annual meetings, to friendly mentorship, to networking opportunities with like-minded colleagues from across the world. As a long-term member with international backgrounds, I feel I would be able to serve well as a liaison between international members and HBA’s Executive Community. I look forward to this opportunity to serve.