

Bios and Platform Statements: Membership Chair

Dr. Felicia Madimenos

Candidate Bio: Dr. Felicia Madimenos is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Queens College (CUNY). She has been affiliated with HBA since 2007 first, as a student and more recently, as a fellow. Dr. Madimenos is co-Director of the Shuar Health and Life History Project and has conducted research with the Indigenous Shuar forager-horticulturalists of Amazonian Ecuador for over a decade. Her research focuses on the influence of market integration on health and life history including human reproductive ecology and skeletal health. Her recent work among the Shuar explores how environmental influences during critical developmental periods may have significant consequences on an individual's short- and long-term skeletal health. She is the PI of a new project focusing on the intersection of evolutionarily novel conditions and health in immigrant populations, specifically among immigrants from the same region in Ecuador where the Shuar project is based. This approach allows for a bi-national comparison of health and well-being among Ecuadorians living in Tri-State Area.

Platform Statement: I would be honored to serve on the HBA Executive Committee as Membership Representative. I have been a member of the HBA since 2007, first as a student member and then as a fellow. Over the course of this time, I have served twice on the Nominations and Elections committee, and most recently during 2020-2021 as chair. This association is by far the most impactful in my own scholarly journey and I am invested in furthering its mission to create a strong global community of human biology scholars. I hope to facilitate opportunities for a new generation of scholars to access the immensely valuable professional (and personal) tools and resources that being an HBA member offers. For these reasons, I enthusiastically invite this opportunity to be of service to the HBA as Membership Representative.

Dr. Alysa Pomer

Candidate Bio: Dr. Alysa Pomer is a biomedical anthropologist with a broad research focus, including particular research interests in genetics and in reproductive health. Dr. Pomer has the distinct pleasure of spending the fall 2021 semester in Kenya working with the Malaria Free Kenya project at the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) to implement the early stages of a longitudinal project aiming to reduce the impact of malaria in the Lake Victoria region of Kenya. Dr. Pomer first joined the HBA as a student member in 2012 and served as HBA Student Representative in 2016-2017.

Platform Statement: I am grateful for the nomination to serve the HBA as Membership Representative. Recognizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on academic funding and jobs, conferences, and subsequently professional association memberships, as the HBA Membership Representative, I will work to sustain or increase membership in collaboration with members of the executive committee. I recognize the role of the HBA as an important source of professional development and networking opportunities for students and early career members, and so in particular, I will emphasize the importance of encouraging student and early career membership, as well as the importance of attracting new members from beyond the typical US-based academic institutions to keep HBA research fresh and relevant.