

The Anthropology Department's Annual Gavan Lecture:

INTEGRATING EVOLUTIONARY AND BIOCULTURAL PERSPECTIVES TO STUDY STRESS, GROWTH, AND HEALTH AMONG SHUAR FORAGER-HORTICULTURALISTS OF AMAZONIAN ECUADOR

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Over the past half-century, anthropologists have made considerable progress on unraveling the health effects of social and environmental changes among Indigenous groups. However, this research is far from complete. Researchers have recently recognized the need for a more holistic approach to health including consideration of infectious/parasitic disease, mental health, and autoimmune conditions; identified differences in health outcomes between populations undergoing social change; struggled to empirically link regional social changes to individual behaviors and health outcomes and to parse the contribution of key factors such as diet, physical activity, and chronic psychosocial stress; and, recognized the need for incorporating and integrating diverse aspects of biology and behavior, including physiological, cultural, cognitive, and genetic/genomic approaches. In this talk, I discuss a long-term interdisciplinary research effort—*The Shuar Health and Life History Project*—that focuses on Shuar forager-horticulturalists of Amazonian Ecuador. I focus on two research topics as windows onto social and environmental change and health: 1) how the high-pathogen, low-resource environment of lowland Ecuador leads to energetic trade-offs between immune function and growth, and 2) the plasticity of human stress physiology across diverse developmental and socioecological settings.



**Friday,
November 3rd**

3:00 PM

Tate Hall 215

The Anthropology Department will host a reception after the talk.

For ADA accommodations, please contact muasanthropology@missouri.edu.

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