

**American Association of Biological Anthropologists  
Professional Development Committee  
2024-2025 Annual Report**

**Submitted by Lauren Schroeder**

**Early Career Liaison Program**

We received three excellent applications for the Early Career Liaison program. The applications covered important topics including increasing more undergraduate and graduate student involvement and access, providing resources for academic and non-academic career pathways, and financial management/planning and student awards. Dr. Amandine Eriksen (Assistant Professor at the University of Indianapolis) was chosen as our new Early Career Liaison. Dr. Eriksen will be working closely with the AABA Treasurer, Dr. Jonathan Bethard on budget management, fundraising and will be involved with the newly formed Financial Advisory Committee. We wish her the best during her appointment as the AABA Early Career Liaison, and we thank Dr. Nicole Torres-Tamayo for her service as outgoing Early Career Liaison.

**Cobb Professional Development Grants (CPDG)**

The AABA CPDG committee reviewed 18 eligible applications for the 2024-25 grant cycle. The applicants spanned multiple continents, with all subfields of biological anthropology represented. Overall, the pool of applications was very strong, reflecting the excellence of our early career investigators. Each application was reviewed by three committee members. In reviewing proposals, the committee considered the significance of the work, the quality of the proposal, the potential impact of the award on the applicant's career (including career stage and access to other funding sources), broader impacts, and the strength of the recommendation letter and CV. The committee recommended funding five proposals, up to \$7,500 each, and one honorable mention. Award and declination letters were emailed to applicants on March 5, 2025. The award recipients are as follows:

**Arianna Harrington**

Assistant Professor, South Utah University  
*Ontogeny of cerebral blood flow in chimpanzees*

**Sharon Kuo**

Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota, Duluth  
*Plio-Pleistocene Hominins from the Koobi Fora Research and Training Program (1994-2024)*

**Stephanie Canington**

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania  
*Unifying form and function in the feeding system of macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) and tree shrews (*Tupaia belangeri*)*

**Megan Petersdorf**

Postdoctoral Researcher, Tulane University  
*Reproductive control in Kinda baboons (Papio kindae)*

**Derek A. Boyd**

Assistant Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
*Respiratory Health in Industrial-Era Wolverhampton*

**Honorable mention: Sofía Pacheco-Fores**

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
*Tarascan human sacrifice as a tool of empire: a biogeochemical pilot study*

A committee of 18 AABA members, and the Chair, reviewed the pool of eligible proposals. I appreciate the time and effort that each reviewer provided in assessing these applications, and the helpful and constructive feedback given to each applicant.

In addition to the Chair, our committee this year was:

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Rebecca Ackermann   | Lesley Gregoricka    |
| Benjamin Auerbach   | Sian Halcrow         |
| Karen Baab          | John Hawks           |
| Brenda Baker        | Mark Hubbe           |
| Andrew Barr         | John Krigbaum        |
| Agustín Fuentes     | Marin Pilloud        |
| Celeste Gagnon      | Stephanie Poindexter |
| Christopher Gilbert | Julie Teichroeb      |
| Anne Grauer         | Timothy Weaver       |

**Professional Development Workshop**

The AABA Professional Development Committee, the Leakey Foundation, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation ran a joint hybrid workshop on **Wednesday, March 12, 1 – 5pm** at the 2025 AABA annual meeting in Baltimore focused on a mock review exercise. In this workshop, early career scholars were introduced to the review processes at the Leakey Foundation and Wenner-Gren Foundation, through hands-on evaluation of proposals. Drs Chris Robinson and Brenda Bradley assisted workshop participants in the mock review of these proposals. Representatives from the two funding agencies, H. Gregory and Dr. Brendane Tynes provided details of the review process. A portion of the workshop was also dedicated to discussing the development of a meaningful ethics statement.