

Ca'la K Connors

PhD Candidate | Anthropology Department | Northwestern University

C: 720.675.6372 | E: calakconnors@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Northwestern University *Sept. 2021-current*
PhD Student, Anthropology Department

Occidental College *Aug. 2013-May 2017*
Bachelor of Arts, Diplomacy and World Affairs Major, Spanish Minor

Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) *Jan. 2016-May 2016*
Study Abroad: Santiago, Dominican Republic
Host Institution: Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra,
Campus de Santiago

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Intergenerational stress transmission ♦ Internal Displacement/Internal Migration ♦ Stress biology ♦ Health disparities ♦ Biocultural embodiment ♦ Developmental plasticity ♦ Inequality ♦ Intrauterine environments ♦ Developmental Origins of Health and Disease ♦ Central Africa

CERTIFICATIONS

Birth Doula Training | DONA International (In Progress) *Expected Certification: July, 2027*
Instructor: Sharon Muza (sharonmuza.com), DONA-certified Doula Trainer

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Project: Mental/ Behavioral Health and the Disability Community *Jun. 2021- Sept. 2021*
The goal of this project was to identify how individuals with disabilities and their families in Colorado are impacted by mental health challenges and what resources are missing. I created focus group and survey questions and facilitated focus groups and gathered survey data. I supported in the analysis of this data. Results and recommendations were compiled in a report for Colorado's Office of Behavioral Health.
Organization: Developmental Pathways
Funding Source: Colorado Office of Behavioral Health

UNPUBLISHED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Creolization and the Creation of Afro-American Nations *June 2017*
Grant funded independent undergraduate ethnographic field research in the Dominican Republic. Conducted interviews with Dominicans and Haitians to analyze the relationship between national liberation narrative and individual identity.
Adviser: Dr. Movindri Reddy

Creolization: Creating a Nation Through Resistance *Jan. 2017-May 2017*
Undergraduate senior thesis examining literature in anthropology and international relations. This work looked at historical accounts of Marronage slave resistance efforts and their representation in

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national symbolism in Haiti. This effort contextualized postcolonial creolization and identity in historical anticolonial resistance efforts.

Adviser: Dr. Movindri Reddy

PRESENTATIONS

Connors, C. K., & Bernstein, R. M. (2021, April 7). *Newborn hair cortisol, zinc, and iron: Impacts on respiratory infection across the first two years of life*. American Association of Biological Anthropology Undergraduate Research Symposium, Virtual Poster.

Connors, C. K., & Bernstein, R. M. (2022, March 28). *Neonatal hair as a record of maternal and fetal exposure*. American Association of Biological Anthropology, Virtual. Invited Podium.

Connors, C. K. (2023, April 19). *Will birthweight predict HPA axis activity later in life?* Human Biology Association, In-Person. Poster.

Connors, C.K., & Nelson, R.G. (2024, March 24). *Birthing Across the Diaspora: Understanding Embodiment through Black Women's Pregnancy*. American Association of Biological Anthropology, In Person. Invited Podium.

Connors, C.K. (2025, February 23). *Embodying the Anglophone Question: Displacement and Reproductive Health in Cameroon*. Frontiers of Belonging, In Person. Oral.

Connors, C.K., & Kuzawa, C.W. (2025, March 12). *The Weathering Hypothesis meets the "Anglophone Problem": Pregnancy Outcomes within a Sociolinguistic Minority Group in Cameroon*. Human Biology Association, In-Person. Poster.

Koning S., **Connors C.K.**, Hargrove T., McDade T., Mullan Harris K. (2025, April 13). *Underlying mechanisms of racialized inequities in US birth outcomes: Uncovering the role of maternal early-life disadvantage, adolescent contexts, and pre-pregnancy stress using the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health*. Population Association of America, In Person. Oral.

Connors, C.K. (2025, November 21), *The Politics of Care, the Realities of Displacement: How the Anglophone Question Shapes Anglophone Women's Experiences of Prenatal Care in Douala*. African Studies Association, In Person. Oral.

PUBLICATIONS

Nelson, R. G., **Connors, C.**, Sturtz Sreetharan, C., Gleason, L., Bernard, H. R., & Dillon, S. J. (2024). Launching New Research: Highlights From Faculty-Fellow Collaborations at CAMP. *Practicing Anthropology*, 46(2), 88–90. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08884552.2024.2345801>

Wutich, A., Nelson, R., DuBois, L.Z., Astorino, C.M., Knudson, K., Reynolds, A.W., Riley, E.P., Smith, R.W.A., VanSickle, C., Carroll, S.R., **Connors, C.K.**, Jankovic-Rankovic, J., Mitchell, C., Roque, A.D. and Tsosie, K.S. (2024), "Rigorous and Systematic Qualitative Data Analysis in Biological Anthropology". *Am J Biol Anthropol*, 186: e70008. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajpa.70008>

HONORS

AABA Committee on Diversity (Increasing Diversity in Evolutionary Anthropological Sciences) IDEAS Scholar Dean's List

2021

Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017

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FELLOWSHIPS

Piton Early Career Fellow- <i>Accepted</i>	<i>Nov. 2021- April 2022</i>
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Recipient- <i>Accepted</i>	<i>2022-2027</i>
Named Chancellor Fellow at the University of California at Berkely- <i>Awarded- Declined</i>	<i>Spring 2022</i>
Named Presidential Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania- <i>Awarded- Declined</i>	<i>Spring 2022</i>
NSF Cultural Anthropology Methods Program Fellow	<i>Summer 2023</i>
Society, Biology and Health Cluster Fellow Affiliate	<i>2023-2024</i>
Fulbright IIE Named Alternate- <i>Declined</i>	<i>2025</i>
Fellow- Frontiers of Belonging: Displacement, Refuge Seeking, and Hospitality in West and Central Africa	<i>2025-2026</i>

AWARDED GRANTS

John Parke Young Undergraduate Research Grant Recipient (\$2,500)	<i>Summer 2017</i>
CIEE Global Ambassador Grant Recipient (\$1,500)	<i>Spring 2016</i>
Northwestern University FAN Foster Summer Research Grant (\$2,000)	<i>Summer 2024</i>
Northwestern University Program of African Studies Panofsky Summer Research Award (\$3,000)	<i>Summer 2024</i>
Northwestern University The Graduate School Conference Travel Grant (\$800)	<i>Winter 2025</i>
Northwestern University Buffett Institute for Global Affairs International Conference Travel Grant (\$1,200)	<i>Winter 2025</i>
Northwestern University Buffett Institute for Global Affairs Summer Language Grant (\$5,000)	<i>Summer 2025</i>
Northwestern University Buffett Institute for Global Affairs Summer Research Grant (\$6,000)	<i>Summer 2025</i>
Northwestern University Harvey Institute for Global Health Research Grant (\$2,500)	<i>2025-2026</i>
Northwestern University Program of African Studies Goodman Language Award (\$3,000)	<i>2025-2026</i>
Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (\$25,000)	<i>2025-2027</i>
Northwestern University Program of African Studies Fluehr-Lobban Award (\$5,000)	<i>2025-2026</i>

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

North American Association of Scholars on Cameroon (NAASC)	<i>November 2025- Present</i>
Organization: NAASC	
Role: Membership and Outreach Co-chair	
Black in Biological Anthropology	<i>October 2021-Present</i>
Organization: Black in Biological Anthropology	
Role: Operations Coordinator	
Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee	<i>Member: 2020- 2021</i>
Organization: Developmental Pathways	<i>Co-Chair: 2020-2022</i>

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Role: Member & Co-Chair

Black Student Alliance

April 2014-Nov. 2016

Organization: Occidental College

Role: Executive Board Member (Varying Roles)

Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc.

Aug. 2016- May 2017

Chapter: Epsilon Gamma (Occidental College)

Role: Vice-President

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant for “Evolutionary Medicine” under Prof. Christopher Kuzawa *Fall 2024*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Biological Anthropology (AABA) *Member, 2021- Current*

Black in Biological Anthropology Collective (BiBA) *Member, 2021- Current*

Medical Anthropology Student Association (MASA) *Member, 2021-Current*

International Society of Psychoneuroendocrinology (ISPNE) *Member, 2022-Current*

Human Biology Association (HBA) *Member, 2022-Current*

African Studies Association (ASA) *Member, 2024-Current*

North American Association of Scholars on Cameroon (NAASC) *Member, 2024- Current*

SKILLS

Languages Native English, Highly Proficient Spanish (Written, Spoken), Upper Intermediate French (Written, Spoken)

Technical Skills RStudio, STATA, Qualtrics, Smartsheet, Microsoft Office

Soft Skills Project and Event Management, Project Coordination, Landing Page Design, Communication, Community Engagement, Focus Group Facilitation, Ethnographic Interviews

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Community Engagement Specialist, Community Engagement Department *April 2019-July2022*

Organization: Developmental Pathways

Data Synthesis & Analysis: Gather, synthesize and compile data to support strategic decision making

Project Management: Market, organize, and facilitate events and projects with the goal of providing services and resources to promote inclusion and access for the developmentally disabled community

Community Grant Distribution: Aid in budgeting over \$200,000 a year for community initiatives and projects to increase inclusion and community access for people with disabilities

Translation: Act as a linguistic resource for Spanish speaking immigrant families.

Intern, Chicago Southside Birth Center

Sept. 2023-Oct. 2023

Organization: Chicago South Side Birth Center

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