

# Helen Wasielewski Schaffer

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## Education

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- 2018-present **Master of Public Health** (anticipated May 2020), University of Arizona.  
2005-2012 **Ph.D.**, Evolutionary Anthropology, Rutgers University.  
1995-1999 **B.A.**, Anthropology, Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

## Academic Appointments

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- 2018-present **Graduate Research Assistant**, College of Public Health, University of Arizona  
2019-present **Adjunct Faculty**, Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University  
2018-present **Adjunct Faculty**, Department of Psychology, Arizona State University  
2015-2018 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Department of Psychology, Arizona State University  
2012-2013 **Visiting Assistant Professor**, Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University

## Publications

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Lynch, R., **Wasielewski, H.**, & Cronk, L. (2018). Sexual conflict and the Trivers-Willard hypothesis: Females prefer daughters and males prefer sons. *Scientific Reports*. 8:1-13.

**Wasielewski, H.**, Alcock, J., & Aktipis, A. (2016). Resource conflict and cooperation between human host and gut microbiota: implications for nutrition and health. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. 1372: 20–28. Invited review for special volume: Nutrition meets Microbiome.

**Wasielewski, H.** (2014). Imitation is necessary for cumulative cultural evolution in an unfamiliar, opaque task. *Human Nature* 25(1):161-179.

Cronk, L. and **Wasielewski, H.** (2008). An unfamiliar social norm rapidly produces framing effects in an economic game. *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology* 6(4):283-308

## Presentations

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### Conference talks:

**Wasielewski, H.** (2018). Shifting Subsistence: Food Production, Sharing, and Social Capital in Eastern Kentucky. Paper presented at the Appalachian Studies Association Annual Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Wasielewski, H.**, Campenni, M., Cronk, L., & Aktipis, A. (2017). Sharing for Survival: Cultural Strategies for Mitigating Risk. Paper presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Annual Conference, Boise, Idaho.

Aktipis, A., Alcock, J., Wilkinson, G., Curry, O.S., Sullivan, D., Roberts, D., Balliet, D., Synycer, D., Munoz, A., Winfrey, P., Ayers, J., **Wasielewski, H.**, Boddy, A., Krems, J.A., & Cronk, L. (2017). Fitness interdependence and the study of cooperation: Toward a consensus. Co-author on paper presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Annual Conference, Boise, Idaho.

Synycer, D., Alcock, J., Wilkinson, G., Curry, O.S., Sullivan, D., Roberts, D., Balliet, D., Synycer, D., Munoz, A., Winfrey, P., Ayers, J., **Wasielewski, H.**, Boddy, A., Krems, J.A., & Cronk, L. (2017).

Fitness interdependence shapes helping decisions. Co-author on paper presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Annual Conference, Boise, Idaho.

**Wasielewski, H.**, Maldonado, J., Alcock, J., Mandel, N., Krajalnik-Brown, R., & Aktipis, A. (2016). Host Behavior and the Oral Microbiome. Paper presented at the International Society for Evolutionary Medicine & Public Health Annual Meeting, Durham, North Carolina.

**Wasielewski, H.** (2012). Social learning strategies of cultural evolution when observed payoff is uncertain. Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.

**Wasielewski, H.** (2012). Cultural transmission and individual variation in learning strategies. Paper presented at the joint meeting of the Animal Behavior Society and the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Wasielewski, H.** (2011). Ratcheting up the transmission chain with a functional task: identifying the social learning mechanisms of cumulative cultural evolution. Paper presented at the Annual Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Montpellier, France.

**Wasielewski, H.** (2010). Individual variation in social learning mechanisms used to circulate culture. Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana.

*Invited Talks:*

Cronk, L. & **Wasielewski, H.** (2017). Cooperation in an Uncertain World: The Human Generosity Project from East Africa to Southern Appalachia. Invited paper presented at Dinner on the Grounds colloquium, Berea College, Berea, Kentucky.

**Wasielewski, H.** (2011). Tracing mechanisms of cultural evolution: an experimental micro-society study of social learning. Invited paper in symposium *Re-envisioning culture: challenging legacies and shifting tides in the study of human diversity*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

Cronk, L., Wutich, A., Aktipis, C. A., & **Wasielewski, H.** (2010). The circulation of cultural variants: exploring the relationship between culture and behavior. Invited paper in symposium *Parsing the "complex whole" without losing it: understanding the dynamic role of culture in health and environmental research*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana.

*Conference Posters:*

**Wasielewski, H.**, Maldonado, J., Alcock, J., Mandel, N., Krajalnik-Brown, R., & Aktipis, A. (2016). Evolutionary Dynamics of the Human Oral Microbiome. Poster presented at the Annual Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Vancouver, Canada.

Alcock, J., **Wasielewski, H.**, and Aktipis, A. (2016). Conflict and cooperation between host and gut microbiota: Implications for obesity and metabolic disease. Poster displayed at the Keystone Symposia Conference, Newport, Rhode Island.

**Wasielewski, H.,** and Wise, S. (2012). Co-Sleeping and the Role of Fathers in Infancy: A Global Perspective. Poster presented at the Annual Global Health Fair, sponsored by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and Rutgers University.

**Wasielewski, H.** (2007). Hormones, facial morphology, and trust game play. Poster presented at the Annual Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, College of William & Mary.

*Additional Public Talks:*

**Wasielewski, H.** (2018). Sharing in Kentucky. Community talk given at the Knott County Sportsplex, Leburn, Kentucky.

**Wasielewski, H.,** & Aktipis, A. (2016). Microbiome & Behavior Project. Center for Fundamental and Applied Microbiomics Workshop, ASU.

**Wasielewski, H.** (2012). Cultural evolution. Invited lecture, Columbia University, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology.

**Wasielewski, H.** (2011). The tangled bank: biological contributions to human behavior. Invited lecture, Rutgers University, Department of Anthropology.

**Grants and Awards**

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*Fellowships:*    **University and Louis Bevier Dissertation Completion Fellowship** (2010-2011)  
Selected by faculty as the departmental candidate for graduate school competition.  
Awarded full funding.

**Excellence in Mentoring Fellowship**, National Science Foundation (2011-2012)

*Research:*     **Center for Human Evolutionary Studies, Rutgers:** Research grant to fund work on social support, culture, and economic change (southeast Kentucky) (2019)

**National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant**  
Physical and Cultural Anthropology (2010-2011)

**Center for Human Evolutionary Studies, Rutgers:** Pre-dissertation Grant  
(2006; 2008; 2009; 2011)

**Department of Anthropology, Rutgers:** Bigel Award (2007; 2008; 2009)

**Rutgers University Graduate School:** Special Opportunity Grant (2007)

*Travel:*        **National Academies of Sciences and Medicine:**  
Travel Grant Award to Attend Workshop of Microbiomes of the Built Environment (2016)

**Rutgers University Graduate School:**  
Conference Travel Award (2007; 2010; 2011)

**Center for Human Evolutionary Studies, Rutgers:**  
International Conference Travel Grant (2011)

**Office for the Promotion of Women in STEM, Rutgers:**  
Women in STEM Travel Award (2011)

**Selected Teaching Experience**

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2013-2015	Instructor, Montclair State University (NJ) Department of Anthropology Courses: Physical Anthropology (lecture and laboratory) Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Fall 2014	Instructor, Kean University (NJ) Department of Sociology Course: Cultural Anthropology
2012-2013	Visiting Assistant Professor, Rutgers University Department of Anthropology Courses: Introduction to Social Evolution Evolution and Culture Evolution and Cooperation
Winter 2010	Instructor, Rutgers University Department of Anthropology Course: Introduction to the Four Fields

**Additional Training**

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2019	Disabilities Interprofessional Education Workshop, University of Arizona
2019	LGBTQA+ Safe Zone Training, University of Arizona
2016	Workshop of Microbiomes of the Built Environment: From Research to Application, National Academies of Science and Medicine
2015	Salivary Bioscience Research Training, Institute for Bioscience Research, ASU
2010	Preparing for the Professoriate Certificate, Teaching Assistant Project, Rutgers University
2008	Introduction to College Teaching II, Teaching Assistant Project, Rutgers University
2000	Four Corners Field School (Navajo Nation), Northwestern University. 8-week training program in ethnographic field research methods

**Academic Service**

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2018-present	Health Behavior / Promotion Student Representative, Student Affairs Committee, Zuckerman College of Public Health
2018	Manuscript Review, experimental study on cultural evolution, <i>PLOS One</i>
2016-2017	Seminar Series Committee, Center for Fundamental and Applied Microbiomics
2016	Organizing Committee Co-Chair, Aktipis-Maley Lab Retreat
2013	Undergraduate Honors Committee, Nicolette Waksmundzki
2010-2011	Undergraduate Advising Collective
2010	Chaired <i>Schooling of Socialization</i> session, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana.
2007-2008	Co-president, Rutgers University Anthropology Graduate Student Association

**Professional Affiliations**

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American Public Health Association  
Appalachian Studies Association  
Arizona Evaluation Network