

(Sarah) Madigan Durham

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Education

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Ph.D., Biological Anthropology (GPA 3.939) Expected June 2031

Master of Science, Biology with a specialization in Evolutionary Medicine (GPA 3.929) June 2025

Thesis: "Maternal Grandmothers Adaptively Distribute Prenatal Investment in their Grandchildren"

Committee: Professor Daniel T. Blumstein (Chair), Professor Peter Nicholas Nonacs, Professor Pamela J. Yeh, Professor Molly Mauer Fox

Bachelor of Science, Biological Anthropology (GPA 3.603) June 2022

Research Experience

Graduate Researcher 2023-Present

- Trained in running PBMC isolation, cryopreservation, and ELISA Bioassays
- In charge of data management and data cleaning for the Mothers Cultural Experiences (MCE) Study
- Oversaw and assisted in 5+ undergraduate presentations that used data from the MCE study
- Analyzed data into clear visualizations
- Summarizing and writing comprehensible scientific arguments

Research Co-Coordinator 2023-Present

- Project Management for the Alzheimer's Life History (ALH) Project and Women's Immune Systems, Exposures and Resilience (WISER) Study in UCLA Biological Anthropology of Motherhood Lab with Dr. Molly Fox as the Primary Investigator
- Organization of survey collection and bioprocessing

Undergraduate Researcher 2019-2022

- Fesslab, with Dr. Daniel Fessler as the Primary Investigator
 - Focused on experimental social science, we gained insight into the scientific method as well as the scientific publication process.
 - Also was charged with data collection and was a project manager.
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Management and Leadership Experience

Teaching Assistant 2023-2025

- Facilitated discussion of 20+ undergraduate students for 5 different courses
- Assisted students in the creation and implementation of ecological research projects
- Courses Taught: "Introduction to Ecology and Behavior", "Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory", "Ecology", "Evolutionary Medicine", "Evolutionary Medicine: Clinical Perspective on Medical, Surgical, and Psychiatric Disorders", "Study of Culture", "Evolutionary Psychology", "Topics in Biological Anthropology: Evolutionary Medicine"
 - Overall Evaluation Rating: 8.04

EEB Mentorship Committee 2024-2025

- Student led organization created to ease the transition into graduate school for new graduate students.
- Matching mentors and mentees
- Planning and organizing event

Honors and Awards

Dorothy H. Jewell Research Grant (\$1,500)	Summer 2026
Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award (\$6,000)	Summer 2026
Cooper Award from UCLA's Division of Social Sciences (\$10,000)	Fall 2025- Spring 2026
ISEMPH Travel Award (\$250)	2025

Conference Presentations

- "Is Grandmaternal Investment Associated with Less Adverse Birth Outcomes?", American Association of Biological Anthropologists, Annual Convention , March 2026 – Poster Presentation
- "The Role of Grandmothers in Birth Outcomes", International Society for Evolutionary Medicine and Public health (ISEMPH) Annual Convention, June 2025 – Poster Presentation
- "Maternal Grandmothers Facultative Investment in Pregnancy", International Society for Evolutionary Medicine and Public health (ISEMPH) Annual Convention, Aug 2024 – Poster Presentation
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University Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant (Salary Point 3)

Anthro 2: "Introduction to Archeology"	Fall 2026
Anthro 124Q: "Evolutionary Psychology"	Winter 2027
Anthro 129: "Topics in Biological Anthropology: Evolutionary Medicine"	Spring 2027

Teaching Assistant (Salary Point 2)

EEB 100L: "Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory"	Fall 2024
EEB 186: "Evolutionary Medicine: Clinical Perspective on Medical, Surgical, and Psychiatric Disorders"	Winter 2025
EEB 185: "Evolutionary Medicine"	Spring 2025

Teaching Assistant (Salary Point 1)

EEB 100: "Introduction to Ecology and Behavior"	Fall 2023
EEB 122: "Ecology"	Winter 2024
EEB 100L: "Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory"	Spring 2024, Summer 2024

Technical Skills

- PBMC isolation, cryopreservation
 - Isolating DNA, PCR
 - bisulfate conversion
 - pyrosequencing to measure DNA methylation
 - ELISA Bioassays
 - R Studio
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Professional Associations

- American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA)
 - Human Biology Association (HBA)
 - International Society of Evolutionary Medicine and Public Health (ISEMPH)
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Undergraduate Mentorship Presentations

Undergraduate authors are capitalized, co-authors*

ALLYSON GOODMAN*, LOGAN MACDONALD*, Desiree Eshraghi, **S. Madigan Durham**, and Dr. Molly Fox. (2026). "Presence of prenatal infection and postpartum mother-infant bonding outcomes."

RUBY WU*, JOCELYN VERNER*, Desiree Eshraghi, **S. Madigan Durham**, and Dr. Molly Fox. (2026). "The association between previous incomplete pregnancies and prenatal mental health."

ASHTON HAWKINS, **S. Madigan Durham**, Desiree Eshraghi, and Dr. Molly Fox. (2026). "Prenatal psychological distress and infant birth weight."

RUBY WU*, LAILA MAJEED*, **S. Madigan Durham**, and Dr. Molly Fox. (2025). "The effect of work status on the stress level of pregnant women."

MINH-ANH PHAM*, ANN DING*, **S. Madigan Durham**, and Dr. Molly Fox. (2025). "Can peripheral inflammation predict birth outcomes in pregnant women?"

ANJALI KALINDI*, ASHTON HAWKINS*, SABA HONARVAR*, DESIREE ROJO*, **S. Madigan Durham**, and Dr. Molly Fox. (2025). "Examining the influence of pregnancy wantedness on postpartum depression and anxiety among Latina women."

DESIREE ESHRAGHI*, AMY MAI*, **S. Madigan Durham**, and Dr. Molly Fox. (2024). "Determining the effect of pregnancy unwantedness on peripheral inflammation levels in pregnant women."

ASHNA KUMAR*, LAILA MAJEED*, RUBY WU*, **S. Madigan Durham**, and Dr. Molly Fox. (2024). "The effects of relationship status on mother-child bonding and postpartum depression."

LEXI TEMPERA, **S. Madigan Durham**, and Dr. Molly Fox. (2024). "Exploring the relationship between gravidity and inflammation during pregnancy in a cohort of Latina women."

JESSICA TIEU, **S. Madigan Durham**, and Dr. Molly Fox. (2024). "Psychological impact of acculturation pressures in Latina pregnant women."