

# S E R A L. Y O U N G

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## CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

University of California, Davis, CA :: Department of Pediatrics, Assistant Researcher 2008-present

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY :: Division of Nutritional Sciences, Visiting Fellow 2008-present

## POST-DOC

University of California, Berkeley, CA :: School of Public Health, Assistant Researcher 2008.

Studying the effects of anemia and multiple psychological risks on cognition in low-income Mexican women.

## EDUCATION

Cornell University :: Ithaca, NY 2003-2008

PhD in International Nutrition, Division of Nutritional Sciences. Chair: Gretel Peltó. Committee members: Dennis Miller, Kathy Rasmussen, Paul Sherman, and Rebecca Stoltzfus.

University of Amsterdam :: Amsterdam, the Netherlands 2001-2002

MA in Medical Anthropology. Highest Honors. Advisor: Sjaak van der Geest.

Taasisi Institute of Kiswahili and Foreign Languages :: Zanzibar, Tanzania 2000

Introduction, Intermediate, and Advanced Swahili Courses.

University of Michigan :: Ann Arbor, MI 1995-1999

BA in Anthropology of Religion. High Honors. Secondary Level Teaching Certificate.

Katholieke Universiteit of Leuven :: Leuven, Belgium 1996-1997

Junior Year Abroad Program through the University of Pennsylvania.

United World College of the Atlantic :: Wales, UK 1993-1995

International Baccalaureate.

## SELECTED GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Thrasher Research Fund Early Career Award 2009

Population Center Research Award :: UC Berkeley 2009

Wenner Gren Foundation :: Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship 2009

Robert Wood Johnson Health Disparities Small Grant :: UC Berkeley 2008

University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (UCMEXUS):: Pilot grant 2008

Professional Development Grant:: UC Berkeley 2008

National Institutes of Health Training Grant Trainee :: Cornell University 2005-2007

“Investing in Others” Scholarship :: Park Avenue Financial 2006

Fulbright Scholarship :: Tanzania 2005-2006 (Declined, duplicate funding)

Division of Nutritional Sciences Small Grant :: Cornell University 2004, 2005, 2007

Rev 7/2009

**Mario Einaudi International Research Travel Grant :: Cornell University** 2004, 2005

**Flora Rose Fellowship :: Cornell University** 2004

**Sigma Xi Research Grant :: Cornell University** 2004

**National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship Honorable Mention :: Cornell University** 2004

**Rotary Cultural Ambassador Scholarship - Zanzibar, Tanzania :: Taasisi Institute of Swahili** 2000

## **SELECTED AWARDS**

**International Congress of Nutrition, Distinguished Poster** 2009

Young, S.L., Chantry, C., Ngonyani, M., Israel-Ballard, K., Ash, D., Nyambo, M. Flash-heating breastmilk is feasible in Dar es Salaam Tanzania.

**Allan Rosenfield Scholar & New Investigator in Global Health :: Global Health Council** 2009

For outstanding research on reproductive and family health.

**Sugar Award:: One Laptop Per Child** 2007

For the development of the best educational children's software.

**Rudolf Virchow Award :: Honorable Mention : American Anthropological Association** 2003

Presented by the Society for Medical Anthropology for advancing critical perspectives in medical anthropology.

**Christine Wilson Award :: American Anthropological Association** 2002

Presented by the Council on Nutritional Anthropology.

**Student-Intern Teacher of the Year Honorable Mention :: State of Michigan** 1999

For the demonstration of outstanding potential as an educator.

## **TRAINING**

**American Psychological Association's Cyber Mentor Program for HIV research, Committee on Psychology and AIDS** Fall 2009-Fall 2011

**Dannon Nutrition Leadership Institute** Spring 2009

**New Investigator in Global Health Program, Global Health Council** Spring 2009

**Cells to Society Biomarker Institute, Northwestern University** Spring 2008

## **TEACHING - RELATED EXPERIENCE**

**Nutrition in Developing Countries PH 298.41:: Lecturer : UC Berkeley School of Public Health** Spring 2008

**Nutritional Problems of Developing Nations NS 306 :: Teaching Assistant : Cornell University** Spring 2004

**English Literature, Special Ed :: Substitute Teacher : Port Huron School District, Michigan** Spring 2000

**Secondary Level Teaching Certificate:: University of Michigan :: Ann Arbor, Michigan** 1999

**Cultural Anthropology :: Student Teacher : Plymouth Canton High School, Michigan** Spring 1999

**AP English :: Student Teacher : Cass Technical High School, Detroit, Michigan    Fall 1998**

## **STUDENTS ADVISED**

**Graduate-level::** Sarah Beckham, Janice Meerman, Chris Golden

**Undergraduate-level::** Alexis Steinmetz, Janice Lin, Damaris Hernandez, Chaele Arkfeld

## **FIELD EXPERIENCE**

**Feasibility and pilot efficacy of Flash heated breastmilk to reduce pediatric HIV ::** Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
6/08-present

Scientific coordinator of study of the effects of home-based education on exclusive breastfeeding and the uptake and consequences of rapid heating of breastmilk among HIV+ women in urban Tanzania.

**Maternal anemia care, program evaluation ::** Pemba Island, Zanzibar, Tanzania : Cornell University /Zanzibar  
Ministry of Health    6/06-8/06

Conducted community surveys, focus group discussions and interviews with traditional and biomedical health care workers, private medicine retailers and pregnant women to understand how use of anemia medicine can be improved.

**Quantitative and qualitative study of non-food cravings, primary investigator ::** Pemba Island, Zanzibar,  
Tanzania : Cornell University    5/04-6/04, 6/06-8/06

Secured funding, hired, and trained Zanzibari fieldworkers to collect epidemiological data about consumption of non-food substances (pica) in 700 adults as part of a larger trial on the prevention of severe anemia (PI) Rebecca Stoltzfus. Conducted in-depth interviews about pica (the cravings for and consumption of non-food substances) with community members and health care workers. Collected samples of pica substances for biochemical analysis.

**“Adapting EFNEP to the changing needs of food-assistance eligible families in the era of welfare reform” ::**  
Qualitative Researcher : **Cornell University**    2003-2004

Conducted interviews and focus group discussions with nutritional education program staff as part of a USDA-funded multi-state research project to understand the effects of welfare reform on nutritional status and well-being.

**Hospital Renovation, project manager ::** Pemba Island, Zanzibar, Tanzania    2001, 2003, 2005.

Identified areas of need, raised all funds, and oversaw renovations of Mental Hospital, Maternity Ward and Children’s Ward.

**Perceptions of anemia during pregnancy ::** Pemba Island, Zanzibar, Tanzania : University of Amsterdam  
5/02-7/02

Qualitative data was collected about the perceived causes, cures, and appropriateness of UNDP-supplied ferrous sulfate and traditional medicines for the treatment of anemia during pregnancy. Analyzed data to make suggestions about how traditional and biomedical treatments can be linked.

**“Down for the count in the Bijlmer” ::** Interviewer : **University of Amsterdam**    2002

Censused and interviewed homeless people about drug use, health care, and general well-being in low-income neighborhoods in Amsterdam.

**Polygyny and child mortality, Field study manager ::** Mali, West Africa/University of Michigan    1998.

Longitudinal biological anthropological study comparing infant mortality by family structure. Responsibilities included anthropometry of 1000 0-5 year old children, household surveys, censusing villages, house construction, fieldworker hiring, and data organization.

## RESEARCH POSITIONS & CONSULTANCIES

### **Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) 2009**

Consulting on reports from Research and Evaluation Division of BRAC.

### **Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), Washington DC 2009**

Advised on assessment of nutritional needs among HIV-positive pregnant and lactating Rwandan women.

### **Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (INSP), Cuernavaca, Mexico 2007**

Evaluation of quantitative and qualitative data on the acceptability of micronutrient tablets, sprinkles and a fortified food to pregnant and lactating Oportunidades recipients.

### **University of Amsterdam 2001-2006**

Responsible for translation and text editing of dissertations, articles, and grant proposals. Converted four PhD manuscripts into books.

### **Kelsey Museum of Archaeology : University of Michigan 1997-1998**

Assisted with reconstruction of an ancient Greek mosaic mural, sorted and classified Etruscan coins.

### **Royal Museum of Central Africa : Tervuren, Belgium 1997**

Assisted with “Zimbabwe: Legacies of Stone Past and Present: Volume I and II”.

## LANGUAGES

**English : Dutch : French : Swahili**

## PUBLICATIONS

### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

1. **Young, S.L.**, Beckham, S, and Ali, S. M. (2009) Blood, pills, and the power of the private sector: Accessing private pharmacies for the treatment of maternal anemia in Zanzibar, Tanzania. *Food Nutr Bull* in press.
2. **Young, S.L.**, Wilson, M. J., Hillier, S., & Miller, D. D. (2008). Toward a comprehensive approach to the collection and analysis of pica substances, with emphasis on geophagic materials. *PLoS One*. 3(9): e3147.
3. **Young, S. L.**, D. Goodman, T. H. Farag, S. M. Ali, M. R. Khatib, S. S. Khalfan, J. M. Tielsch, and R. J. Stoltzfus (2007). Geophagia is not associated with *Trichuris* or hookworm transmission in Zanzibar, Tanzania. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. 101(8): 766-72
4. **Young, S. L.**, and S. M. Ali. (2005). Linking traditional treatments of material anemia to iron supplement use: an ethnographic case study from Pemba Island, Zanzibar. *Maternal and Child Nutrition*. 1(1): 51-58.
5. **Young, S. L.** (2004). On the role of the individual in the MEAH framework. *Medische Antropologie*. 16 (2): 280-1.
6. **Young, S. L.** (2004). “Listen, Without Blood There is No Life”: An ethnography of anemia during pregnancy. *Nutritional Anthropology*. 26 (1-2) 10-19.
7. **Young, S. L.** (2002). Critical Ecological Medical Anthropology: A harmonious union of discordant bodies? The selection and application of theory to anemia during pregnancy on Zanzibar. *Medische Anthropologie*. 14 (2) 321-252.

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES IN PREPARATION OR REVIEW

1. **Young, S.L.**, Khalfan, S., Farag, T., Kavle, J., Rasmussen, K., Pelto, G., Ali, S. M., Hamadi, B., Tielsch, J., Stoltzfus, R. (in review) Pica is associated with anemia and gastrointestinal distress among pregnant Zanzibari women.
2. **Young, S.L.**, Hernandez Cordero, S., Blanco, I., Pelto, G. H., & Neufeld, L. M. (under review) Organoleptic properties, ease of use, and perceived health effects are determinants of acceptability of micronutrient supplements among poor Mexican women.
3. **Young, S. L.**, Chantry, C. J., Vosti, S. A., Rennie, W. (under review). Infant feeding counseling: a neglected strategy for the reduction of MTCT.
4. **Young, S.L.**, Wilson, M.J., Hillier, S., Delbos, E. (under review) Differences and commonalities in physical, chemical and mineralogical properties of Zanzibari geophagic soils.
5. **Young, S.L.**, Israel-Ballard, K., Dantzer, E., Nyambo, M., Ash, D., Chantry, C.J. (in preparation) Infant feeding practices among HIV-positive women in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania indicate a need for more intensive infant feeding counseling
6. **Young, S.L.** (invited for 2010) Pica in Pregnancy: New Ideas About An Old Condition. *Annual Review of Nutrition*.
7. **Young, S.L.**, Neufeld, L. M. & Fernald, L.H. (in preparation). Iron deficiency and cognition in adults: an accumulating risk approach.
8. **Young, S.L.**, Sherman, P.W., Pelto, G., Lucks, J. (in preparation) Why do people eat earth? A test of alternative hypotheses.

## BOOK

9. "Pica: Earthly Pleasures." Under contract with Columbia University Press, to be completed December, 2009.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

10. **Young S.L.** (2007). "Evidence for the Consumption of the Inedible: Who, what, when, where, and why." In *Consuming the Inedible: Cross-disciplinary approaches*. J. MacClancy, J. Henry and H. MacBeth, eds. Berghahn Press. pp. 17-30.
11. **Young, S. L.** (2007). "A Vile Habit? The Potential Biological Consequences of Geophagia, with special attention to iron." In *Consuming the Inedible: Cross-disciplinary approaches*. J. MacClancy, J. Henry and H. MacBeth, eds. Berghahn Press. pp. 67-79.
12. **Young, S. L.** and G. H. Pelto. (2005). "Core Concepts in Nutritional Anthropology." In *Nutritional Health: Strategies for Disease Prevention*. T Wilson and N. Temple, eds. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Humana Press. pp. 425-437.

## THESES

13. **Young, S.L.** (2008). A biocultural study of the relationship between pica and anemia. PhD Dissertation in Nutritional Sciences. Cornell University.
14. **Young, S. L.** (2002). "Listen, Without Blood There is No Life": An ethnography of anemia during pregnancy in Pemba, Zanzibar. MA Thesis in Medical Anthropology. University of Amsterdam.

15. Young S. L. (1999). Religious Conversion by Dogon Women: A strategy for reproductive success? BA Honors Thesis. University of Michigan.

## CONFERENCE POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

16. Young, S., Steinmetz, A. Are food aversions protective adaptations to pregnancy? American Anthropological Association. Philadelphia, PA. December 2009. (Co-chair of panel “Cravings and Aversions” with Crystal Patil)

17. Young, S.L., Chantry, C., Ngonyani, M., Israel-Ballard, K., Ash, D., Nyambo, M. Flash-heating breastmilk is feasible in Dar es Salaam Tanzania. International Congress of Nutrition. Bangkok, Thailand. October, 2009. (Selected as Distinguished Poster.)

18. Nyambo, M., Ash, D., Ngonyani, M., Young, S.L., Israel-Ballard, K., Chantry, C. Feasibility of Reducing MTCT-HIV by Flash-heating breast milk. Medical Women’s International Association. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. August, 2009.

19. Young, S., Israel-Ballard, K., Leshabari, S., Maternowska, C., Turuka, E., Mallya, D., Maisho, C., Ash, D., Nyambo, M., Chantry, C. Flash-heating Breastmilk To Reduce MTCT-HIV: Successes And Challenges. Global Health Council. Washington DC, May 2009. (Selected as part of the New Investigator in Global Health Program)

20. Young, S.L., Chantry, C., Ngonyani, M., Israel-Ballard, K., Ash, D., Nyambo, M. Flash-heating breastmilk is feasible in Dar es Salaam Tanzania. Experimental Biology. New Orleans, Louisiana, April 2009.

21. Young, S.L., Ali S. M., Wilson, M.J., Hillier, S., Rasmussen, K.M., Stoltzfus, R.J. Pica is associated with pregnancy, anemia and gastrointestinal distress among Zanzibari women. Bloemfontein, South Africa, October 2008.

22. Wilson, M. J., Hillier, S., Young, S.L. Clay Mineralogy of Geophagic Materials from Tanzania and Other Countries. 4th Mid-European Clay Conference, Zakopane, Poland, September 2008.

23. Young, S.L., Hernandez Cordero, S., Branco Garcia, I., Bonvecchio Arenas, A., & Neufeld, L. M. Acceptability of three nutritional supplements among pregnancy and lactating women in Mexico. Experimental Biology, San Diego, CA, April 2008

24. Young, S. L., Goodman, D., Farag, T. H., Ali, S. M., Khatib, M. R., Khalfan, S. S. Tielsch, J.M., Stoltzfus, R.J. Geophagia is not associated with Trichuris or hookworm transmission in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Experimental Biology, Washington DC, April 2007.

25. Young, S.L., J.B. Lucks, G.H. Peltó. Managing 1,472 articles on pica. Strategies for hypothesis testing with a comprehensive literature review. Society for Anthropological Sciences. Savannah, Georgia. February 2006.

26. Young, S.L. *Safura* [anemia], the disease of earth-eating? An investigation of the relationship of iron status to pica in Zanzibar. International Commission on the Anthropology of Food. Oxford, England. June 2005.

27. Young, S. L. Mapping the Cultural and Physiological Components of Anemia on Pemba Island, Zanzibar. American Anthropological Association, Nutritional Anthropology section. Chicago, IL, November 2003.

28. Young, S. L. Religious Conversion by Dogon Women: A Tactic of the Weak? Conference of the Netherlands African Studies Association. Leiden, the Netherlands, September 2003.

29. Young, S. L. Straight Edge: Youth rebellion or voice of social conscience? American Midwest Sociological Society. Chicago, IL, April 2000. (Invited).

30. **Young, S. L.** Dogon Women's Religious Conversion: A Strategy for improved reproductive success? American Anthropological Association, Anthropology of Religion. Philadelphia, PA, April 1999.

## **INVITED LECTURES**

University of California, Davis. Grand Rounds: Pediatrics. 2008.

University of California, San Francisco. Local health meets global health group. 2008.

University of Illinois, at Chicago. Department of Anthropology. 2007.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**Ad hoc reviewer::** American Journal of Human Biology, Social Science & Medicine, Public Health Nutrition, Maternal and Child Nutrition, Journal of Nutrition, Epidemiology and Infection, Medische Antropologie

**American Society for Nutrition ::** Student Interest Group Executive Committee Member : Graduate and Professional Education Executive Committee Member 2006-2008

**One Laptop Per Child ::** Co-developer of children's math game Kuku Anakula (<http://wiki.laptop.org/go/Kuku>) 2007

**Nutrition Graduate Student Organization ::** Secretary, Social Director, Faculty Liaison, Founder and member of the Committee on Professional Development : Cornell University 2003-2007

**Academic Integrity Hearing Board ::** Graduate Representative : Cornell University 2004

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Anthropological Association

American Society for Nutrition

San Francisco Beekeeper's Association

Alameda County Beekeepers Association

## **PRESS COVERAGE**

**Voice of America**, 2009: "HIV-Positive Women Will Follow Protocols to Make Breast Milk Safe"

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Science/2009-05-07-voa29.cfm>

**Focus**, 2009: "A clay multivitamin?" <http://www.focus.pl/cywilizacja/zobacz/publikacje/gliniana-multiwitamina/>

**der Spiegel**, 2008: "Why Do People Eat Dirt?"

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/zeitgeist/0,1518,525726,00.html>

**Nature**, 2007: "The earth-eaters" <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v444/n7119/full/444543a.html>