

Helen Elizabeth Davis

Arizona State University—School of Human Evolution & Social Change
Harvard University—Department of Human Evolutionary Biology

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Professional Experience

Arizona State University

Assistant Professor

- School of Human Evolution & Social Change
- Institute of Human Origins

Tempe, AZ

August 2022–ongoing

Harvard University

Associate

- Department of Human Evolutionary Biology

Cambridge, MA

August 2022–ongoing

One Pencil Project 501(c)(3)

President

- President & Co-founder

Salt Lake City, UT

ongoing

Previous Training

Harvard University

Research Associate

Cambridge, MA

2021-2022

Harvard University

Postdoctoral Fellow

Cambridge, MA

2018-2021

University of Utah

Postdoctoral Fellow

Salt Lake City, UT

2015-2018

Education

University of New Mexico

PhD, Evolutionary Anthropology

Albuquerque, NM

2015

University of New Mexico

MSc, Human Evolutionary Ecology

Albuquerque, NM

University of Missouri

BA, Cultural Anthropology

Columbia, MO

Publications (* co-first author or corresponding author)

Rawlings, B., *Davis, H.E., Anum, A., Burger, O., Chen, L., Castro Morales, J., Dutra, N., Dzabatou, A., Ngouabi, M., Dzokoto, V., Erut, A., Fong, FTK., Ghelardi, S., Goldwater, M., Ingram, G., Messer, E., Kingsford, J., Lew-Levy, S., Mendez, K., Newhouse, M., Nielsen, M., Pamei, G., Pope-Caldwell, S., Ramos, K., Echeverria Rojas, L.E., Silveira, L., Watzek, J., Wirth, C., & Legare, CH. (in press). Quantifying quality: The impact of

- measures of school quality on children's academic achievement across diverse societies. *Developmental Science*.
- Davis, H.E.**, Stieglitz, J., Kaplan, H., Maito Tayo, A., & Gurven, M. (under review). The formal schooling niche: School quality augments differences in children's abstract reasoning in a longitudinal study from Amazonia, Bolivia.
- Ninkova, V., Hays, J., Lavi, N., Ali, A., Lopes da Silva Macedo, S., ***Davis, H.E.**, & Lew-Levy, S. (under review). Hunter-gatherer children at school: A view from the Global South.
- Caldwell, A.E., Hooper, P., Cummings, D.K., Trumble, B., Stieglitz, J., Gurven, M., **Davis, H.E.**, & Kaplan, H. (under review). Physical activity, sedentary behavior and pubertal maturation among Tsimane' youth and adolescents: Public health implications.
- Prall, S., Scelza, B., & **Davis, H.E.** (under review). Medical mistrust, discrimination, and health-care experiences in Namibian pastoralists.
- Kroupin, I., **Davis, H.E.**, & Henrich, J. (under review). Beyond Newton: Why assumptions of universality are critical to cognitive science, and how to finally move past them.
- Kraft, T., Seabright, E., Alami, S., Hooper, P., Beheim, B., **Davis, H.E.**, Garcia, A., Cummings, D., Eid Rodriguez, D., Trumble, B.C., Stieglitz, J., Kaplan, K., & Gurven, M. (under review). Metapopulation dynamics of infectious disease transmission in a small-scale human society.
- Weisman, K., Ghossainy, M.E., Williams, A.J., Payir, A., Lesage, K.A., Reyes-Jaquez, B., Amin, T., Anggoro, F.K., Burdett, R.E., Chen, E.C., Coetzee, L., Coley, J.D., Dahl, A., Dautel, J., **Davis, H.E.**, Davis, E.L., Diesendruck, G., Evans, G., Feeney, A., Gurven, M., Jee, B.D., Kramer, H.J., Kushnir, T., McAuliffe, K., McLaughlin, A., Nichols, S., Rockers, P.C., Shneidman, L., Srinivasan, M., Tarullo, A.R., Taylor, L.K., Yu, Y., Yucel, M., Zhao, X., Corriveau, K., & Richert, R.A. (under review). The development and diversity of religious cognition and behavior: Protocol for Wave 1 data collection with children and parents by the Developing Belief Network.
- Broesch, B., von Rueden, C., Yurkowski, K., Quinn, H., Alami, S., **Davis, H.E.**, Stupica, B., Tari, J., & Bureau, J.F. (2023). Fatherhood and child-father attachment in two small-scale societies. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 0(0), 1-19.
- Ross, C. T., Hooper, P. L., Smith, J. E., Jaeggi, A. V., Smith, E. A., Gavrillets, S., Zohora, F. T., Ziker, J., Xygalatas, D., Wroblewski, E. E., **Davis, H.E.**, et al. (2023). Reproductive inequality in humans and other mammals. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(22), e2220124120.
- Davis, H.E.**, Gurven, M., & Cashdan, E. (2022). Navigational experience and the preservation of spatial abilities into old age among a tropical forager-horticulturalist population. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 1-26.
- Henrich, J., Blasi, D., Curtin, C., **Davis, H.E.**, Hong, Z.K., Kelly, D., & Kroupin, I. (2022). A cultural species and its cognitive phenotypes. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*.
- Dutra, N.B., Chen, L., Anum, A., Burger, O., **Davis, H.E.**, Dzokoto, V.A., Fong, F.F., Ghelardi, S., Mendez, K., Messer, E.J., Newhouse, M., Nielsen, M.G., Ramos, K., Rawlings, B., dos Santos, R., Silveiral, L., Tucker-Drob, E., & Legare, C.H. (2022). Examining relations between performance on non-verbal executive function and verbal self-regulation tasks in demographically-diverse populations. *Developmental Science*, 1-19.
- Lew-Levy, S., Reckin, R., Kissler, S.M., Boyette, A.H., Crittenden, A., Hagen, R., Haas, R., Kramer, K., Koster, J., O'Brien, M., Pretelli, I., Sonoda, K., Surovell, T., Stieglitz, J., Tucker, B., Lavi, N., Ellis-Davies, K., & ***Davis, H.E.** (2022). Socioecology shapes child and

adolescent time allocation in twelve hunter-gatherer and mixed-subsistence forager societies. *Scientific reports*, 12(1), 1–16.

- Wallace, I.J., Kraft, T., Venkataraman, V., **Davis, H.E.**, Holowka, N.B., Harris, A., Lieberman, D., & Gurven, M. (2022). Cultural variation in running techniques among non-industrial societies. *Evolutionary Human Sciences*, 4, 1–21.
- Seabright, E., Alami, S., Kraft, T., **Davis, H.E.**, Hooper, P., Caldwell, A.E., Veile, A., Mulville, S., McAllister, L., von Rueden, C., Stieglitz, J., Gurven, M., Kaplan, H. (2022). Repercussions of post-marital residence on mothers' social support networks among Tsimane forager-farmers. *Philosophical Transactions B*.
- Davis, H.E.**, Stack, J., & Cashdan, E. (2021). Cultural change reduces gender differences in mobility and spatial ability among seminomadic pastoralist-forager children in northern Namibia. *Human Nature*, 176–206.
- Kramer, K., Heckman, J., Schacht, R., & **Davis, H.E.** (2021). Effects of family planning on fertility behaviour across the demographic transition. *Scientific Reports*, 11(1), 1–12.
- Davis, H.E.**, Crittenden, A.N., & Scalise Sugiyama, M. (2021). Ecological and developmental perspectives on social learning. *Human Nature*, 32(1), 1–5.
- Davis, H.E.**, & Cashdan, E. (2020). You don't have to know where your kids are, just where they aren't: Exploring free-range parenting in the Bolivian Amazon. *Parents and Caregivers Across Cultures*. (Eds. Ashdown, B Faherty, A.) (pp. 59–74). Springer.
- Davis, H.E.**, & Cashdan, E. (2019). Spatial cognition, navigation, and mobility among children in a forager-horticulturalist population, the Tsimane of Bolivia. *Cognitive Development*, 52, 100800.
- Schacht, R., **Davis, H.E.**, & Kramer, K. L. (2018). Patterning of Paternal Investment in Response to Socioecological Change. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 6, 142.
- Gurven, M., Fuerstenberg, E., Trumble, B., Stieglitz, J., Beheim, B., **Davis, H.E.**, & Kaplan, H. (2017). Cognitive performance across the life course of Bolivian forager-farmers with limited schooling. *Developmental Psychology*, 53(1), 160–176.
- Gurven, M., Stieglitz, J., Trumble, B., Blackwell, A. D., Beheim, B., **Davis, H.E.**, Hooper, P., & Kaplan, H. (2017). The Tsimane Health and Life History Project: Integrating anthropology and biomedicine. *Evolutionary Anthropology: Issues, News, and Reviews*, 26(2), 54–73.
- Cashdan, E., Kramer, K., **Davis, H.E.**, Padilla, L., & Greaves, R. (2016). Mobility and navigation among the Yucatec Maya. *Human Nature*, 27(1), 35–50.

Manuscripts in Revision (available online or by request).....

- Davis, H.E.**, Fortier, M., Wenthe, A.O., Fernandez Flecha, M., & Gopnik, A. (under revision). Abstract causal knowledge: Evidence that foraging and subsistence populations learn multiple causality more readily than U.S. and Peruvian undergraduates.
- Ruginski, I., Stepanucci, J., Crittenden, A., Kramer, K., Greaves, R., Sugiyama, L., **Davis, H.E.**, Creem-Regehr, S., & Cashdan, E. (under revision). The MRTX: A chronometric mental rotation task accessible across age and culture.
- Broesch, T., Gergely, G., Henrich, J., Barrett, C., Olah, K., Gurven, M., McElreath, R., Kanovsky, M., Schug, M., Von Rueden, C., **Davis, H.E.**, & Laurence, S. (under revision). Evidence for natural pedagogy as a human universal.
- Moya, C., Fessler, D., Henrich, J., Zhao, W., Barrett, C., Bolyanatz, A., **Davis, H.E.**, Gurven, M., Kanovsky, M., Kushnick, G., Pisor, A., Scelza, B., von Rueden, C., & Laurence, S. (under

revision). Norm enforcement in small-scale societies depends on coordinated third party responses and pre-existing relationships.

Davis, H.E., & Henrich, J. (under revision). Group organization and cultural transmission networks across childhood.

Manuscripts in Preparation (analysis in progress).....

Kroupin, I., **Davis, H.E., & Henrich, J.** (n.d.). A review of cultural institutions and cognition in the 20th century.

Davis, H.E., Gurven, M., & Trumble, B. (n.d.). Trade-offs between skill and physical ability: Strategies shift toward lower variance and smaller package-size animals with older age.

Davis, H.E., Henrich, J., & Muthukrishna, M. (n.d.). Casually identifying the effects of formal schooling on cognition.

Davis, H.E., Kroupin, I., & Henrich, J. (n.d.). Lost skills: Cognitive trade-offs with formal schooling exposure.

Grants & Fellowships

Grants.....

National Science Foundation & SCCR **\$300,000**

Co-Principle Investigator 2023–2025

Title: Interdisciplinary methods & theory for studying childhood learning across cultures.

Co-Investigators: Sean Prall (PI) & Brooke Scelza

Wenner-Gren Foundation: Conference and Workshop Grant (Virtual) **\$5,000**

Co-Organizer 2021–2022

Title: Interdisciplinary methods & theory for studying childhood learning across cultures.

Co-Investigators: Sheina Lew-Levy (PI), Joseph Henrich & Tanya Broesch

John Templeton Foundation: Developing Belief Network **\$497,815**

Co-Principle Investigator 2021–2024

Title: The development of children’s beliefs in Bolivia & UK.

Co-Investigators: Emily Burdette & Michael Gurven

The Spencer Foundation **\$49,996**

Principle Investigator 2019–2020

Formal schooling and cognition.

Co-Investigators: Joseph Henrich, Michael Muthukrishna & Elizabeth Cashdan

Mind Brain Behavior **\$50,000**

Co-Principle Investigator 2019–2020

The Cultural Foundations of Cognition.

Co-Investigators: Joseph Henrich & Nathan Nunn

Templeton World Charitable Fund: DISI **\$12,750**

Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute Fellow & Seed Funding 2019–2021

Cognitive flexibility & learning from early childhood through adolescence.

Co-Investigators: Katarina Mayer, Crystal Bae & Otavio Mattos

Program for Interdisciplinary Biological and Biomedical Sciences (PiBBs) **\$18,355**

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Interface Scholar 2009–2011

Public Health Education and Outreach: University of Capetown, South Africa.

Grants Under Review.....

Spencer Foundation	\$296,171
<i>Principle Investigator</i>	
Investigating the influence of formal education on flexible learning and executive function.	
Co-Investigators: Joseph Henrich, Michael Muthukrishna, Mia Sosa-Provencia, Elizabeth Cashdan, & Ivan Kroupin	
NSF: Developmental Science, Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences	\$686,500
<i>Co-Principle Investigator</i>	
Investigating the Cultural Foundations of Cognition.	
Co-Investigators: Joseph Henrich & Ivan Kroupin	

Honors & Awards

The Leigh Minturn Early Career Award	2020
<i>Society for Cross-Cultural Research (SCCR)</i>	
Early Career Collaboration Enhancement Award	2019
<i>Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute (DISI)—Templeton World Charitable Fund</i>	
Postdoctoral Award	2019
<i>Human Behavior & Evolution Society (HBES)</i>	
Best New Investigator	2018
<i>EAS-American Anthropology Association (AAA)</i>	
Best Paper Award	2018
<i>International Society for Intelligence Research (ISIR)</i>	
Leigh Distinguished Lecture (first early career recipient)	2018
<i>University of Utah</i>	
Graduate Scholars Award	2014
<i>University of New Mexico</i>	
Frieda Butler Award for Outstanding Masters' Research	2010
<i>University of New Mexico</i>	
Howard Hughes Medical Institute: Interface Scholar	2010
<i>University of New Mexico</i>	

Invited Lectures & Keynotes (by discipline)

Anthropology.....

University of Pennsylvania	2021
<i>Social and Cultural Evolution Working Group</i>	<i>Philadelphia, PA</i>
University of New Mexico	2020
<i>Anthropology Colloquium Series</i>	<i>Albuquerque, NM</i>
University of California, Davis	2020
<i>Anthropology Colloquium Series</i>	<i>Davis, CA</i>
University of California, Santa Barbara	2020
<i>Evolutionary Anthropology and Biodemography Lab</i>	<i>Santa Barbara, CA</i>

University of Nevada, Las Vegas <i>Department of Anthropology</i>	2020 <i>Las Vegas, NV</i>
University College London <i>Department of Anthropology</i>	2016 <i>London, UK</i>
University of Missouri <i>Department of Anthropology</i>	2015 <i>Columbia, MO</i>

Psychology.....

Society for Research in Child Development <i>Learning Through Play & Imagination Conference, Keynote speaker</i> (Meeting cancelled due to Covid-19; rescheduled April 2022)	2020 <i>St. Louis, MO</i>
University of California, Berkeley <i>Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience Colloquium</i>	2020 <i>Berkeley, CA</i>
Association of Psychological Science <i>Education and Intelligence: Reciprocal Relationships, Panel speaker</i>	2017 <i>Boston, MA</i>

Interdisciplinary & Applied.....

SUNY: Binghamton University <i>Evolutionary Sciences (EvoS) seminar</i>	2021 <i>Binghamton, NY</i>
UNICEF Africa <i>Specialists Meeting, Keynote speaker</i> (Meeting cancelled due to Covid-19)	2020 <i>Luanda, Angola</i>
Harvard University <i>Mind Brain Behavior</i>	2018 <i>Cambridge, MA</i>

University Service

School of Human Evolution & Social Change <i>Member</i> Search Committee for tenure track faculty position	Arizona State University 2023
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Other Service

One Pencil Namibia NGO <i>Founder</i> Established Namibian-based NGO focused on indigenous rights and educational support in the Kunene region.	2023
One Pencil Project 501(c)(3) <i>Co-Founder</i> Established US based non-profit to support participant communities with educational programs and community development projects.	2018
Tsimane Flood Relief Fund <i>Member</i>	2014

Helped organize (raised \$22,600) to purchase shovels, machetes and axes, mosquito nets, and food 2006-pres. Facilitator of primary and advanced health care for approx. 16,000 Tsimane and 3,000 Maseten Amerindians

Courses Taught

School of Human Evolution & Social Change **Arizona State University**

Professor

Global Health and Evolutionary Medicine

Department of Biology **University of New Mexico**

Unit Instructor

Introduction to Genetics

Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory

Department of Anthropology **University of New Mexico**

Instructor

Statistics for the Social Sciences

Human Evolutionary Ecology

Outreach & Mentorship

Diversity Inclusion Task Force **Harvard University**

Department of Human Evolutionary Biology

2020–ongoing

○ Curriculum Working Group

○ Mentorship Working Group

Diversity Scholars Outreach Program **University of Utah**

Volunteer advisor

2017–2018

Est. 2017 by Dr. Lace Padilla

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy **University of New Mexico**

Graduate Research Assistant

2009–2012

The purpose of the Center is to increase the diversity of those with formal training in the fields of economics, political science, sociology, and anthropology.

Conference Presentations (first author only)

Davis, H. E. (2021). Using natural experiments to study formal schooling and cognition—applied and theoretical approaches. *The American Anthropological Association, Baltimore, MD, 2021*, Special Session: Art, Science, or Politics? The crisis in hunter–gatherer studies, 30 years later. Session Organizers: Alyssa N. Crittenden and Richard B. Lee.

Davis, H. E., & Cashdan, E. (2021). Cultural change reduces gender differences in mobility and spatial ability among seminomadic pastoralist-forager children in northern Namibia. *Human Behavior & Evolution Society, Virtual*.

Davis, H. E., & Cashdan, E. (2020). Exploration and learning during work and play among the Tsimane, forager-horticulturalists. *Society for Cross-Cultural Research, Seattle, WA*, Special Session: Children at work and play. Session Organizer: David Lancey.

Davis, H. E., Cashdan, E., Muthukrishna, M., & Henrich, J. (2020). Culture and cognition: Two natural experiments among the OvaTwa, Himba, and the Tsimane. *Society for Cross-Cultural Research, Seattle, WA*, Special Session: Developing frameworks for understanding cross-cultural variation in child development. Session Organizer: Sheina Lew-Levy.

- Davis, H. E., Cashdan, E., & Henrich, J. (2019). Spatial ability, mobility, and formal schooling in two subsistence-based economies. *Human Behavior & Evolution Society*, Boston, MA, Special Session: Postdoctoral Award Competition.
- Davis, H. E., & Cashdan, E. (2018a). Do sex differences in spatial ability, mobility, and harm avoidance persist outside the West? *Human Behavior & Evolution Society*, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Davis, H. E., & Cashdan, E. (2018b). Spatial cognition, formal education, and learning among the Tsimane of Bolivia. *American Anthropology Association*, San Jose, CA, Special Session: Ages and Stages: Child learning, exploration, and helping behaviors in foraging and transitioning populations. Session Organizers: Helen Davis and Alyssa Crittenden.
- Davis, H. E., Gurven, M., & Henrich, J. (2018). Flynn effect among forager-horticulturalists with variable access to schooling. *International Society for Intelligence Research*, Edinburgh, Scotland.
- Davis, H. E., & Cashdan, E. (2016). Cognitive task performance and spatial abilities among children in a traditional and transitioning. *International Society for Intelligence Research*, St. Petersburg, Russia.
- Davis, H. E., Gurven, M., & Cashdan, E. (2016). Spatial cognition and learning among children and adults in a traditional and transitioning population. *Spatial Cognition X*, Philadelphia, PA.
- Davis, H. E. (2015). Cognition and learning among children and adults in two traditional and transitioning populations. *International Society for Intelligence Research*, Albuquerque, NM.
- Davis, H. E., & Kramer, K. (2015). Evidence of diverging strategies within transitioning populations: Education, wealth, and fertility differentials. *American Anthropological Association*, Austin, TX.
- Davis, H. E., Kramer, K., & Gurven, M. (2015). Education and fertility decisions within the Tsimane of Bolivia and the Yucatec Maya. *Human Behavior & Evolution Society*, Columbia, MO.
- Davis, H. E., Stieglitz, J., Kaplan, H., & Gurven, M. (2014). Raven's Colored Progressive Matrices at the lower end of the educational continuum: Assessing variation in a traditional and transitioning population. *International Society for Intelligence Research*, Graz, Austria.

Fieldwork

Culture & Cognition Research Project <i>OvaHimba Peoples</i>	Cunene region, Angola 2017–ongoing
SCAN and Culture & Cognition Research Project <i>Tsimane people</i>	Amazonia, Bolivia 2017–ongoing
SCAN and Culture & Cognition Research Project <i>OvaHimba Peoples</i>	Kunene region, Namibia 2016–ongoing
Tsimane Health and Life History Project <i>Tsimane people</i>	Amazonia, Bolivia 2005–2012

Professional Activities & Community Service

Wenner-Gren Foundation Conference & Workshop <i>Co-Organizer</i>	<i>upcoming 2022</i>
Hayek Seminars Programme at London School of Economics <i>Member</i>	<i>2021–ongoing</i>
One Pencil Project 501(c)(3) nonprofit <i>Co-Founder & Board President</i>	<i>2018–ongoing</i>
Society of Cross-Cultural Research (SCCR) <i>Webmaster</i>	<i>2018–ongoing</i>
Human Behavior & Evolution Society (HBES) <i>UNM's Graduate Student Conference Committee</i>	<i>2012</i>
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Center for Health Policy <i>Conference Committee</i>	<i>2010</i>

Research Networks

Culture & Ontogeny Research Initiative <i>Member</i>	<i>2020–ongoing</i>
Forager Child Studies Research Group <i>Member</i>	<i>2019–ongoing</i>
UNICEF Angola <i>Collaborator</i>	<i>2019–ongoing</i>
UNICEF Namibia <i>Collaborator</i>	<i>2019–ongoing</i>
Spatial Cognition and Navigation Network <i>Collaborator</i>	<i>2016–ongoing</i>
Tsimane Health and Life History Project <i>Collaborator</i>	<i>2015–ongoing</i>

Professional Membership

- Human Behavior & Evolution Society
- American Anthropological Association
- Society for Cross-Cultural Research
- Society for Research in Child Development