

EMORY UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

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ANT 206

4:00

CHRISTINA BERGEY

THE EVOLUTION OF COMPLEX TRAITS IN RAINFOREST HUNTER-GATHERERS

Small body size (the "pygmy" phenotype) likely evolved as an adaptation to the harsh ecological challenges of tropical rainforests. Using this natural human model, Dr. Bergey studies the genetic, functional, and evolutionary bases of growth and body size, as well as the ecologically-mediated adaptation of other complex, polygenic traits.



Christina Bergey received her PhD in physical anthropology from New York University. She is a NIH NRSA Post-doctoral Fellow at Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Bergey's research aims to understand how organisms adapt to their environment with a focus on the evolution of complex, polygenic traits. She uses a variety of genomic approaches to understand the effects of past selection on modern medically-relevant phenotypes, testing evolutionary hypotheses in humans, non-human primates, and disease vectors.