

**6TH ANNUAL  
JACK GLAZIER ENDOWED  
ANTHROPOLOGY LECTURE**

**CAREWORK, KINSHIP,  
and CHILD THRIVING  
in the CARIBBEAN**



**WED  
APRIL  
17<sup>TH</sup>**

**4:30 PM  
HALLOCK  
AUDITORIUM**  
*Reception to Follow*

The relationships between children and their caretakers are vitally important and influence psychological development, physical growth, and health across the lifespan. In many communities, families are fluid, reflecting specific responses to cultural practices and economic pressures. My research in working-class Caribbean communities examines the link between colonialism, global labor economies, parenting practices, and the health of children and their care-takers. In this talk, I explore the intersection of the core concepts in evolutionary studies of the family, including parental investment, extended kin care, and gender socialization, and regionally specific resource pressures and international adult labor migration patterns. Specifically, I will discuss my mixed method study on what happens in the lives of children whose families are unable to provide care. I am interested in how these children experience limited social and financial capital, as well as the impact of early occurrences of scarcity and deprivation on growth profiles. My current research builds on this study and investigates gendered migration and Caribbean identities surrounding parenthood. This work combines conventional studies in the human biology of growth and reproduction with ethnographic understandings of community, transnational labor systems, and gender.

**ROBIN G. NELSON**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**  
**SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY**

*Robin Nelson is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the Santa Clara College of Arts and Sciences a biological anthropologist who utilizes evolutionary theory in studies of familial dynamics and health outcomes for adults and children. Having conducted a decade of research in Jamaica, her more recent work explores the relationship between growth outcomes and residential context for Jamaican children. This project focuses on the growth and development of children living in state-sponsored residential childcare facilities. She is currently developing a project exploring the lives of Caribbean immigrants and their children in Toronto, Canada. With a focus on critical periods of growth and development, she investigates culturally salient forms of social and financial capital and the health of peoples from the Caribbean. In addition to this primary research, Robin and colleagues have worked extensively on issues surrounding sexual harassment and assault in field settings. She has published this work in a range of journals, including among others American Journal of Human Biology, DNA and Cell Biology, PLOS One, and American Anthropologist.*

**ABOUT JACK GLAZIER:** Jack Glazier taught anthropology at Oberlin College from 1971 until his retirement in 2013. The scope of his fieldwork included research in East Africa among subsistence farmers, Eastern European immigrants and their descendants in the American Midwest, and African Americans in the upper South. He sees anthropology as a unique discipline, combining the explanatory and generalizing goals of the sciences with the interpretive and historical sensibilities of the humanities. In the classroom and in his books and articles, he sought an understanding of human experience in wide ranging comparative terms while never losing sight of the distinctiveness of that experience in particular times and places. In honoring Jack Glazier, the lectureship bearing his name recognizes his scholarly and professional contributions to an encompassing anthropology and to the liberal education of Oberlin students.