

Tina Lasisi

Assistant Professor | University of Michigan
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Education

- 2015—2021 **Ph.D.**, Biological Anthropology
Doctoral dissertation: “The genetic architecture and evolutionary function of human scalp hair morphology” [digital copy available]
Advisors: Drs. Nina Jablonski and Mark Shriver
The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Anthropology
- 2011—2014 **B.A.**, Archaeology and Anthropology (First Class Honours)
Undergraduate dissertation: “Human hair diversity: quantitative variation of hair fibre shape and pigmentation”
Advisor: Dr. Colin Shaw
University of Cambridge, Department Archaeology and Anthropology,
Division of Biological Anthropology

Academic Appointments

- 2023—present **Assistant Professor**
University of Michigan
Department of Anthropology
Additional affiliations: Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology,
Michigan Institute for Data & AI In Society (MIDAS),
Genome Science Training Program (Center for Statistical Genetics),
Center for Computational Medicine & Bioinformatics,
African Studies Center,
Center for Global Health Equity,
Center for Ethics, Society, and Computing
- 2022—2023 **Postdoctoral Researcher**
Supervisors: Drs. Michael (Doc) Edge & Jazlyn Mooney
University of Southern California
Department of Quantitative and Computational Biology
- 2021—2022 **Postdoctoral Researcher**
Supervisor: Dr. Nina Jablonski
The Pennsylvania State University
Department of Anthropology

Awards and Recognition

- 2024 The AABA and Leakey Foundation Communication & Outreach Award in Honor of Camilla Smith [link](#)
- 2023 *Popular Science Brilliant 10* — Annual list of ten early-career U.S. scientists deemed “on the cusp of changing the world”; selected from hundreds of nominations. [\[link\]](#)
- 2022 *Science News SN 10: Scientists to Watch* — Annual list of ten early- and mid-career researchers nominated by Nobel laureates or National Academy members and judged for future impact. [\[link\]](#)
- 2022 Jon C. Graff, PhD Prize for Excellence in Science Communication — Awarded by the Society for Science to one member of its annual “SN 10: Scientists to Watch” list of 10 early- and mid-career researchers. [\[link\]](#)
- 2021 Video Contest 1st Place Winner, Graduate Student Exhibition, Penn State
- 2018 Millennium Science Pitch Competition with PPG Industries, Penn State
- 2018 Juan Comas Prize, American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA)
- 2018 Video Contest 3rd Place Winner, Graduate Student Exhibition, Penn State
- 2014 The Corpus Christi Prize and Studentship, University of Cambridge
- 2014 Examination Prize, University of Cambridge
- 2013 The Manners/Corpus Scholarship, University of Cambridge

Research Grants

- 2026–2028 Leakey Foundation Grant — *Comparative primate phenomics approach to the evolution of integumentary modularity*. (\$24,972). **Role: PI**
- 2019–2022 Wenner–Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant — *Investigating the thermoregulatory function, genetic architecture, and evolutionary history of human scalp hair morphology*. (Gr. 9911) (\$19,700). **Role: PI**
- 2019–2022 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant — *Doctoral Dissertation Research: Investigating the genetic architecture and adaptive characteristics of human hair*. (DDIG No. 1847845) (\$31,703). **Role: PI**

Fellowships and Other Funding

- 2024 5×5 Incubator Grant, Humanities Collaboratory (LSA, University of Michigan). Team grant; six members across the four subfields of Anthropology. Duration: 6 months. Award: \$500 to Lasisi (team total \$3,000). **Role: Team member.**
- 2019 Africana Research Center Grant, Penn State (\$1,000). **Role: PI**
- 2019 Hill Post-Comprehensive Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, Penn State (\$5,000).
- 2019 William T. Sanders Graduate Award, Department of Anthropology, Penn State (\$300).
- 2018 RGSO Conference Travel Award, Penn State (\$400).
- 2018 Liberal Arts External Funding Incentive Award (\$500).
- 2018 Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics Scholarship, University of Washington (\$1,950).
- 2018 Hill Pre-Comprehensive Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, Penn State (\$2,000).
- 2017 RGSO Graduate Student Travel Award, Penn State (\$400).
- 2013 Dissertation Research Fund Award, University of Cambridge (£300).

Peer-Reviewed Publications

* Denotes trainees supervised by me.

Published

- 2026 Pryor, Y.*, Ranka, V.*, Donadio, J. P., Muller, S. C., Wilson, J.* & **Lasisi, T.** National and state-level datasets of United States forensic DNA databases 2001–2025. (In Press) *Scientific Data*. *arXiv* preprint: [<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2511.11953>]
- 2026 Pryor, Y.*, He, J.*, Kang, J., Jenkins, B. & **Lasisi, T.** Optical Limits in Skin Reflectance Measurement: Quantifying Melanin-Dependent Constraints on Erythema Detection. (In Press) *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*. *bioRxiv* preprint: [<https://doi.org/10.64898/2025.12.22.696093>]
- 2024 **Lasisi, T.** A most peculiar parasol: exploring thermoregulation through human hair curl. *Temperature*, 11(1), 1–3. (Invited Commentary). doi: 10.1080/23328940.2023.2279032
- 2023 **Lasisi, T.**, Smallcombe, J. W., Kenney, W. L., Shriver, M. D., Zydney, B., Jablonski, N. G., & Havenith, G. Human scalp hair as a thermoregulatory adaptation. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(24), e2301760120. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2301760120
- 2021 **Lasisi, T.**, Zaidi, A. A., Webster, T. H., Stephens, N. B., Rutch, K., Jablonski, N. G., & Shriver, M. D. High-throughput phenotyping methods for quantifying hair fiber morphology. *Scientific Reports*, 11, 11535. doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-90409-x
- 2021 **Lasisi, T.** The constraints of racialization: How classification and valuation hinder scientific research on human variation. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 175(2), 376–386. doi: 10.1002/ajpa.24264
- 2019 Quillen, E. E., Norton, H. L., Parra, E. J., Lona-Durazo, F., Ang, K. C., Illiescu, F. M., Pearson, L. N., Shriver, M. D., **Lasisi, T.**, Gokcumen, O., Starr, I., Lin, Y.-L., Martin, A. R., & Jablonski, N. G. Shades of complexity: New perspectives on the evolution and genetic architecture of human skin. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 168(Suppl 67), 4–26. doi: 10.1002/ajpa.23737
- 2019 Fuentes, A., Ackermann, R. R., Athreya, S., Bolnick, D. A., **Lasisi, T.**, Lee, S.-H., McLean, S. A., & Nelson, R. G. AAPA Statement on Race and Racism. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 169(3), 400–402. doi: 10.1002/ajpa.23882
- 2018 **Lasisi, T.**, & Shriver, M. D. Focus on African diversity confirms complexity of skin pigmentation genetics. *Genome Biology*, 19, 13. (Invited Commentary; no traditional page range available). doi: 10.1186/s13059-018-1395-3
- 2018 Dadzie, O. E., **Lasisi, T.**, & Jablonski, N. G. The anthropology of human scalp hair. In *Dermatoanthropology of Ethnic Skin and Hair* (eds. Vashi, N. A. & Maibach, H. I.), pp. 315–330. Springer International Publishing. (Book chapter). doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-53961-4
- 2016 **Lasisi, T.**, Ito, S., Wakamatsu, K., & Shaw, C. N. Quantifying variation in human scalp hair fiber shape and pigmentation. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 160(2), 341–352. doi: 10.1002/ajpa.22971

In Review

- Palma-Martínez, M. J., Posadas-García, Y. S., López-Ángeles, B. E., Quiroz-López, C., Lewis, A. C. F., Bird, K. A., **Lasisi, T.**, Zaidi, A. A., & Sohail, M. The multi-scale complexity of human genetic variation beyond continental groups. *bioRxiv* preprint: [<https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.12.11.627824>]

Editorial Work

- 2023 Zaidi, A. A., Fox, K., Claw, K. G., & **Lasisi, T.**, eds. (2023). *The Ethics and Challenges of Studying the Genetics of Marginalized Populations*. Lausanne: Frontiers Media SA. doi: 10.3389/978-2-8325-3424-3.

Served as corresponding editor overseeing the editorial process and thematic direction of the Research Topic, which includes 9 peer-reviewed articles and 1 editorial overview. As of June 2026, the Research Topic has received 85,403 total views, 64,917 article views, 16,507 article downloads, and 3,979 topic views. [Research Topic link]

Open-Source Research Products

Datasets

- 2025 Pryor, Y.*, Ranka, V.*, Donadio, J. P., Muller, S. C., Wilson, J.*, & **Lasisi, T.** United States forensic DNA databases: NDIS, SDIS, and FOIA datasets. *Zenodo*. [Link to dataset]
- 2020 **Lasisi, T.** Real and simulated cross-sectional and longitudinal images of hair. *Zenodo*. [Link to dataset, downloaded 399 times]

Protocols

- 2020 **Lasisi, T.** Sample preparation protocol for hair fiber curvature analysis. *Protocols.io*. [Link to protocol, viewed 449 times]
- 2020 **Lasisi, T.** Sample preparation protocol for cross-sectional microscopy of hair fibers. *Protocols.io*. [Link to protocol viewed 1,362 times]

Software

- 2020 **Lasisi, T.** *fibermorph*: high-throughput hair-morphology analysis in Python. [software]

Invited Talks

Keynotes, Named Lectures, and Distinguished Invitations

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| 2025 May | Atlantic Dermatological Conference | Evolutionary Origins and Genetics of Hair Texture. Keynote , Washington, DC, USA. |
| 2024 Oct | Montagna Symposium on the Biology of Skin | Pigmentation and Perception: Evolutionary Biology, Human Variation, and the Social Dimensions of Skin Color. Keynote , Stevenson, WA, USA. |
| 2024 Apr | Western University (Canada) | Hair as a Model for Phenotypic Complexity. <i>Annual Spence Lecture</i> , London, Ontario, Canada. |

Invited Colloquia and Seminars

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| 2025 Oct | University of Chicago | Race, Relatives, and Populations: Theory vs. Practice in Genetic Databases. Committee on Genetics, Genomics & Systems Biology Seminar, Chicago, IL, USA. |
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2025 May	SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University	Measuring and Understanding Skin, Hair, and Human Variation. Department of Dermatology Grand Rounds, Brooklyn, NY, USA. [Virtual]
2024 May	University of Michigan	Why Care About Hair? Phenotypic Complexity & Admixture. Center for Statistical Genetics Seminar, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.[Virtual]
2022 Apr	University of Zurich	Hair, Skin & Racialization: An Evolutionary Perspective. Department of Anthropology Colloquium, Zurich, Switzerland. [Virtual]
2022 Mar	University of Pennsylvania	Sense & Salience: Measuring What Matters in Hair and Skin. Department of Anthropology Colloquium, Philadelphia, PA, USA. [Virtual]
2022 Feb	Rutgers University	Hair, Skin & Racialization in Human Evolutionary Biology. Department of Anthropology Colloquium, New Brunswick, NJ, USA. [Virtual]
2021 Nov	University of Texas at Austin	Human Hair Evolution: Reframing Form & Function. Department of Anthropology Seminar Series, Austin, TX, USA. [Virtual]
2021 Nov	Yale University	Quantifying Bias in Constructed Categories of Hair and Skin. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Seminar Series, New Haven, CT, USA. [Virtual]
2021 Sep	Duke University	Hair, Skin & Bias: The Cost of Convenient Categories for Continuous Phenotypes. Department of Evolutionary Anthropology Seminar Series, Durham, NC, USA. [Virtual]
2021 Jun	University of Oxford	From Classification to Quantification: Hair Morphology. Archaeological Science Seminar Series, School of Archaeology, Oxford, UK. [Virtual]
2021 Jan	University of Victoria	Phenotyping & Evolutionary Genomics: What We Can Learn from Studying Hair Morphology. Department of Anthropology Colloquium, Victoria, BC, Canada. [Virtual]
2020 Nov	New York University	What's in a Trait? Genomes, Phenomes and Scientific Narratives of Racialized Traits. Center for the Study of Human Origins Colloquium, Department of Anthropology, New York, NY, USA. [Virtual]
2020 Oct	University of Michigan	Measuring Hair & Skin: The Importance of Phenotypes in Evolutionary Genomics. Genetics, Evolution, and Human Behavior Seminar, Department of Anthropology, Ann Arbor, MI, USA. [Virtual]
2019 Feb	Chatham University	The Richest Ornament of a Woman: Hair, Race, and the White Male Gaze in Human Evolutionary Theory. Women's Institute Distinguished Lecture Series & Sciences Department Seminar, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.
2018 Oct	University of Cambridge	The Nearly Naked Ape: Human Evolution Just Got Hairier. Biological Anthropology Seminar Series, Cambridge, UK.

Other Invited Presentations

2024 Oct	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory	Genetic Surveillance and the Weight of Historical Bias. <i>Banbury Center Meeting: "An Indigenous Reference Genome: Ethical, Cultural, Policy, and Governance Considerations"</i> , Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA.
2023 Apr	American Museum of Natural History	SciCafe: At the Root of Human Hair. New York, NY, USA.
2023 Mar	American Academy of Dermatology (AAD)	When Self-Identity Is Challenged in Dermatology: Clinical Implications for Alopecia Areata & Vitiligo. <i>AAD Annual Meeting</i> , New Orleans, LA, USA.
2021 Aug	Pixar Animation Studios	Understanding Human Phenotypic Diversity: Hair Morphology, Pigmentation, and Admixture. [Virtual]
2020 Oct	Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History	How Hair Reveals the Futility of Race Categories. <i>Human Origins Today (HOT) Topic Series</i> . [Virtual]

Selected Conference Presentations

Podium Presentations

2025	Lasisi, T. , Mooney, J., & Edge, M. D. Materializing racial inequities: kinship, overrepresentation, and genetic surveillance in forensic DNA databases. <i>94th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA)</i> , Baltimore, MD, USA.
2024	Lasisi, T. Genetics and hair texture: evolution of hair diversity. <i>Montagna Symposium on the Biology of Skin</i> , Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA, USA.
2022	Tapanes, E., Lasisi, T. , Kamilar, J. M., & Bradley, B. J. Genomics and cellular biology of primate pigmentation: lessons from other taxa. <i>91st Annual Meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA)</i> , Denver, CO, USA.
2021	Lasisi, T. Studying hair morphology in African and African-descendant populations. <i>90th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA)</i> , Baltimore, MD, USA. [Virtual]
2021	Lasisi, T. , Smallcombe, J., Shriver, M. D., Kenney, W. L., Havenith, G., & Jablonski, N. G. Hair fiber morphology and function: at the intersection of anthropology, physiology, and engineering. <i>Experimental Biology Conference</i> , Indianapolis, IN, USA. [Virtual]
2019	Lasisi, T. , Zaidi, A., Webster, T. H., Jablonski, N. G., & Shriver, M. D. New insights into human hair variation: high-throughput phenotyping paves way for genome-wide association studies and selection screens. <i>88th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA)</i> , Cleveland, OH, USA.

Poster Presentations

* Denotes trainees supervised by me.

- 2025 Heald, L. *, Li, M., Kang, J., Abhimanyu, A., Coussens, A. K., Naude, C. E., Chaplin, G., Pearson, L. N., Goliath, R., Shriver, M. D., Wilkinson, R. J., Jablonski, N. G., & **Lasisi, T.**, Pigmentation, seasonality, and genetics: Evaluating inner arm and forehead measurements in two South African groups. *94th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA)*, Baltimore, MD, USA.
- 2025 Contreras, P. *, **Lasisi, T.** Coping with water insecurity: women's strategies and emotional responses in Iztapalapa, Mexico City. *Human Biology Association (HBA) Annual Meeting*, Baltimore, MD, USA.
- 2025 Graham, C., Roistacher, A., Ladner, J., Contreras, P., **Lasisi, T.**, Becker, D., Simmons, N., Fenton, M. B., & Speer, K. Understanding the association between introgression, immunogenetic variation, and viral diversity in Belizean bats. *104th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM)*, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA.
- 2025 Graham, C., Roistacher, A., Ladner, J., Contreras, P., **Lasisi, T.**, Becker, D., Simmons, N., Fenton, M. B., & Speer, K. Understanding the association between introgression, immunogenetic variation, and viral diversity in Belizean bats. *International Symposium on the Infectious Diseases of Bats (Bat ID 2025)*, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA.
- 2022 Palma Martínez, M., Posadas García, Y., Quiroz López, C., **Lasisi, T.**, Bird, K. A., Zaidi, A., & Sohail, M. Challenging continental groupings of humans using a data-driven approach. *72nd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG)*, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
- 2019 Shriver, M. D., White, J. D., **Lasisi, T.**, Eller, R. J., Gonzalez-Zarzar, T., Indencleef, K., Li, J., Hoskens, H., Ortega-Castrillon, A., Zaidi, A., Weinberg, S. M., Wysocka, J., Walsh, S., Akey, J. M., & Claes, P. SNPs discovered in European GWAS shape worldwide facial diversity. *88th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA)*, Cleveland, OH, USA.
- 2018 **Lasisi, T.**, Ito, S., Wakamatsu, K., Shriver, M. D., & Jablonski, N. G. More than meets the eye: what chemical analyses can reveal about hair color. *87th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA)*, Austin, TX, USA.
- 2018 Jablonski, N. G., **Lasisi, T.**, Abhimanyu, A., Coussens, A. K., Naude, C. E., Chaplin, G., *et al.* Variation in skin reflectance and pigmentation genes in young adults of Xhosa and Cape Mixed ancestry from the Western Cape, South Africa. *87th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA)*, Austin, TX, USA.
- 2017 **Lasisi, T.**, Jablonski, N. G., Shriver, M. D., Kenney, W. L., & Havenith, G. Thermoregulatory properties of hair: is human hair morphology adaptive? *17th International Conference on Environmental Ergonomics (ICEE)*, Kobe, Japan.

Symposia and Conference Sessions Organized

- 2024 Zavala, E., Tamburrini, C., & **Lasisi, T.** (Co-Organizer). Genetics, molecular biology, and the future of forensic science. *Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE) Annual Meeting*, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.
- 2022 **Lasisi, T.** & Schaefer, B. (Co-Organizer). Integumentary anthropology. *91st Annual Meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA)*, Denver, CO, USA.

Trainees

Current

Postdoctoral Researcher

Yemko Pryor University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology (postdoctoral advisor; since 2025)

Doctoral Students

Junhui He Tsinghua University – visiting PhD at U-M School of Public Health, Biostatistics (co-advisor during visit; expected defense 2026)

Gayathri Venkatraman University of Michigan, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (committee member; expected defense 2028)

Master's Students

Virum Ranka University of Michigan Data Science (research supervisor; expected graduation 2027)

Jenna Wilson University of Michigan Medical School, Human Genetics (research supervisor; expected graduation 2026)

Undergraduate Students

Sanaa Devgan U-M Neuroscience (research supervisor; expected graduation 2028)

Elena Ruiz U-M Biology, Health & Society (research supervisor; expected graduation 2028)

Laine Ostheimer U-M Biochemistry (research supervisor; expected graduation 2028)

Nicholas Lusardi U-M Astronomy (UROP research supervisor; expected graduation 2028)

Morgan Morris U-M Neuroscience (UROP research supervisor; expected graduation 2028)

Stella Booydegraaff U-M Social Work (research supervisor; expected graduation 2028)

Former

Doctoral Students

Paloma Contreras U-M Anthropology (dissertation co-chair; defended 2026)

Taylor Spencer U-M Anthropology (dissertation chair; defended 2024)

Master's Students

Manqing Lin U-M Statistics (research supervisor; graduated 2025)

Kianna Hendricks North Carolina A&T State University, Data Science & Engineering (thesis committee member; graduated 2025)

Undergraduate Students

Aiswarya Saravanan U-M Neuroscience / Medical Anthropology (senior thesis supervisor; graduated 2026)

Lily Heald U-M Statistics / Human Origins, Behavior & Biology (senior thesis supervisor; graduated 2026)

Alec Yueh U-M Political Science (research supervisor; graduated 2025)

Teaching

Online Courses at University of Michigan with Coursera

Launching June 2026	Rethink How You Decide with AI Systems Thinking for AI & Automation
Launched July 2024	AI-Powered Data Analysis: A Practical Introduction (4,876 students enrolled, 4.5 star rating [link])

Instructor of Record

Winter 2026	ANTHRBIO/ANTHRARC 369: Honors Thesis Seminar
Winter 2026	ANTHRBIO/ANTHRCUL 342: Nature/Culture Now!
Fall 2025	ANTHRBIO 469: Evolution and Biology of Hair and Pigmentation
Fall 2025	ANTHRBIO 471: Measuring Human Traits (Lab)
Winter 2025	ANTHRCUL 101: Introduction to Anthropology
Winter 2025	ANTHRBIO/ANTHRCUL 342: Nature/Culture Now!

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2017	ANTH 021: Introduction to Biological Anthropology, Penn State
Spring 2016	ANTH 045: Cultural Anthropology, Penn State
Fall 2015	ANTH 001: Introductory Anthropology, Penn State

Committees, Boards & Leadership Roles

2024—Current	Black in Biological Anthropology (BiBA), President of the Board of Directors
2020—Current	Black in Biological Anthropology (BiBA), Member & Co-founder
2018—2019	Committee on Diversity - International Subcommittee, AABA, Co-Chair
2017—2019	Committee on Diversity, AABA, Member

Invited Workshops and Panels (Selected)

2024 Oct	Banbury Center Meeting on “An ‘Indigenous Reference Genome’: Ethical, Cultural, Policy, and Governance Considerations,” Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA
2023 Nov	NHGRI Workshop “Advances in the Genetic Architecture of Complex Human Traits,” Bethesda, MD, USA
2023—2024	Advisor, Race Education Working Group, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Peer Review

Reviewer for: Journal of Investigative Dermatology, Journal of Microscopy, PLOS ONE, Evolutionary Anthropology, Frontiers in Genetics, eLife, American Journal of Biological Anthropology, British Journal of Dermatology, Evolutionary Human Sciences.

University Service

University of Michigan

2025—Current	Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of Anthropology, Member
2023—Current	STEM-Africa, African Studies Center, Member
2023—2025	Collective Action Committee, Department of Anthropology, Member

Penn State

2018—2019	Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA), President
2017—2019	AGSA Welfare Committee, Founder & Chair
2017—2019	AGSA Outreach Committee, Founding Member
2017—2018	AGSA, Secretary
2018—2020	Black Graduate Student Association, IT Chair

Selected Professional, Advisory, and Public Engagements

Panels, Workshops, and Discussant Roles

2025 Mar	<i>Race, Racism, and Diversity: Education Committee Workshop</i> — Discussant. 94th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA), Baltimore, MD.
2025 Mar	<i>Community Dialogue on Race, Racism, and Diversity</i> (AABA conference-adjacent event) — Discussant. OpenWorks Baltimore, MD.
2024 Oct	Banbury Center Meeting, “An ‘Indigenous Reference Genome’: Ethical, Cultural, Policy, and Governance Considerations,” - Participant/Speaker. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, NY.
2024 Apr	<i>Combating Race Science: Strategies for Anthropologists</i> — Discussant. 93rd Annual Meeting of the AABA, Los Angeles, CA.
2023 Nov	NHGRI Workshop, “Advances in the Genetic Architecture of Complex Human Traits,” Bethesda, MD.
2023 Feb	Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture & NHGRI, <i>Historically Speaking: Next Generation of Black Leaders in Genetic Science</i> — Panelist. Washington, DC.
2023 Jan	PBS Television Critics Association (TCA) Winter Press Tour — Panelist. Pasadena, CA.
2022 Jul	Summer Internship for Indigenous Peoples in Genomics (SING) Canada Social Media Workshop — Panelist. [Virtual]
2021 Nov	<i>Bringing Truth to a Post-Truth World: How Anthropologists Engage and Assess Their Science Communication</i> — Panelist. 90th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), Baltimore, MD. [Virtual]

Advisory, Consultancy, and Educational Engagements

2022–Present	Consultant, Howard Hughes Medical Institute BioInteractive — Developed educational modules on human variation and evolution.
2023–2024	Advisor, Race Education Working Group, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.
2022–2024	Consultant, Microsoft Research — Consulted on representation and equitable sampling in human variation datasets.
2022–2023	Consultant, LabXchange (Harvard University & Amgen Foundation) — Developed educational content on human biological variation.

Selected Popular Media and Educational Outreach

Screen, Series, and Educational Broadcast Work

2024 Mar	<i>Hairy Tales — The Nature of Things</i> (CBC). Featured expert for a full episode on the science and evolution of hair. [link to episode info]
2022–2023	<i>Why Am I Like This?</i> (PBS Terra) — Host & writer across a multi-episode science-education series. Series premiered July 21 2022. [series link] — Recognized by the Telly Awards. [Telly Awards coverage]
2017–2018	<i>Finding Your Roots: The Seedlings</i> — Instructor / workshop-leader for the summer genetics & genealogy camp; Emmy-recognized educational web series. [2018 Mid-Atlantic Emmy wins]

Podcasts (Selected)

2025 Feb	<i>Science Quickly</i> (Scientific American) — “Where Did Curly Hair Come From? Biological Anthropology May Provide Insights.” [episode]
2024 May	<i>Origin Stories</i> (Leakey Foundation) — “The Story of Human Hair with Tina Lasisi.” [episode]
2023 Aug	<i>The Decibel</i> (The Globe and Mail) — “The evolutionary advantage of curly hair.” [episode]
2023 Jun	<i>Science Friday</i> — “Curly Hair Keeps Your Scalp Cooler.” [segment]
2023 Feb	<i>Ologies with Alie Ward</i> — “Melaninology (SKIN/HAIR PIGMENT) with Dr. Tina Lasisi.” [episode]
2023 Jan	<i>Big Biology</i> — “Ep 95: Why are we like this? (with Tina Lasisi).” [episode]
2022 Jul	<i>BBC CrowdScience</i> — “What is Healthy Hair?” [episode]
2022 Feb	<i>Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness</i> — “Hair Variation, What’s Her Story?” [episode]
2021 Dec	<i>In Those Genes</i> — “Black To The Future (S2:E2).” [episode]
2019 Oct	<i>Sausage of Science</i> — “SoS 51: A Hairy History with Tina Lasisi.” [episode]
2019 Jul	<i>Super Awesome Science Show (SASS)</i> — “Bad hair days.” [episode]

Selected Media coverage

(Titles hyperlinked)

Hair Thermoregulation (PNAS, 2023)

2025 Jul	Wall Street Journal — Hair Kept Our Ancestors’ Brains Cool—and Gave Them an Evolutionary Advantage
2025 May	Encyclopaedia Britannica (Instagram) — Post highlighting thermoregulation work
2023 Jun	BBC Newsround — Curly hair may help keep your head cool, study suggests
2023 Jun	National Geographic — Why curly hair was an evolutionary advantage
2023 Jun	Smithsonian Magazine — Curly Hair Keeps the Head Coolest
2023 Jun	ScienceDaily — Life before air conditioning: Curly hair kept early humans cool
2023 Jun	The Independent — Curly hair may have evolved to keep early humans cool
2023 Jun	Science Friday — Curly Hair Keeps Your Scalp Cooler

Hair Methods (Scientific Reports, 2021)

2022 Mar	SAPIENS — Untangling Race From Hair
2021 Oct	NPR Short Wave — Here’s a better way to talk about hair

Membership in professional societies

American Association for Anthropological Genetics
American Association of Biological Anthropologists
American Society of Human Genetics
Black in Biological Anthropology Collective
Genetics Society of America
Skin of Color Society
Society of Investigative Dermatology