

Tina Lasisi, Ph.D.

Department of Anthropology
Pennsylvania State University
510 Carpenter Building
University Park, PA 16802
tpl5158@psu.edu | +1 814 777 6419

EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania State University

August 2015-April 2021

Doctor of Philosophy in Biological Anthropology

Department of Anthropology

Doctoral dissertation: "The genetic architecture and evolutionary function of human scalp hair morphology"

University of Cambridge

August 2011-May 2014

Bachelor of Arts, First Class Honours in Archaeology and Anthropology

Undergraduate dissertation: "Human hair diversity: quantitative variation of hair fibre shape and pigmentation"

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human phenotypic and genetic variation | Admixture | Hair fiber morphology and pigmentation | Thermoregulation | Science communication and education

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Researcher

May 2021-Current

Supervisor: Dr. Nina Jablonski

Department of Anthropology

The Pennsylvania State University

Anthropological Genomics Graduate Assistant

August 2015-April 2021

Advisors: Drs. Nina Jablonski and Mark Shriver

Department of Anthropology

The Pennsylvania State University

Undergraduate Research Assistant

August 2011-May 2014

Advisor: Dr. Colin Shaw

Department Archaeology and Anthropology

Division of Biological Anthropology

University of Cambridge

PUBLICATIONS

- Lasisi, T.**, Zaidi, A. A., Webster, T. H., Stephens, N. B., Rutch, K., Jablonski, N. G., & Shriver, M. D. (2021). High-throughput phenotyping methods for quantifying hair fiber morphology. *Scientific Reports*, *11*(1), 1–11.
- Lasisi, T.** (2021). The constraints of racialization: How classification and valuation hinder scientific research on human variation. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/ajpa.24264>
- 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. (2019). Shades of complexity: New perspectives on the evolution and genetic architecture of human skin. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *168 Suppl 67*, 4–26.
- Fuentes, A., Ackermann, R. R., Athreya, S., Bolnick, D., **Lasisi, T.**, Lee, S.-H., McLean, S.-A., & Nelson, R. (2019). AAPA Statement on Race and Racism. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *169*(3), 400–402.
- Lasisi, T.**, & Shriver, M. D. (2018). Focus on African diversity confirms complexity of skin pigmentation genetics. *Genome Biology*, *19*(1), 13.
- Dadzie, O. E., **Lasisi, T.**, & Jablonski, N. G. (2017). The Anthropology of Human Scalp Hair. In N. A. Vashi & H. I. Maibach (Eds.), *Dermatoanthropology of Ethnic Skin and Hair* (pp. 315–330). Springer International Publishing.
- Lasisi, T.**, Ito, S., Wakamatsu, K., & Shaw, C. N. (2016). Quantifying variation in human scalp hair fiber shape and pigmentation. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *160*(2), 341–352.

INVITED TALKS

- 2021 Jun 17 *From classification to quantification: hair morphology*. Archaeological Science Seminar Series, Oxford School of Archaeology.
- 2021 Apr 23 *Community involvement & representation(s) in biological anthropology*. UCLA Biological Anthropology DEI Graduate Group in collaboration with the UCLA Centre for Behavior, Evolution, and Culture.
- 2021 Jan 25 *Phenotyping & evolutionary genomics: what we can learn from studying hair morphology*. Spring Colloquium Series, University of Victoria Department of Anthropology.
- 2020 Nov 12 *What's in a trait? Genomes, phenomes and scientific narratives of racialized traits*. Center for the Study of Human Origins Fall 2020 Colloquia Series, NYU Department of Anthropology.
- 2020 Oct 28 *Measuring hair & skin: the importance of phenotypes in evolutionary genomics*. Fall 2020 Virtual: Series Genetics, Evolution, and Human Behavior, University of Michigan - Department of Anthropology & Evolution and Human Adaptation Program. October 28th.
- 2020 Oct 21 *How Hair Reveals the Futility of Race Categories*. HOT (Human Origins Today) Topic Series, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. October 21st.
- 2019 Feb 15 *The richest ornament of a woman: Hair, race and the white male gaze in human evolutionary theory*. Chatham University, Women's Institute Distinguished Lecture Series and Sciences Department Seminar Series. February 15th.
- 2018 Oct 17 *The Nearly Naked Ape: human evolution just got hairier*. University of Cambridge, Biological Anthropology Seminar Series. October 17th.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Lasisi, T.**, Smallcombe, J., Shriver, M. D., Kenney, W. L., Havenith, G., & Jablonski, N. G. (2020). Hair fiber morphology and function: at the intersection of anthropology, physiology, and engineering. *FASEB Journal: Official Publication of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology*, 34(S1), 1–1.
- Lasisi, T.** (2021). Studying hair morphology in African and African-descendant populations. *The 90th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Virtual*.
- Lasisi, T.**, Zaidi, A., Webster, T. H., Jablonski, N. G., & Shriver, M. D. (2019). *New insights into human hair variation: High-throughput phenotyping paves way for genome-wide association studies and selection screens*. In The 88th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (Vol. 168, pp. 137–137). Cleveland, Ohio, USA
- Shriver, M. D., White, J. D., **Lasisi, T.**, Eller, R. J., González-Zarzar, T., Indencleef, K., ... Claes, P. (2019). *SNPs discovered in European GWAS shape worldwide facial diversity*. In The 88th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Cleveland, Ohio USA
- Jablonski, N. G., **Lasisi, T.**, Abhimanyu, A., Coussens, A. K., Naude, C. E., Chaplin, G., ... Wilkinson, R. J. (2018). *Variation in skin reflectance and pigmentation genes in young adults of Xhosa and Cape Mixed ancestry from the Western Cape, South Africa*. In The 87th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (Vol. 162, pp. 228–228). Austin, Texas, USA
- Lasisi, T.**, Jablonski, N. G., Shriver, M. D., Kenney, W. L., & Havenith, G. (2017). *Thermoregulatory properties of hair: is human hair morphology adaptive?* In The 17th International Conference on Environmental Ergonomics (pp. 66–66). Kobe, Japan.

ACADEMIC FUNDING AND AWARDS

Video Contest 1st Place Winner, Graduate Student Exhibition, Penn State, \$500	April 2021
Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (Gr. 9911), \$19,700	October 2019
Africana Research Center Grant, Penn State, \$1,000	April 2019
Hill Post-Comprehensive Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, Penn State, \$5,000	March 2019
William T. Sanders Graduate Award, Department of Anthropology, Penn State, \$300	March 2019
National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (No. 1847845), \$31,703	March 2019
RGSO Conference Travel Award, Penn State, \$400	November 2018
Liberal Arts External Funding Incentive Award, \$500	August 2018
Millennium Science Pitch Competition with PPG Industries, Penn State, \$500	May 2018
Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics Scholarship, University of Washington, \$1,950	April 2018
Juan Comas Prize, American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA), \$500	April 2018
Video Contest 3rd Place Winner, Graduate Student Exhibition, Penn State, \$100	March 2018
Hill Pre-Comprehensive Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, Penn State, \$2,000	March 2018
RGSO Graduate Student Travel Award, Penn State, \$400	December 2017
The Corpus Christi Prize and Studentship, University of Cambridge	2014
Examination Prize, University of Cambridge	2014
The Manners/Corpus Scholarship, University of Cambridge	2013
Dissertation Research Fund Award, University of Cambridge, £300	2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecture

GEN ED 1027: Human Evolution and Human Health, Harvard	<i>Spring 2021</i>
ANTH 812: Current Topics in Anthropological Genetics, Yale	<i>Fall 2020</i>
BBH 302: Diversity and Health, Penn State	<i>Fall 2019</i>
ANTH 197: Anthropology, Ancestry, and You, Penn State	<i>Spring 2019</i>
ANTH 197: Anthropology, Ancestry, and You, Penn State	<i>Fall 2018</i>

Teaching Assistant

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

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Black in Biological Anthropology (BiBA) Collective, Co-founder and Leadership Council Member	<i>June 2020-Current</i>
Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA), Penn State, President	<i>May 2018-August 2019</i>
Committee on Diversity - International subcommittee, AAPA, Co-Chair	<i>April 2018-September 2019</i>
Black Graduate Student Association, Penn State, IT Chair	<i>January 2018-January 2020</i>
AGSA Welfare Committee, Penn State, Founder and Chair	<i>October 2017-September 2019</i>
AGSA Outreach Committee, Penn State, Founding Member	<i>September 2017-September 2019</i>
AGSA, Penn State, Secretary	<i>August 2017-May 2018</i>
Committee on Diversity, AAPA, Member	<i>April 2017-September 2019</i>

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Museum of Modern Art, New York, Research & Development Salon 33: Hair, Invited Contributor	<i>October 2019</i>
Bioinformatics and Genomics Retreat, Panel on Science Communication, Penn State, PA, USA, Panelist	<i>September 2019</i>
Addressing Challenges in Knowledge Production in the Black Diaspora, Spring Conference, Pan-African Professional Alliance, Penn State, PA, Panelist	<i>April 2019</i>
American Association of Physical Anthropology Statement on Race, Co-author	<i>March 2019</i>
Pan-Africanism Today Dialogue, Pan-African Professional Alliance, Penn State, PA, USA, Panelist	<i>February 2019</i>
Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre, London, UK, Invited Speaker	<i>October 2018</i>
Underground Science Festival, New York City, USA, Speaker and Panelist	<i>June 2018</i>
Extended Learning Program, Radiopark Elementary, PA, USA, Session Leader	<i>May 2018</i>
Graduate Women in Science, Penn State, PA, USA Workshop Leader	<i>November 2017</i>
Finding Your Roots, Genetics Summer Camp, Penn State, PA, USA, Instructor	<i>July 2017</i>

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Association for Anthropological Genetics
American Association of Physical Anthropologists
American Association for the Advancement of Science
Lambda Alpha: National Collegiate Honors Society in Anthropology

ADVANCED COURSEWORK

Association Mapping: GWAS and Sequence Data	<i>July 2018</i>
Population Genetics Data Analysis	<i>July 2018</i>
Introduction to Genetics and Genomics	<i>July 2018</i>
Visualizing Anthropological Data	<i>Spring 2018</i>
Human Behavioral Ecology Core	<i>Spring 2016</i>
Biological Anthropology Core	<i>Fall 2015</i>
Archaeology Core	<i>Fall 2015</i>

SKILLS

Computational skills	R (R Studio, tidyverse), Python (Numpy, OpenCV, Scikit-image)
Laboratory skills	Microscopy, hair sample preparation
Languages	English (native), Dutch (fluent), French (proficient), Bulgarian (conversational)