

AMY MORAN-THOMAS

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CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Associate Professor of Anthropology, MIT	2021 -
Alfred Henry and Jean Morrison Hayes Career Development Associate Professor of Anthropology, MIT	2019 - 2021
Alfred Henry and Jean Morrison Hayes Career Development Assistant Professor of Anthropology, MIT	2018 - 2019
Assistant Professor of Anthropology, MIT	2015 - 2018

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Anthropology Princeton University, Princeton NJ Dissertation: "Metabola: Chronic Life in Belize" Advisors: João Biehl and Carol Greenhouse	September 2012
Masters of Arts (MA) in Anthropology Princeton University, Princeton NJ; "Mark of Distinction"	May 2008
Bachelors of Arts (BA) in Literature American University Honors Program, Washington DC Senior Thesis: "Hookworm and History" <i>Summa cum laude</i> , Phi Beta Kappa	May 2005

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Medicine; Planetary Change and Human Health; Chronic Conditions; Material Histories of Design; Social Lives of Global Health Objects; Kinship as Critical Method; Environmental and Medical Humanities; Ethnographic Writing.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Wellcome Medal for Anthropology as Applied to Medical Problems Wellcome Trust and the Royal Anthropological Institute	2023
Harold E. Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award (MIT News) President and Faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2022
Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing, First Place Society for Humanistic Anthropology (SHA Reading on YouTube)	2021

SLACA Annual Book Prize, Awarded in 2021 for 2019 Books	
Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA)	2021
Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness Book Prize	
Medical Sociology Foundation, British Sociological Association	2021
Appreciation Award, Diabetes Foot Caregivers	
Diabetes Foot Care Group, Caribbean Diabetes Initiative	2019
Curl Essay Prize	
Royal Anthropological Institute	2014
David M. Schneider Prize	
American Anthropological Association	2011
Elsie Clews Parsons Medal	
American Ethnological Society	2011
Rudolph Virchow Graduate Paper Award	
Critical Anthropology of Global Health Group	2011
Science, Technology, and Medicine Paper Prize	
Science and Technology Interest Group, Society of Medical Anthropology	2011
Christine Wilson Paper Prize	
Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition	2008
Best Undergraduate Thesis Prize	
Department of Literature, American University	2005
Best Undergraduate Thesis Presentation	
Honors Program, American University	2005

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) Digital Seed Grant with co-PIs Dr. Tonya Haynes and Dr. Nicole Charles	2024-2026
Howard Foundation, Brown University STS Writing Fellowship	2024-2025
d'Arbeloff Award for Excellence in Education, Development Grant "Living Through Climate Change" Design and Launch @ MIT	2022-2023
Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich, Germany Rachel Carson Writing Fellowship	2016-2017
Department of Anthropology & Cogut Humanities Center, Brown University Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in International Humanities	2013-2015

Princeton School for Public & International Affairs Global Health Program, Postdoctoral Fellowship	2012-2013
Mellon-ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2011-2012
School of Public and International Affairs Society of Fellows Dissertation Writing Fellowship	2010-2011 (Declined 2011-2012)
Josephine De Kármán Trust Dissertation Completion Fellowship	(Declined, 2011-2012)

PUBLICATIONS

book

- 2020 Audiobook version of *Traveling with Sugar: Chronicles of a Global Epidemic*. Tantor Media. <https://www.audible.com/pd/Traveling-with-Sugar-Audiobook/1541435184>
- 2019 *Traveling with Sugar: Chronicles of a Global Epidemic*. Oakland: University of California Press. Book Open Access at MIT Libraries: <https://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/125712>

articles

- Under review. “Oil in Stereo: Ancestry Through Infrastructure.” *American Anthropologist*, for accepted special issue on “Intimate Ethnography.” Chris Walley and denielle elliot, eds.
- 2024 (with Susan Reverby). “On the Appearance and Disappearance of Difficult Histories: What Does it Take to Sustain Public Memory?” *American Journal of Public Health*, 114 (6): 564-68. <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2024.307643>
- 2021 “Oximeters Used to Be Designed for Equity. What Happened?” *Wired*, June 2021. <https://www.wired.com/story/pulse-oximeters-equity/>
- 2021 “Notes from a Fever Dream.” *Anthropology Now*, 13 (1): 11-24. Essay at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epub/10.1080/19428200.2021.1903487?needAccess=true>
- 2021 “One Hundred Years of Insulin for Some.” *New England Journal of Medicine*, July 2021. <https://dspace.mit.edu/bitstream/handle/1721.1/131131/One%20Hundred%20Years%20of%20Insulin%20for%20Some.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- 2020 “How a Popular Medical Device Encodes Racial Bias.” *Boston Review*, August 2020. <http://bostonreview.net/science-nature-race/amy-moran-thomas-how-popular-medical-device-encodes-racial-bias>

- 2019 “Inventing a Right to Health: Struggles for Maintenance, Patient Activism and Dialysis Dilemmas Amidst a Global Diabetes Epidemic.” *Global Public Health* 14 (6-7), 1044-57. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17441692.2019.1596292>
- 2019 “What is Communicable? Unaccounted Injuries and ‘Catching’ Diabetes in an Illegible Epidemic.” *Cultural Anthropology* 34(4), 471-502. <https://journal.culanth.org/index.php/ca/article/view/4023/480>
- 2017 “Glucometer Foils.” Special issue on “Little Development Devices/ Humanitarian Goods.” Peter Redfield and Alice Street, eds. *Limm*, Issue 9. https://dspace.mit.edu/bitstream/handle/1721.1/122649/Limm_Glucometer%20Foils.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
- 2016 “Breakthroughs for Whom? Global Diabetes Care and Equitable Design.” *New England Journal of Medicine* 375, 24: 2317-9. <https://dspace.mit.edu/bitstream/handle/1721.1/114597/nejmp1611475.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- 2009 “Symptom: Subjectivities, Technologies, and Social Ills” (with João Biehl). *Annual Review of Anthropology* 38: 267-88. <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-anthro-091908-164420>

articles in preparation

- In preparation. “Writing Chronic Conditions.” *Annual Review of Anthropology* (2025, invited review).
- In preparation. “Redacted Reckoning: An Anthropology of Institutional Silences After Tuskegee Researchers’ Experiments in Guatemala.” See associated Harvard Friday Seminar [here](#).

chapters in edited volumes

- Forthcoming “Mine: Kinship in Deep Time on the Pennsylvania Salient.” *Scholars and Their Kin*. Stéphane Gerson, ed. Volume under contract at University of Chicago Press.
- Forthcoming “Health, Food, Technology, and Nutrition.” (with Gabrielle Robbins). *Oxford Bibliographies in Anthropology*, edited by John Jackson.
- 2023 “Sweetness across Thresholds at the Edge of the Sea.” In *Eating Besides Ourselves: Thresholds of Foods and Bodies*. Heather Paxson, ed. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- 2021 “The Para-Communicable: Living Between Infectious and Non-Communicable Conditions.” In *Epidemiological Change and Chronic Disease: Social and Historical Perspectives*. Megan Vaughan, Kafui Adjaye-Gbewonyo, and Marissa Mika, eds. London: UCL Press.
- 2020 “How a Popular Medical Device Encodes Racial Bias.” Reprinted in [Thinking in a Pandemic](#). Matt Lord, ed. New York: Verso, Pp. 157-72.

- 2019 “Patient Activism and Dialysis Dilemmas Amidst a Global Diabetes Epidemic.” Reprinted in *Social Inequities and Contemporary Struggles for Collective Health in Latin America*. Emily Vasquez, Amaya Perez-Brumer, and Richard Parker, eds. London: Routledge. Chapter 19, Pp. 268-81.
- 2015 “Creation of Emergency and the Afterlife of Intervention: Reflections on Guinea Worm Eradication in Ghana.” In *Health and Humanitarianism: Ethnographies of Practice*. Catherine Panter-Brick & Sharon Abramowitz, eds. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- 2013 “Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic in a Disease Eradication Program.” In *When People Come First: Critical Studies in Global Health*, João Biehl and Adriana Petryna, eds. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Pp. 207-39.

other publications

- 2017 “Mine.” Fieldsights Forum, *Cultural Anthropology* Hot Spots series, January 18. David Bond and Lucas Bessire, eds. <https://web.archive.org/web/20181213223443/https://culanth.org/fieldsights/1039-mine>
- 2016 “I Didn’t Bring My Camera.” Book forum on Hervé Guibert’s *Cytomegalovirus: A Hospitalization Diary*, Eugene Raikhel, ed. *Somatosphere*, December. <http://somatosphere.net/forumpost/i-didnt-bring-my-camera>
- 2014 Review of *Malignant: How Cancer Becomes Us*, by S. Lochlann Jain. *American Ethnologist* 41(3): 607-8. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/amet.12100_16/full
- 2014 “The Pacification of Rio, as Observed from a Gondola.” *The Boston Review* May/June. <http://www.bostonreview.net/mayjune-2014>
- 2013 “Studying Unformed Objects: Integration.” Part of “Field Notes” series of the *Cultural Anthropology* website, with Michelle Murphy, Kathleen Stewart, and Britt Dahlberg. July 17.
- 2010 “The Paradox of Non-Communicable Epidemic: A Generational Perspective on Diabetes Care in Northern Ghana.” *West African Research Association News*, Spring, pg. 8.
- 2009 “Paradox, Disparity, Ethnography: Observations on the Spread of Diabetes in the Developing World.” *Anthropology News* 50, 4.

research mentions in the media

- Stat News*. “Pulse Oximeters and Their Inaccuracies Will Get FDA Scrutiny. What Took So Long?” <https://www.statnews.com/2022/11/01/pulse-oximeters-inaccuracies-fda-scrutiny/>
Usha Lee McFarling, November 1, 2022.

Harvard Kennedy School: Informing the News. [“Racial Disparities in Pulse Oximeter Readings: Research Roundup.”](#) Naseem Miller. July 22, 2022.

Boston Review. [“Reckoning with Racism in Medicine: A Reading List.”](#) December 3, 2022.

CNN. [“This Device is Crucial in the Fight against Covid. It May Not Work on Darker Skin.”](#)
Jacque Smith, February 20 2021.

Stat News. [“‘These Numbers are Incredibly Important’: Doctors and Lawmakers Call on FDA to Address Racial Disparities in Pulse Oximeters.”](#) Erin Brown and Nicholas St. Fleur,
February 10 2021.

New York Times. [“Pulse Oximeter Devices Have Higher Error Rate in Black Patients.”](#) Roni Caryn
Rabin, December 23 2020.

TRT World Magazine [Turkey]. [“Should Brown and Black People Worry about Oximeter Readings?”](#)
December 3, 2021.

Nature. [“Are Pulse Oximeters Racist?”](#) *Nature Daily Briefing*, August 10 2020.

policy uptake

“Senators Warren, Booker, Markey, Wyden, and Duckworth Renew Request for FDA to Address Concerns about Dangerous Pulse Oximeter Inaccuracies.” August 12, 2022. <https://www.warren.senate.gov/oversight/letters/senators-warren-booker-markey-wyden-and-duckworth-renew-request-for-fda-to-address-concerns-about-dangerous-pulse-oximeter-inaccuracies>

“Covid: [UK National Health Secretary] Sajid Javid Orders Review of Medical Device Racial Bias.” November 21, 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59363544>.

“Senators Warren, Booker and Wyden Urge FDA to Address Concerns about Dangerous Pulse Oximeter Inaccuracies for Patients of Color.” January 28, 2021. <https://www.warren.senate.gov/oversight/letters/senators-warren-booker-and-wyden-urge-fda-to-address-concerns-about-dangerous-pulse-oximeter-inaccuracies-for-patients-of-color>

“Now Opening in Belize City: The Country’s First Amputation Recovery Center.” <https://lovefm.com/the-rudolph-williams-diabetes-education-limb-salvage-and-prosthetic-center-officials-opens-its-doors/>

interviews and podcasts

Covid Calls. [“Episode 355: The Role of Medical Diagnostics in What We Know.”](#) In conversation with Adia Benton. October 2021.

Received Wisdom. [“The Politics of Expertise and Retelling the Story of Racial Bias in the Pulse Oximeter.”](#) In conversation with Shobita Parthasarathy and Jack Stilgoe. March 2023.

Flip the Script. [“Worry About Infra-Redlining.”](#) In conversation with Max Jordan Nguemeni Tiako, July 16 2021.

Real Food Reads. [“Book of the Month: Traveling with Sugar.”](#) In conversation with Tiffani Patton, May 2 2021.

RESEARCH AND TRAVEL FUNDS

MIT Environmental Initiative Seed Fund, Anthropology-EAPS Collaboration	2024-2025
Civic Technoscience with the Pennsylvania Center for Coalfield Justice	
MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	2024
SHASS Dean’s Research Fund, Public History Collaborations	
James A. and Ruth Levitan Research Prize in the Humanities	2020
School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	
MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	2017
SHASS Dean’s Research Fund	
Wenner-Gren Engaged Foundation for Anthropological Research	2014
Engaged Anthropology Grant	
Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research	
Dissertation Fieldwork Fellowship	
American Philosophical Society	2009-2010
Lewis & Clarke Fund Field Research Grant, Belize	
West African Research Association	2009
Pre-Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Ghana	
Princeton Program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies	2009
Faculty-Student Research and Publication Grant	
US Department of Education - UNC Chapel Hill	2009
Foreign Language and Area Studies Grant, Yukatek Maya	
Rockefeller Archive Center, Tarrytown NY	2008
Grant-in-Aid, History of Global Health Research	
Princeton Program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies	2008
William Ebstein Summer Research Grant, Belize	

Princeton Grand Challenges Development Initiative	
Pan African Institute Research Grant, Ghana	2008
Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies	
Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Grant, Guatemala	2007
Office of the Dean, American University College of Arts and Sciences	
Dean's Research Grant, National Library of Medicine	2005

STUDY SUPPORT

Princeton University Presidential Fellowship	2006-2011
American University Presidential Fellowship	2001-2005

WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, AND COLLOQUIA

- Invited Talk: "[Oil in Stereo: Ancestry Through Infrastructure.](#)" Boston University Anthropology Lunch Colloquia. February 28, 2024.
- Invited Talk: "[Discriminating Devices: The Case of Pulse Oximetry.](#)" in conversation with Dr. Thomas Valley and Dr. Frazer Tessema. Harvard Medical School, Center for Bioethics, Program on Regulation, Therapeutics, and Law [PORTAL]. April 14, 2023.
- Invited Talk: "Writing Kinship," in conversation with Sarah Pinto, Beth Semel, and Hanna Garth. Department of Anthropology Alumni Series, Princeton University. February 2023.
- Invited Talk: "Futures of Equitable Device Design." Presented for "[Forum on Bias in Pulse Oximetry.](#)" organized by the American Federation of Scientists in conjunction with the FDA hearing about pulse oximeter bias. Washington, DC @Optica, November 2022.
- Colloquium: Multimodal reflections on *Traveling with Sugar* for class "Sugar: Cultivation, Circulation, Power," with Professors Elizabeth Ferry and Gregory Childs. Co-sponsored by the Brandeis University Mendel Center for Humanities and Latin American and Latinx Studies Program. Brandeis University, April 2022.
- Invited Talk: "Sweetness and What?: Afterlives of Sugar and the Fight to Recover from Diabetic Limb Injuries in the Caribbean." University of Oxford, October 2021.
- Seminar: "One Hundred Years of Insulin for Some." Medical Anthropology Seminar Series at University College of London (UCL) Anthropology, January 2021.
- Book Launch Symposium: *Traveling with Sugar: Chronicles of a Global Epidemic*, in conversation with Tonya Haynes. University of West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados. Virtual, with practitioners from Belize as discussants. IGDS/Nina Barrow Unit, November 2020.
- Invited Talk: "Medical Technologies and Plantation Legacies in the Caribbean Diabetes Epidemic." Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program, Co-Sponsored by Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies and Sawyer Seminar. University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 2020.

Invited Talk: “Repair Work: Diabetic Limb Salvage and What it Reveals about an Overlooked Epidemic.” Princeton Global Health Colloquium, co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology. October 2020.

Colloquium: “Race, Covid, and Medical Technology: Case of the Pulse Ox,” in conversation with Evelyn Hammonds. Harvard Critical Medical Humanities, October 2020.

Invited Talk: “Carbon and Kinship.” As part of “Scholars and Their Kin,” with Martha Jones, Kendra Field, Ed Ball, and Christine Bard. New York University, March 2020.

Invited Talk: “Mine: A Family History of Carbon, Race, Place, and Planetary Health.” Environmental Studies Program, Cunningham Lecture, Tufts University, February 2020.

Invited Talk: “Sugar Machine.” Brown University, Anthropology and Population Studies Working Group Colloquia Series, November 2019.

Invited Panelist: “Kinship as/against Dispossession.” As part of the Mellon Sawyer Seminar on “The Politics of Kinship.” Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, Tufts University, October 2019.

Invited Talk: “The Afterlives of Plantations: Implications for Contemporary Agriculture.” Burchard Scholars for the Humanities Fellows, March 2019.

Invited Talk: “Chronicles of a Global Epidemic.” University of Illinois Chicago, March 2019.

Workshop Presenter: “Diabetes Medical Technologies and the Problem of Maintenance.” MIT Insulin BioAccess Initiative, February 2019.

Invited Talk: “Chronic Conditions, Care Technologies, and the Problem of Maintenance.” MIT Globe Med, Spring 2019.

Invited Talk: “Sugar High: Thresholds Between Religion and Medicine”. Science, Religion, and Culture Program, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, March 2018.

Invited Talk: “Planetary Health and the Global Diabetes Epidemic.” Rachel Carson Center For Environment & Society, Munich, Germany, November 2017.

Workshop Presenter: “Pennsylvania Salient.” For “Volatile Futures/Earthly Matters,” organized by Joseph Masco and David Bond. Bennington University, May 2017.

Invited Talk: “Blood Sugar Beside Itself: Epidemic Diabetes in the Caribbean.” Harvard Friday Morning Seminar in Culture, Medicine, and Global Mental Health, Oct 2016.

Workshop Presenter: “Food’s Entanglements with Life.” Panel organized by Wim Van Daele and Heather Paxson. University of Oslo, Norway September 2016.

Workshop Presenter: “Things That Care: Humanitarian Goods.” Organized by Jamie Cross and Alice Street. University of Edinburgh, Scotland June 2015.

Invited Talk: “The Problem of Maintenance: Medical Technologies for Global Diabetes.” Series organized by Erica James, MIT Global Health & Medical Humanities Initiative, April 2015.

Invited Talk: “Medical Technologies and the Humanization of Care.” Organized by José Ricardo C. M. Ayres. Princeton University, November 2014.

Colloquia Participant: “Race and Citizenship in Science and Medicine.” Princeton Program in Latin American Studies “Race and Citizenship in the Americas” Research Network, 2013-2014.

Workshop Presenter: “Medical Humanitarianism in States of Emergency.” Organized by Catherine Panter-Brick and Sharon Alane Abramowitz. University of Florida, Feb 2013.

Invited Talk: “An Anthropology of the Global Diabetes Epidemic.” Tulane University Department of Anthropology, February 2013.

Workshop Presenter: “Food, Medicine Rights: How Do We Measure Social Determinants of Health?” Princeton Anthropology and Health Grand Challenges Initiative, May 2011.

Featured Artist and Exhibit Coordinator: “The Arts in Global Health.” Bernstein Gallery, School of Public and International Affairs Society of Fellows; Princeton. February 2011.

Workshop Presenter: “When People Come First: Social Innovation in Global Health.” Organized by João Biehl & Adriana Petryna. Princeton Institute of Interregional Studies, March 2010.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Importance of Equitable Design: Implications for Research and Care.” Invited Presentation at “Environmental and Social Determinants of Sleep Health and Sleep Disparities” Conference. Harvard Medical School, June 2023.

“Following Racially Biased Sensors, How Should We Approach the Algorithms and Models Trained on Distorted Data?” Conference presentation (co-authored with Valencia Joyner Koomson, Tufts Electrical Engineering and Computer Science). For Panel Discussion [“Equitable and Personalized Health.”](#) Social and Ethical Responsibilities in Computing Group, MIT Schwarzman College of Computing, April 2023.

“A Social History of Color in Medicine: Learning from the Past to Avoid Future Errors.” Conference presentation (co-authored with Adia Benton). Reviewed and endorsed by the executive board of the Society for Medical Anthropology, presented to the Open Oximetry Collective/ ISO Working Meeting. University of San Francisco, March 2023.

“Legacies of Coal: In Search of a Just Transition.” Faculty Moderator for Panel Discussion with Center for Coalfield Justice. Environmental Solutions Initiative, Spring 2023.

“Keystone View: A Restudy in Double Vision.” For Panel “Unsettling the Self,” organized by danielle elliot and Chris Walley. American Anthropological Association, Seattle, WA, November 2022.

“Case of the Oximeter: A Social Science Perspective on Unequal Medical Devices.” Presenter for Panel “Academic Medicine and the Engines of Racial Science” in “Reckoning with Race and Racism in Academic Medicine.” Johns Hopkins University, May 2022.

- “Futures of Infra-Redlining.” Presenter for panel on “Viral Inequity: Race, Technology, and the Pandemic,” organized by Ruha Benjamin. American Sociological Association, Chicago, August 2021.
- “Three Atmospheres: Segregated Infrastructures of Hyperbaric Chamber Access in the Caribbean Diabetes Epidemic.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver. November 2019.
- “Planetary Health, Nutritional Ecologies, and the Rise of Diabetes.” Institute for Social and Cultural Research Annual Conference. University of Belize, Belmopan. March 2019.
- “Communicability in Crisis: A Four-Field Dialogue.” Executive Session, Panel Co-Organizer (with Elizabeth Roberts) and Paper Presenter. American Anthropological Association Meeting: San Jose, November 2018.
- “Insurgent Archives: On the Unwritten, the Storied, and the Sentient,” organized by Julia Elyachar and João Biehl. Panel Discussant. American Anthropological Association Meeting: San Jose, November 2018.
- “Transatlantic Sugar: Reflections on Para-Communicable Conditions.” Conference on “Africa and the Epidemiological Imagination: A Critical History of Epidemiological Transition.” University College, London, UK. September 2018.
- “Filtering Global Health at the American Museum of Natural History.” Paper presentation (co-authored with Adia Benton). American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. December 2017.
- “Animate Thresholds: Diabetes and Chronic Life at the Edge of the Sea.” Roundtable workshop for “Eating Beside the Human: Intercalary Exchanges on Food’s Thresholds.” Society for the Study of Science and Society Conference, Boston. September 2017.
- “Struggles for Equitable Design: Black Box Medical Devices and Conundrums of Practice.” “Making and Doing” Installation, with Jose Gomez-Marquez ([MIT Little Devices Lab](#)). Society for the Study of Science and Society Conference, Boston. September 2017.
- “Blood Sugar: Scenes from the Diabetes Epidemic in Caribbean Central America.” Paper for “Epidemiography.” Society for Cultural Anthropology Meeting, Ithaca NY. April 2016.
- “What is Adherence, and When Should It Apply to Policy Makers?” Panel presentation, co-authored with Adia Benton. For conference: “Elimination: The Role of Science, Policy, and Advocacy.” Royal Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene: London, 2015.
- “Healthy Living Made Fun and Easy!?: Ironies of Education in the Global Diabetes Epidemic.” Paper Presentation for panel on “Ethics and Expertise,” organized by Sarah Vaughn and Kirk Fiereck. AAA Meeting: Denver, 2015.
- “ToxiCities: Exploring Contamination.” Panel Discussant. AAA Meeting: Denver, 2015.
- “Chemicalized Ecologies.” Paper Presentation and Panel Co-Organizer for “Metabolizing Environment: Anthropology of Metabolism Between Molecular and Eco-Political Scales,” with Nadine Levin. AAA Meeting: Washington DC, 2014.

- “Unfixed Intervals: Chronic Care and Making Time in Diabetes Triage.” Paper Presentation for Panel on Time and Metabolic Syndrome, organized by Jessica Hardin. SMA/SfAA Meetings: Albuquerque, NM 2014.
- “Waiting for the Hurricane: Chronic Disease and Life Between Storms in Belize.” Paper Presentation for double panel “Governing Catastrophe.” AAA Meetings: Chicago, 2013.
- “Creation of Emergency and the Afterlife of Intervention: The Guinea Worm Eradication Program in Ghana.” Paper Presentation. AAA Meeting: San Francisco, 2012.
- “Lines of Difference and Possibility in Medical Technology.” Panel Co-Organizer for Science, Technology and Medicine Interest Group. AAA Meetings: Montreal, 2011.
- “Kinship Electric: Technological Worms and the Parasitism of Americana.” Paper Presentation. American Anthropological Association Meeting: Montreal, 2011.
- “Diabetes and the Occult in Northern Ghana.” (Elise Clews Parsons Award Ceremony and Reading). American Ethnological Society Meeting: San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2011.
- “Diabetes during Ramadan: Medicine, Religion, and the Politics of Hunger.” Paper Presentation. American Ethnological Society Meeting: San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2011.
- “Constricted Geography of Metrics: Numbers and Occlusion in a Neglected Tropical Disease Control Program.” Paper Presentation. AAA Meetings, New Orleans, LA, 2010.
- “Corporate Philanthropy, ‘Neglected Tropical Disease,’ and the New Terrain of Corporate Humanitarianism” (with Ari Samsky). Paper Presenter and Co-Organizer of Panel “The Aid Complex”. Social Studies of Science and Society (4S) Meeting, Washington DC, 2009.
- “Paradoxes of Consumption: Notes on the Emergence of Diabetes in Northern Ghana.” Paper Presentation. Society for Medical Anthropology, Yale University, 2009.
- “Worms Politic.” Paper Presentation. American Comparative Literature Association, Harvard University, 2009.
- “Anecdote and Allegory in Health Policy Documents: The Role of Human Stories in Bureaucratic Evidence.” Paper Presentation. NE Modern Language Association, Boston 2008.
- “Metrics of Life: Emerging Medical Populations and Evidence-Making in Chronic Disease Care.” Paper Presentation. American Anthropological Association: San Francisco, CA, 2008.
- “A Comparative History of Hookworm Campaigns in Neglected Tropical Disease Control.” Paper Presentation. Association for Applied Anthropology Meeting: Memphis, TN, 2008.

COURSES TAUGHT

21A.319J/STS330.J: History and Anthropology of Medicine and Biology [graduate seminar]
MIT History, Anthropology, and STS, Fall 2021.

21A.XXJ: Ethnographic Writing [graduate seminar]
MIT Anthropology, Spring 2026.

21A.312: Planetary Change and Human Health

MIT Anthropology, Spring & Fall 2020, Fall 2022.

21A.508: Culture and Ethics in Science Fiction

MIT Anthropology, Fall 2019.

21A.311: The Social Lives of Medical Objects [[Profiled in MIT News](#)]

MIT Anthropology, Spring 2019, Spring 2023; Spring 2024.

21A.404: Living Through Climate Change

MIT Anthropology, Spring 2024.

21A.500/STS.075: Technology and Culture

MIT Anthropology, Fall 2016, Fall 2018.

21A.301: Disease and Health: Culture, Society, and Ethics

MIT Anthropology, Fall 2016, Fall 2018, Fall 2023.

21A.305/STS.062: Drugs, Politics, and Culture

MIT Anthropology, Fall 2015.

21A.00: Introduction to Anthropology

MIT Anthropology, Spring 2016 and 2017, Spring 2020.

21A.901/21A.902: From Plant, to Chemical, to Medicine (Independent Study)

MIT Anthropology, Fall 2016 - Spring 2017.

ANTH 1551: Techno-Ecologies: Health, Environment, and Culture in the Digital Age

Brown University, Spring 2015.

ANTH 1552: Environmental Change: Ethnographic Perspectives

Brown University, Spring 2014.

ANTH 1310: Anthropology of Global/International Health

Brown University, Spring 2014.

ANTH1305: Medical Humanities: Illness, Healing, and Culture

Brown University, Fall 2013.

GRADUATE STUDENTS SUPERVISED

Beth Semel – MIT HASTS Ph.D. Program, Dissertation Committee Member for Thesis “Speech, Signal, Symptom: Designing Voice Analysis Technologies for Mental Health Applications in the United States.” Completed degree in August 2019. Current Position: Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Princeton University.

Luísa Reis Castro – MIT HASTS Ph.D. Program, Generals Committee Member and Dissertation Committee Member for Thesis “Vectors of Health: Manufacturing Modified Mosquitoes in Brazil.” Completed degree in August 2021. Current Position: Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Southern California.

Gabrielle Robbins – MIT HASTS Ph.D. Program, Generals Committee Member 2020, Dissertation Committee Member for Thesis “Antimalarial Afterlives: Medicine for a Planetary Age from Madagascar.” Completed degree in August 2023. Current Position: Critical Studies

of Science, Technology, and Medicine Postdoctoral Fellow, Johns Hopkins University.

Timothy Loh – MIT HASTS Ph.D. Program, Generals Committee Member 2021, Dissertation Committee Member for Thesis “Entanglements of Language, Religion, and Disability: The Politics of Assistive Technologies for Deaf People in Jordan.” Completed degree in June 2024. Current Position: 2024-2027 Society of Fellows, Princeton University.

Alexander Rewegan – MIT HASTS Ph.D. Program, Generals Committee Member 2020, Dissertation Committee Member. Expected graduation in 2025.

Thelma Wang – MIT HASTS Ph.D. Program, Advising Committee Member 2023-present.

Madison Reddie – MIT Mechanical Engineering M.A. Program, Faculty Interlocutor, 2021-2022.

Emma Broder – Harvard History of Science Ph.D. Program, Generals Committee Member 2020.

Elena Sobrino – MIT HASTS Ph.D. Program, Generals Committee Member 2019.

Elizabeth Rule – MIT SHASS Diversity Predoc (from Brown University), 2018-19 Faculty Mentor.

UNDERGRADUATES SUPERVISED

Ash Zhiyue He - a social history of magnetoencephalography at the MIT Museum, 2023 UROP

Lia Hsu-Rodriguez - 21S Double Major Co-Advisor (Anthropology + Biology), class of 2021

Kayla Tabb - 21A Major Advisor (MIT Anthropology), class of 2020

Paige Omura - 21A Minor Advisor (Anthropology + Chemical Engineering), class of 2017

Kimberlee Manora – narrations of medical technologies for type 1 diabetes, 2017 UROP

Stephanie Kim – nutrition, food systems, and diabetes care in Central America, 2016 UROP

Ariana Habbestad – policy timeline of techniques used in guinea worm eradication, 2016 UROP

Sierra Weingartner -- water infrastructure policy in the history of global health, 2015 UROP

Catherine Johnson -- a cultural history of eradication policies and technologies, 2015 UROP

STUDENT AWARDS

Luísa Reis Castro won a Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship, a Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, an NSF Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, the 2020 Jane Goodall Award for Graduate Student Scholarship from the Animals & Society Section, and the 2020 Roy Rapport Graduate Student Prize from the Anthropology and Environment Society of the American Anthropological Association.

Beth Semel won the School for Advanced Research (SAR) Weatherhead Residential Scholar Fellowship, a Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, and an NSF Dissertation Fieldwork Grant.

Timothy Loh won a Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship, the Emslie Horniman Fieldwork Grant from the Royal Anthropological Institute, the 2020 Graduate Student Paper Prize from the Middle East Studies Association, the 2023 National Academy of Education Spencer Dissertation Fellowship, a 2023 SAPIENS Public Scholars for Anthropology of Technology Prize, and the 2023 Society for Linguistic Anthropology John Gumperz Graduate Student Essay Prize.

Gabrielle Robbins won a Martin Sustainability Fellowship, an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, a Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, the 2023 Robert M. Netting Graduate Fellows Essay Prize from the Cultural and Agriculture section of the American Anthropological Association, and 2023 MIT Graduate Woman of Excellence.

Ohyoon Kwon won a 2019 Kelly Douglas Fund travel grant for work on kin care and aftereffects of agent orange exposures in Vietnam; launched a medical humanities art exhibit at Weisner Student Art Gallery; and began medical school at University of Pennsylvania in 2022.

Cindy Xie co-won the 2023 James Howe Anthropology Paper Prize for her essay in the class “Planetary Change and Human Health” (honorable mention), and a Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center Travel Fellowship for research on planetary health in Cape Verde.

Paige Omura won the undergraduate fall 2016 Kelly Douglas Travel Fund Award from MIT to support her ethnographic research on malaria pharmacology at the New York Botanical Garden, as well as the 2016 James Howe Anthropology Paper Prize for her final essay in 21A.305: Drugs, Politics, and Culture.

Savanah Harshbarger won the 2014 Rudolf Virchow Award from the Society for Medical Anthropology for her essay, “For the Right Reasons: The Ethics of Medical Voluntourism and Perspectives on ‘Global Health Trip’ Student Participants” (final paper for Brown ANTH 1310: Anthropology of Global Health).

Lily Gutterman won a \$1,000 W.W. Norton & Co Writer’s Prize for her 2015 essay “Decelerating: A Personal Anthropology of Climate Change” (course project/final paper for Brown ANTH 1552: Environmental Change: Ethnographic Perspectives).

MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association
Society for Cultural Anthropology
American Ethnological Society
Society for Latin American & Caribbean Anthropology
Anthropology and Environment Society
Association for Political and Legal Anthropology
Society for Medical Anthropology
Society for Humanistic Anthropology

National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division.

Appointed to NAS Committee on the Use of Race and Ethnicity in Biomedical Research, 2023-24

Contributing Organizer for Friday Morning Seminar in Culture, Psychiatry, and Global Mental

Health at Harvard, led by Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good, Byron Good, Michael Fischer, 2017-

MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow

Faculty Mentor, supporting medical anthropologist Dr. Dina Asfaha, 2023-2025

Subcommittee for the Humanities and Social Sciences Requirement, Dean's Representative,

MIT School for Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, 2022-2024

Social and Ethical Responsibilities in Computing Faculty Fellow, completed collaborative

project with Prof. Marzyeh Ghassemi (CSCAIL) and Kelsey Gibbons (HASTS), Fall 2022

Climate Action Advisory Committee, MIT, 2018 - 2021

Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology Annual Book Prize Committee, 2022

Computing, Data, Anti-Racism Task Force, Social and Ethical Responsibilities in Computing, 2020

"Culture in Quarantine" Faculty Catalyst for MIT Undergraduate "Tunnel66 Project," started

in 21A.00 class during Covid lockdown (see ["Art Connects a Community in Quarantine"](#)), 2020

Member, Harvard Contemporary Latin American Anthropology Working Group, 2017-2021

Committee Member, History, Anthropology and STS (HASTS) Program Graduate Admissions,

Anthropology Representative, 2016-2018; 2023

Burchard Faculty Fellow at MIT School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, 2016-2017

Elsie Clews Parsons Prize Committee for American Ethnological Society Paper Committee, 2017

Faculty Mentor for Diversity Predoctoral Fellowship Program at MIT SHASS, 2016-2017

Charles Hughes Prize Committee for Society for Medical Anthropology Paper Committee, 2016

Faculty Affiliate of Science, Technology and Society (STS) Program at Brown, 2013-2015

Prize Committee Chair, Anthropology of Science, Technology, & Medicine Interest Group 2013

Project Coordinator for "Princeton Brazil Global Fellows" exchange network, brought ten

students to collaborate with faculty advisors at University of São Paulo Brazil, March 2013

Graduate Mentor for undergraduate students in Princeton's Health Grand Challenges Project "Social

Determinants of Health: Future of Global AIDS Treatment," 2007-2012

Peer Reviewer for National Science Foundation; University of California Press; *Cultural Anthropology*;

American Historical Review; *Social Science and Medicine*; *Biosocieties*; *Medical Anthropology*; *Global Public*

Health; *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*; and *Social and Ethical Responsibilities in Computing: Case Studies*

Editorial Board Member, *Current Anthropology*, board of editor Laurence Ralph, 2019 - present;

Medical Anthropology Quarterly, board of editor Alex Nading, 2021 - present