

Dina M. Asfaha

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023 Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Anthropology
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA

EDUCATION

2023 University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
PhD, Anthropology
Advisor: Professor Adriana Petryna

Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY
MA, Oral History

Barnard College of Columbia University, New York, NY
BA, Africana Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

medical anthropology, science and technology studies, infrastructure, sovereignty, sustainability, development, economic practices and collective cooperation, Horn of Africa, African/a studies, Black studies

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Owens, Kellie, Pamela Sankar, Dina M. Asfaha. 2023. "How Clinicians Conceptualize 'Actionability' in Genomic Screening." *Journal of Personalized Medicine*, 12 (x).

Works in Progress

forthcoming. "Medical Sovereignty, Self-Reliance, and Maternal Mortality in Eritrea." Black Feminist Health Science Studies (BFHSS) Collaboratory special issue, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*.

under review. Asfaha, Dina M. "agar HaQkaim: Designing an Underground Hospital in an Eritrean Warzone," in *Everyday Design-MakerX: From Margins to the Center*, edited by Chakanetsa Mavhunga. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

in progress. Asfaha, Dina M. "Infrastructure." *Oxford Bibliographies* in "Anthropology." Ed. John L. Jackson Jr. New York: Oxford University Press.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS/LECTURES

- 2023** [Invited lecture] *title forthcoming*. National Council of Eritrean Americans (NCEA) Conference. Seattle, WA. August 2.
- 2023** [Invited lecture] “Medical Sovereignty, Self-reliance, and Maternal Mortality in Eritrea.” Walter Rodney Seminar Series, Boston University Center for African Studies. Boston University. Boston, MA. March 27.
- 2023** [Invited lecture]. “Organic Clinicians and the Underground Hospital Network.” MIT Anthropology lecture series. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA. January 23.
- 2022** [Invited]. “Self-Defense.” Sponsored by Harvard University’s Asia Center and Department of Anthropology. Nuyorican Poets Cafe. New York, New York. December 8.
- 2022** [Invited panel by Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA)]. “Medical Sovereignty, Self-Reliance, and Maternal Mortality in Eritrea.” American Anthropological Association (AAA), “Black Feminist Health Science Studies Collaboratory: Transforming Medical Anthropology panel.” Seattle, WA. November 11.
- 2021** “Underground Hospital: Medical Sovereignty and Infrastructures of Recovery.” *Disrupted Lives* GRiSTS Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. October 28-30. [moved online due to COVID-19 pandemic]
- 2021** Paper reviewer. Black Feminist Health Science Studies (BFHSS) Collaboratory on “Racial Geographies of Health and Wellness.” May 14-16. [moved online due to COVID-19 pandemic]
- 2020** “Underground Hospital: Conceptions of Sovereignty.” 3rd Annual Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA) Conference. Havana, Cuba. March. [declined due to COVID-19 pandemic]
- 2019** [Invited lecture]. “Conflict Medicine.” Introduction to Medical Anthropology course. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA. December 2.
- 2019** “Guerrilla Warfare and the Legacies of Conflict Medicine.” American Anthropological Association (AAA), “Re-Imagining Africanist Medical Anthropology” panel. Vancouver, Canada. November.
- 2019** “Underground Hospital.” SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Student Summer Conference, “Environmental Stressors” panel, New York, NY. June.

- 2018** “Fugitive Planning in the Underground Hospital.” American Anthropological Association (AAA), “The Undercommons” panel, San Jose, CA. November.
- 2018** “Eritrean Diasporan Rituals & the Body.” 9th Summer Institute “New Geographies: Africa and African Diasporas.” Harriet Tubman Institute, York University. New York, NY. August.
- 2018** “Song, Sound, Time – In Tandem.” SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Student Summer Conference. New York, NY. June.
- 2018** “Sound & Song in the Eritrean Liberation Struggle.” Caribbean Studies Association (CSA): Education, Culture, and Emancipatory Thought in the Caribbean, “Emancipation in the Undercommons: Punishment, War, Finance” panel. Havana, Cuba. June.
- 2016** “From Repression to Revolution: Making Space for Eritrea.” 7th Annual Diversity in Research and Practice Conference: The Power of Representation in an Era of Invisibility. Teachers College, Columbia University. New York, NY. April.
- 2016** “From Repression to Revolution: Making Space for Eritrea.” Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) Regional Conference. Hunter College, CUNY. New York, NY. May.

PROJECTS/MEDIA/WORKSHOPS/EXHIBITIONS

- 2022** [Invited] Research Consultant, archive on Eritrean liberation struggle. Department of Afro-American Studies, Howard University with Dr. Michael Ralph. Washington, D.C. and Asmara, Eritrea.
- 2021** [Invited] “Barnard Fall 2021 Alumnae Chats.” Barnard College. October 8.
- 2021** [Invited] Panelist. “Dope Eritreans Doing Dope Things.” Clubhouse social audio mobile app platform. May 14.
- 2020** Designer and Researcher. “Underground Hospital: Combat Medics in the Trenches of the Eritrean Struggle for Independence” installation, *Critical Engagements with Science(s) and Justice(s) Implosion Multimodal Exhibition*. Philadelphia, PA. December 4. <https://www.dinamafaha.com/projects>
- 2019** “Organic Clinicians in Eritrea’s War for Formal Independence,” with co-authors Dr. Tekeste Fekadu (Orotta School of Medicine, Eritrea) and Dr. Michael Ralph (NYU Dept. of Social and Cultural Analysis). *New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)* Social Medicine Case Studies Workshop. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. March 29-31.

- 2019** Anthropological Airwaves Podcast Interviewer. “African Critical Inquiry Workshop: African Ethnographies.” Cape Town, South Africa. May 13-17.
- 2017** Producer, Camera/Lighting, Narration, Editing. “Lit Lounge” film, produced through UPenn Graduate School of Education (GSE) Ethnographic Filmmaking course. Philadelphia, PA. <https://vimeo.com/267451655/0d24e81f25>

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2018** (Honorable Mention) Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
- 2017** UPenn Benjamin Franklin/William Fontaine Fellowship
- 2016** Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholar
- 2014** Andrew W. Mellon/Benjamin E. Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship (MMUF)

GRANTS

- 2022** Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (\$11,203 - *withdrawn*)
- 2022** Penn GAPSA-Provost Award for Interdisciplinary Innovation (\$6000)
- 2021** SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Studies Enhancement (\$2000)
- 2021** SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant (\$840)
- 2020** Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Travel and Research Grant (\$4600)
- 2020** Marcus Garvey Memorial Foundation Research Fellowship (\$500)
- 2019** Penn Anthropology Department Summer Funds (\$2125)
- 2019** SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant (\$1977)
- 2018** Penn Anthropology Department Summer Funds (\$3850)
- 2018** Penn Museum Field Funds (\$1300)
- 2018** SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant (\$1020.60)
- 2018** President Gutmann Leadership Award (\$625.10)

TEACHING, MENTORSHIP, & SERVICE TO PROFESSION

NYU Stern School of Business

Fall 2021 Adjunct Professor. “Commerce and Culture.” New York, NY.

NYU Abu Dhabi

2020 Visiting Scholar. “Revolution – The Politics of Energy in Eritrea.” Abu Dhabi, UAE/Asmara, Eritrea. January 5-24.

University of Pennsylvania

Spring 2020 Teaching Assistant. “The Modern World and its Cultural Background.” (Professor Greg Urban)

- Spring 2020** Research Assistant. “Cultures of Science and Technology.” (Professor Adriana Petryna)
- Fall 2019** Teaching Assistant. “Introduction to Medical Anthropology.” (Professor Adriana Petryna)
- Spring 2019** Teaching Assistant. “Global Food Security.” (Professor Brian Spooner)
- Fall 2018** Teaching Assistant. “Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.” (Dr. Jennifer Hasty)

Mentorship

- 2021** Auto-Ethnography Mentor. “What does public safety mean to me as a young adult growing up in Red Hook?” Red Hook Initiative, Public Safety Research Program. Brooklyn, NY.
- 2021** Graduate Mentor. Barnard MMUF Summer Colloquium. [moved online due to COVID-19 pandemic]
- 2021** Workshop Leader. Mellon Graduate Assistance Program (GAP) Statement of Purpose Bootcamp. virtual.
- 2020** Workshop Leader. Mellon Graduate Assistance Program (GAP) Statement of Purpose Bootcamp. virtual.
- 2020** Graduate Mentor. Barnard MMUF Summer Colloquium. [moved online due to COVID-19 pandemic]
- 2019** Graduate Mentor. Barnard MMUF Summer Colloquium. New York, NY. June.
- 2019** Mentor. Black Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (BGAPSA) Mentoring Project. Philadelphia, PA.

Service to Profession

- 2023** Peer Reviewer. Columbia Undergraduate Research Journal.
- 2018-2021** Predoctoral Coach. Mellon-Mays Graduate Assistance Program (GAP)

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018 -** Barnard Admissions Alumnae Representative (BAAR)

- 2018** *niQHat* (“consciousness-building”) Manager. Eritrean Community of Philadelphia.
- 2017** Oral History Intern. Stanford Historical Society, Oral History Program
- 2016** Oral History Interviewer. “Educating Harlem” Project, research initiative led by Teachers College, Columbia University’s Professor Ansley Erickson.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)
American Anthropological Association (AAA)
Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA)
African Studies Association (ASA)

TECHNICAL SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Technical skills: InqScribe, NVivo, Microsoft Office/Excel/PowerPoint
Languages: English, Tigrigna, Spanish