

**DAY 1 AGENDA PROGRAM (CLOSED TO PUBLIC) MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026 | 1:00–5:00 PM
COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AMONG AFRICAN POPULATIONS: CENTER
FOR INDIGENOUS SCIENCE IN PRACTICE****LOCATION: ROOM 612, CARL R. WOESE INSTITUTE FOR GENOMIC BIOLOGY (IGB) (1206
W. GREGORY DR., CHAMPAIGN)**

Hosted by the Center for Indigenous Science (CIS), Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology (IGB), and the Center for African Family Studies- University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign

Day 1: Monday, April 6, 2026 Moderator Ripan S Malhi – Professor, Department of Anthropology
Time: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Format: In-person (Informal - selected sessions closed and not recorded)

1:00 – 1:15 PM | Welcome and Opening Remarks - Moderator Ripan S Malhi – Professor, Department of Anthropology

1:15 – 2:15 PM | CIS Scholars Roundtable: Introductions and Experiences in African Fieldwork

Introduction - LaKisha David, PhD – Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
Closed session bringing together CIS-affiliated scholars and invited campus researchers to reflect on fieldwork experiences, ethics, positionality, and long-term relationship building in African research contexts.

2:15 – 3:00 PM | Light lunch provided (snacks and beverages)

3:00 – 5:00 PM | Planned/Ongoing Works Presentations

Prince Sedem Semanshia, first-year doctoral student in Biological Anthropology
Title: Mapping Genetic Relatedness and Recent Shared Ancestry in Communities of Southern Ghana Using Identity by Descent (IBD)

McKenzie Macon, doctoral student in Biological Anthropology
Refashioning Genetic Technologies: Reimagining Pathways for the Ethical Use of Genomics through Community Engagement

2:15 – 3:00 PM | Break

Dr Alida de Flamingh, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign

Title: Exploring 10,000 years of human-elephant coexistence and cave culture in the Mt. Elgon cave system in Kenya.

Feedback giving sessions, discussion after each presentation

Q & A Session

**DAY 2 AGENDA PROGRAM (OPEN TO PUBLIC)
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026 | 9:00 AM–1:00 PM****COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AMONG AFRICAN POPULATIONS: CENTER FOR
INDIGENOUS SCIENCE IN PRACTICE****LOCATION: ROOM 612, CARL R. WOESE INSTITUTE FOR GENOMIC BIOLOGY (IGB) (1206 W.
GREGORY DR., CHAMPAIGN)****Day 2: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 - Moderator** – Jenny Davis PhD, Associate Professor of Anthropology and American Indian Studies

Time: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Format: In-person. Recording Live Talks

9:10 – 10:40 AM |Taiye Winful, PhD – Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Utilizing Stress Narratives to Examine the Etiology of Inflammatory Responses: A Biocultural Study of Embodiment and Salivary C-Reactive Protein in Nigeria

Anne Namatsi Lutomia, PhD – Postdoctoral Research Associate, CIS
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Attaining SDG5: Bridging the Gender Digital Divide Using Analog and Digital Technologies in Rural Kenya

Esther Ndumi Ngumbi, PhD – Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology and African American Studies
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Co-Creating Knowledge and addressing pressing challenges in Agriculture on the Kenyan Coast: Reflections from Partnering with Farmers

10:40 – 10:45 PM | Break**10:45 – 11:45 AM |**LaKisha David, PhD – Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Community-Collaborative Genetic Genealogy: Reconstructing Extended Families between Kassena Communities in Ghana and the African Diaspora

Carter Clinton, PhD – Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences
North Carolina State UniversitySacred Ground, Shared Futures: Community Stewardship and the Hillsborough Legacy Project
Questions and answer session after the talks.**11:45 – 12:00 PM | Break****12:00 – 12:55 PM | Keynote Address**

Speaker: Dr. Ambrose Wonkam, MD, PhD, DMSc – Medicine Henry J. Knott Genetic Medicine Professor & Director, McKusick-Nathans Institute & Department of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Title: Harnessing African Genomic Variation to Understand Human Evolution and Improve Health Globally

12:55 – 1:00 PM | Closing Remarks: Ripan S Malhi – Professor, Department of Anthropology

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign