**Curriculum Vitae for Jada Benn Torres**

Summer 2020

Associate Professor of Anthropology

Vanderbilt University

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**Degrees Earned**

2006 Ph.D. Anthropology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Dissertation Title: *African Ancestry and Admixture Estimates Throughout the Anglophone Caribbean.* Adviser: Keith Hunley and Anne Stone

2001 M.S. Anthropology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

1999 B.A. Pre-professional Studies/Anthropology and Computer Applications,

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

**Employment History**

2016-present Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Vanderbilt University

2009-2016 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame

2008-2009 Research Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of

Notre Dame

2006-2008 Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Medicine, Section of Genetic Medicine,

The University of Chicago, Adviser: Rick Kittles

2005-2006 Graduate and Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, University of

New Mexico

2003-05 Visiting Scholar, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State

University, Adviser: Anne Stone

2004 Visiting Scholar, Department of Molecular Virology, Immunology & Medical

Genetics, The Ohio State University, Adviser: Rick Kittles

2000-2003 Research Assistant, Laboratory of Molecular Anthropology, Department of

Anthropology University of New Mexico

2001-2002 Graduate Assistant, Department of Biology, Molecular Facilities

University of New Mexico

**Employment History (continued)**

1999-2000 Research Assistant, Osteology Laboratory, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology

University of New Mexico

1999-2000 Gallery Docent, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology

University of New Mexico

1999 Summer Laboratory technician for Dr. Stephen Hull, Department of Physiology, College of Medicine, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

1994 Summer Laboratory technician for Dr. Robert Broyles, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Editorial Board

2020-2023 Associate Editor, Yearbook of Physical Anthropology

2020-2024 Assistant Editor, American Anthropologist

Advisory Board

2019-present Fzero Genomics Scientific Advisory Board, Caribbean-based genomics company

2019-present Steering Committee for the Vanderbilt-Meharry-Miami Precision Medicine and

Health Disparities Collaborative (PMHDC)

**Honors and Awards**

2018 Distinguished Faculty Member/Honorary Captain, Vanderbilt Athletics and

Academic Support for Student-Athletes

2017 Gabriel Ward Lasker Award, from the journal *Human Biology*

2017 Provost Research Studio Program, selected by the Provost

2005 Ford Foundation Diversity Dissertation Fellow, Honorable Mention

1999 Lambda Alpha Anthropology National Collegiate Honors Society for

Anthropology, Beta chapter of Indiana

**PUBLICATIONS/ RESEARCH**

**Books**

In press **Benn Torres, J**. and Torres Colón, G., Genetic Ancestry: Our Stories, Our

Pasts. Routledge Press, accepted, expected publication Fall 2020. 144 pages.

**Articles in refereed journals (\*co-authored with students)**

2020 **Benn Torres, J.** Anthropological perspectives on genomic data, genetic ancestry, and race. *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology*, 171(Suppl. 70):74–86. DOI: 10.1002/ajpa.23979.

**Articles in refereed journals (\*co-authored with students, continued)**

2019 \***Benn Torres, J**. , Martucci,V., Aldrich,MC., Vilar MG., MacKinney, T.,

Gaieski, JB., Hernandez, RB, Browne, ZE., Stevenson, M., Wendell Walters, W., Tariq, M.,Schurr, TG., and The Genographic Consortium. Analysis of biogeographic ancestry reveals complex genetic histories for indigenous communities of St. Vincent and Trinidad. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology,* 169:482–497. DOI: 10.1002/ajpa.23859.

2019 **Benn Torres, J.** A parrot among John Crows: diversity as risk and reward.

*American Anthropologist*, 121(2):474-476. DOI**:**10.1111/aman.13217.

2019 **Benn Torres**, J. Race, rare genetic variants, and the science of human difference in the post-genomic age. *Transforming Anthropology*, 27(1), 37-49. DOI**:**10.1111/traa.12144.

2018 **Benn Torres, J**. ‘Reparational’ Genetics: Genomic data and the case for reparations in the Caribbean. *Genealogy*, 2(7), 11 pages. doi:10.3390/genealogy2010007 DOI: 10.3390/genealogy2010007.

2018 Fuller, H. and **Benn Torres, J.** Investigating the ‘Taíno’ Ancestry of the Jamaican Maroons: A New Genetic (DNA), Historical and Multidisciplinary Analysis and Case Study of the Accompong Town Maroons. *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studie*s. Vol. 43(1), 47-78.

2017 **Benn Torres, J.** and Torres Colon, G. ¿Afrocaribeños y originarios?

Genética, memoria y presencia africana en el Caribe. *Anales del Caribe*, September 2017, 268-276.

2016 **Benn Torres, J**. A history of you, me, and humanity: mitochondrial DNA in anthropological research. *AIMS Genetics*, 3(2): 146-156. doi: 10.3934/genet.2016.2.146.

2016 **Benn Torres, J.** Genetic Anthropology and Archaeology: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Human History in the Caribbean. *PaleoAmerica*, 2(1), 1-5.

2015 **Benn Torres, J.,** Vilar, M., Torres, G. , Gaieski, J., Bharath Hernandez, H.,

Browne, Z., Stevenson, M., Walters, W., Schurr, TG., and The Genographic Consortium. Genetic Diversity in the Lesser Antilles and Its Implications for the Settlement of the Caribbean Basin. *PLOS ONE*, *10* (10), e0139192, 27 pages.

2015 **Benn Torres, J.** and Torres Colón, G**.** Racial Experience as an Alternative

Operationalization of Race. *Human Biology,* 87(4), 306-312.

2014 \*Madrilejo, N.,Lombard, H., and **Benn Torres, J.** Origins of Marronage:

Mitochondrial Lineages of Accompong Town Maroons. *American Journal of Human Biology* 27(3):432-7.

**Articles in refereed journals (\*co-authored with students, continued)**

2014 **Benn Torres, J.** 2014. Prospecting the past: genetic perspectives on the

extinction and survival of indigenous peoples of the Caribbean. *New Genetics and Society 33*(1): 21-41.

2013 **Benn Torres, J**., Stone, A., Kittles, R. 2013. An Anthropological Genetic

Perspective on Creolization in the Anglophone Caribbean. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 151(1):135-43.

2012 **Benn Torres J.,** DouraM.B., KeitaS.O.Y., and Kittles R.A. 2012. Y

Chromosome Lineages in men of West African Descent. *PloS one* 7(1): e29687. 9 pages.

2010 Hooker S., Hernandez W., Chen H., Robbins C., **Benn Torres J.**, Ahaghotu C.,

Carpten J., Kittles R.A. Replication of prostate cancer risk loci on 8q24, 11q13, 17q12, 19q33, and Xp11 in African Americans. *Prostate* 70(3): 270-275.

2009 Kupfer S.S., **Benn** **Torres J.**, Hooker S., Anderson J.R., Skol A.D., Ellis N.A.,

Kittles R.A. Novel single nucleotide polymorphism associations with colorectal

cancer on chromosome 8q24 in African and European Americans. *Carcinogenesis*

30(8): 1353-1357.

2009 Kupfer S., **Benn Torres J.**, Hooker S., Anderson J.R., Ellis N.A., Kittles R.

768 novel SNP associations with colorectal cancer on 8q24 and 5q in African and European Americans. *Gastroenterology* 136(5): page A-120.

2009 Giri V.N., Egleston B., Ruth K., Uzzo R.G., Chen D.Y.T., Buyyounouski M.,

Raysor S.,Hooker S., **Benn Torres J.**, Ramike T., Mastalski K., Kim T.Y., Kittles

R. Race, genetic west African ancestry, and prostate cancer prediction by

prostate-specific antigen in prospectively screened high-risk men. *Cancer Prevention Research* 2(3): 244-250.

2008 **Benn Torres J**, Bonilla C., Robbins C.M., Waterman L., Moses T.Y., Hernandez

W., SantosE.R., Bennett F., Aiken W., Tullock T., Coard K., Hennis A., Wu S.,

Nemesure B., Leske M.C., Freeman V., Carpten J., Kittles R.A. Admixture and population stratification in African Caribbean populations. *Annals of Human Genetics* 72(1): 90-98.

2007 Robbins C., **Benn Torres** J., Hooker S., Bonilla C., Hernandez W., Candreva A.,

Ahaghotu C., Kittles R.A., Carpten J. Confirmation study of prostate cancer risk variants at 8q24 in African Americans identifies a novel risk locus. *Genome Research.* 17(12): 1717-1722.

**Articles in refereed journals (\*co-authored with students, continued)**

2007 **Benn Torres J.**, Kittles R.A. 2007. The relationship between "race" and genetics

in biomedical research. *Current Hypertension Reports* 9(3): 196-201.

2007 **Benn Torres J.**, Kittles R.A., Stone A.C. Mitochondrial and Y chromosome

diversity in the English-speaking Caribbean. *Annals Human Genetics* 71(Pt 6): 782-90.

**Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters**

2016 Schurr TG, **Benn Torres J**, Vilar MG, Gaieski JB, Melendez, C. 2016. A History

of Indigenous Caribbean Populations: Insights from Archeological, Ethnographic, Genetic and Historical Studies. In: Zuckerman M, Martin DL, editors. New Directions in Biological Anthropology: Papers Honoring the Legacy of George Armelagos. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, pp. 385-402.

2009Kittles RA and **Benn Torres J**. Race and genetics. In: Ferdinand K, Armani A, editors. Contemporary Cardiology: Cardiovascular Disease in Racial and Ethnic Minorities. Humana Press. pp. 81-91.

1994 Kyker,K.D., Likos, A.M., Blair, F.C., Kurien, B.T., Hala′sz, H., **Benn. J**, and Broyles, R.H. Hemoglobin switching in heterokaryons; Conservation of trans-acting factors that mediate developmental gene regulation. In Molecular Biology of Hemoglobin Switching. G.Stamatoyannopoulos (Ed) Intercept Ltd,. Andover, Hampshire, UK, Chap. 26, pp. 313-329.

**Reviewed by Editors**

2018 **Benn Torres, J.** Effective Population Size in The International

Encyclopedia of Biological Anthropology. W. Trevathan (ed).  John Wiley and Sons, Inc. pp.1-2.

**Invited Publications**

2020 DM Boyer, L Jahnke, CJ Mulligan, T Turner, **2019 Workshop on Data Sharing**

**in Biological Anthropology**. Response to Letters to the Editor concerning AJPA Commentary on “Data Sharing in Biological Anthropology: Guiding Principles and Best Practices. American Journal of Physical Anthropology.e24065. doi: 10.1002/ajpa.24065. Online ahead of print. 3 pages.

2014 **Benn Torres, J**. Out of many, one people: Genetic ancestry in the

Caribbean*. Genewatch* 27(2):21-23.

2014 **Benn Torres, J**. Ensuring careful consideration of potential impacts.

Commentary for Zócalo Public Square’s program on Synthetic Biology. <http://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2014/09/22/with-great-scientific-power-comes-great-responsibility/ideas/up-for-discussion/#Jada+Benn+Torres>+

(Reprinted in Time Magazine, http://time.com/3419445/if-synthetic-biology-lets-us-play-god-we-need-rules/)

**Other Publications (Technical reports)**

2000 Ozlins E.G., Carson E.A.; **Benn J.**, Potter W.E. Report of Investigation: OMI #3545-7000-IRA.

2000 Ozlins E.G., Rhoads M.L., **Benn J**, Potter W.E., Prilop V. Report of

investigation: OMI # 476-200-13V.

2000 Komar D., **Benn, J**. Report of Investigation: OMI #4115-800-3.

**Articles Under Review**

**Benn Torres, J.** “Racial experience in the Age of Direct-to-consumer ancestry testing” submitted to a Special Issue in the Nordic Journal of Social Research. Submitted June 1, 2020.

**GRANTS**

**Extramural Research Grants and Fellowships-Awarded**

2020-2021 National Geographic Explorer Grant, “A community-based analysis of Afro-

Puerto Rican genetic ancestry and cultural identity”, Role: Principle Investigator, co-PIs: G. Torres Colón and M. Rivera.

2002-2005 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

2000-2002 Gates Millennium Scholar, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**Intramural Research Grants**

2019 Partnership Development Mini-grant, “Resilience As Creative Expression Partnership”, Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core (CERC) Role: direct the biological aspects of projects that are developed as a result of the community partnership with the Corporacion Piñones Se Integra (COPI) in Piñones, Puerto Rico

2017 Seed Grant, “Race, Genetic ancestry, and Discourses of Identity (belonging) in Puerto Rico”, The Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Role: Co- PI with Dr. Gabriel Torres, American Studies Program, Vanderbilt University

2015 Faculty Research Support Initiation Grant, “Race, Genetic ancestry, and Disease

Disparity: a preliminary study of uterine fibroids among American women”, Office of Research, University of Notre Dame Role: Principal Investigator

2014 Travel to International Conference Grant, to 1st International Garifuna Summit/2nd International Garifuna Conference.

**Intramural Research Grants (continued)**

2014 Bi-Annual Large Social Sciences Research, “Race, Genetic Ancestry, and Disease Disparity: A Preliminary Study of Uterine Fibroids Among American women”, ISLA, University of Notre Dame. Role: Principal Investigator.

2013 Bi-Annual Large Social Sciences Research, "Biogeography of Creolization: Exploring the Origins of Accompong Town Maroons", Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts (ISLA), University of Notre Dame, Role: Principal Investigator.

2012 Travel for International Conference Grant, to the 4th Annual International Maroon

Conference.

2011-12 Materials and Miscellaneous Research Needs Grants, ISLA, University of Notre

Dame.

2011 Travel for International Conference Grant, to the 3rd Annual International Maroon

Conference.

2010 Annual Pilot Fund for Social Science Research, “The Genetics of Colonization:

Exploring the Indigenous Origins of Jamaican Maroons”, ISLA, University of Notre Dame, Role: Principal Investigator.

2010-11 Materials and Miscellaneous Research Needs Grants, ISLA, University of Notre

Dame.

2009-10 Materials and Miscellaneous Research Needs Grants, ISLA, University of Notre

Dame.

2008-09 Materials and Miscellaneous Research Needs Grants, ISLA, University of Notre

Dame.

2008-09 Creative Work and Research Grant “Assessing Genetic Ancestry as a Risk Factor to Uterine Fibroids”, ISLA, University of Notre Dame, Role: Co-Principal investigator.

**Invited Lectures and Addresses**

2019 “Interpretive Limitations of Genetic Ancestry Testing and the Case for Reparations” Civil Rights & Restorative Justice Project, Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, Massachusetts. Support: transportation and lodging.

2019 Invited participant, “Equity, Diversity, and Data Science in Genomics Workshop”, National Institutes of Health-National Human Genome Research Institute and Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. Support: transportation and lodging.

**Invited Lectures and Addresses (continued)**

2019 Invited panelist, “Working Within Our Own Communities: Perspectives From Anthropologists of Color”, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Vancouver, British Columbia.

2019 Invited panelist for *The Atlantic* Festival, Washington DC. Support: transportation and lodging.

2019 “Racial experience in the Age of Direct-to-consumer ancestry testing”, the International Research Workshop on Critical Understanding of Racialization in the Era of global Populism, Aalborg, University Campus in Copenhagen Denmark. Support: transportation and lodging.

2019 Featured speaker, Fisk/Meharry/TSU/ Faculty Breakfast club.

2019 Invited participant in NSF sponsored Data Sharing Workshop. Support: transportation and lodging.

2019 Invited Faculty member, Association of Latin American Students (ALAS), Spring Semester Event.

2018 Invited panelist and discussant for the Smithsonian National Museum of the

American Indian and the Smithsonian Latino Center, Taíno: A Symposium in Conversation with the Movement, Session 2 – Genetic Science and Genealogy: Recovering Native Ancestry, New York, NY. Support: transportation, lodging, honorarium.

2018 Invited panelist for National Geographic’s Small workshop on Ethics around Ancient DNA, New York City, NY. Support: lodging.

2017 “Genetic perspectives on origins, presence, and ancestry of African-descendant

communities across the Caribbean” Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University. Support: transportation, lodging, and honorarium.

2017 “Biogeographic ancestry across the Antilles: re-envisioning the impact of Africans on the Caribbean landscape”,*The Science & Engineering of Race: Living Through The Archives,* 11th Black New England Conference,University of New Hampshire. Support: transportation and lodging.

2017 “A Genetic Analysis in Collaboration with Trinidad’s First Peoples Community:

Implications for continuous Indigenous presence in the Caribbean”, Symposium- Chrysalis to Butterfly: On Becoming Visible Towards Meaningful Recognition, University of Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies.

2017 “Genetic Ancestry of Trinidad’s First Peoples Community”, First Peoples' Day,

First Peoples’ Community of Arima, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies.

**Invited Lectures and Addresses (continued)**

2017 History and the African Diaspora of the Latin America, a panel discussion of current research, panelist, Berea College. Support: transportation and lodging.

2017 “Afro-indigenous memory, presence, and ancestry in the Caribbean”, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University. Support: transportation, lodging, and honorarium.

2016 “A Genetic History of Indigenous Caribbean Peoples”, Understanding the Function of Human Genome Variation, Uppsala Konsert & Kongress, Uppsala, Sweden. transportation, lodging, and honorarium.

2016 “Reconciling temporality- a genetic consideration of African & Indigenous American Encounters in the Caribbean” Anthropology Department Seminar Series, University of Texas. Support: transportation, lodging, and honorarium.

2015 “Genetic Ancestry and Race: Moving Beyond Conceptual Divides”, Brocher

Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland. Support: transportation and lodging.

2015 “Genetic perspectives on Indigenous ancestry in the Caribbean”, Bioanth Seminar series, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. Support: Lodging.

2015 “Re-envisioning the role of Africans in Caribbean colonization: a genetic perspective”, Genetics/Heritage New perspectives on the study of Atlantic slavery, International Slavery Museum, Liverpool, UK. Support: transportation, lodging, and honorarium.

2014 “Vincentian Garifuna Genetic Ancestry” St. Vincent Community College, St. Vincent, West Indies.

2013 “Race in the Genomic Era: an anthropological genetic perspective” Departmental

Colloquium series on Culture, contingency and race University of Illinois,

Urbana-Champaign. Support: transportation, lodging, and honorarium.

2012 “Race, Genetics, and Health: Crossroads of Anthropology and Epidemiology”, Darwin Day, Eastern Illinois University, Biological Sciences Dept., Charleston, IL. Support: transportation, lodging, and honorarium.

2012 “Frogs, Dogs, and Leprechauns: Finding that once in a Life time Research

Opportunity”, CUSE, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, Support: Honorarium.

2012 “Molecular Anthropology: an overview of the field”, NSF REU in Bioarcheology, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN. Support: Honorarium.

**Invited Lectures and Addresses (continued)**

2009 “Genetic Ancestry in African Caribbean populations”, Moving Genes discussion (via videophone), Dana Center Science Museum, London, United Kingdom.

**Conference Presentations**

**Podium Presentations**

2020 “Navigating identity politics in genomics research: a case study of Afro-descendants in Puerto Rico” in From Ancient to Contemporary Genomes: Health and Population History,” American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Los Angeles, California (virtual session due to COVID-19 meeting cancellation).

2020 “Genomic and anthropological perspectives on the Afro-Caribbean diaspora in the Lesser Antilles”, in From Ancient to Contemporary Genomes: Health and Population History” American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Los Angeles, California (virtual session due to COVID-19 meeting cancellation, co-authored presentation).

2019 “Race, Risk, and Disease: Biosocial approaches to Health Disparities Research”, in Race, Sex and Genes—shaping bodies, shifting boundaries, challenging myths

American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting, Washington DC.

2018 “Operationalizing race in with the context of paracommunicability: a case study of uterine fibroids among African descendant women”, American Anthropological Association annual meeting, San Jose, California (co-authored presentation).

2018 “Dándole un toque afro a la descendencia genética en Puerto Rico”, 2do Congreso de Afrodescendencia en Puerto Rico, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. (co-authored presentation)

2018 “Genetic ancestry of Afro-Puerto Ricans illustrates complex history of African descendants in the Caribbean”, 15th Congress of the Latin American

Association for Biological Anthropology, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.

2018 “Ancestry and genetic diversity of Afro-Caribbean populations from the Lesser Antilles”, 15th Congress of the Latin American Association for Biological Anthropology, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. (co-authored presentation)

2018 “Genetics, Race, and Identity in the age of DTC testing”, Vanderbilt Genetics Institute Symposium, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Podium Presentations (continued)**

2017 “Marginal perspectives within hegemonic spaces: the marronage of genomic technologies” American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana.

2017“Migration, admixture and genetic continuity in pre and post-contact Puerto Rico. 86th American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana. (co-authored presentation)

2016 “Reparational’ Genetics as evidence and reconciliation”, Executive Session: Partial Evidence, Public Relations, American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

2016 “On the Trail of the First Caribbean Islanders: Genomic data from indigenous

Trinidadians and St. Vincentians”, American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Atlanta, Georgia.

2016 “Migration, admixture and selection in the population history of the Caribbean.

Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution Satellite Meeting on the Genetics of Admixed Populations, San Antonio, Texas. (co-authored presentation)

2015 “ ‘No Harm can come from knowledge’ Working with communities to build living memories”, American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Denver, Colorado.

2015 “Genética, memoria, y presencia africana en pueblos originarios caribeños”, Centro de Estudios del Caribe, Casa de las Américas, La Habana, Cuba.

2015 “Genetic Perspectives on Garifuna/Kalinago Ancestry and Emergence in St. Vincent”, 2nd International Garifuna Conference, Kingstown, St. Vincent.

2015 “Operationalizing Race, Resisting Racism: bridging biological, political, and lived experiences”, American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, St. Louis, Missouri.

2014 “A Genetic History of Indigenous American Mitochondrial DNA Lineages of the

Caribbean”, American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting Calgary, Alberta Canada.

2013 “Genetic Modified Foods in the public sphere: an anthropological genetic critique”,American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Chicago, Illinois.

2013 “Genetic Diversity in the Lesser Antilles and Its Implications for the Settlement of the Caribbean Basin” International Association of Caribbean Archeology, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**Podium Presentations (continued)**

2013 “More than a footnote: Bio-anthropology of indigeneity in the Anglophone Caribbean” Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, Merida, Mexico.

2012 “Maternal Ancestries of Accompong Town Maroons” 4rd International Maroon Conference, Port Antonio, Jamaica.

2011 “Out of the laboratory and into the field, discovering the subjectivity of buccal swabs” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Montreal, PQ, Canada.

2011 “Maroon Identity in the Genomic Age”. 3rd International Maroon Conference, Port Antonio, Jamaica.

2010 “The myth of indigenous extinction in the Caribbean: perspectives from molecular anthropology”. American Anthropological Association annual meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana.

2007 “A comparative analysis of Y chromosome variability and admixture in Cape Verde, Sao Tome, and seven Anglophone Caribbean Islands”. American Association of Physical Anthropologist annual meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2005 “MtDNA Diversity in six West Indian islands throughout the Anglophone Caribbean”. American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

2001 “A comparison of population distances calculated from genetic loci and dental morphological trait frequency Data”. American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Kansas City, Missouri. (co-authored presentation)

**Poster Presentations (\*indicates presentation with students***)*

2020 \*McCormack, K., Perez, J., **Benn Torres, J.** “Genetic Perspectives on the Paternal Ancestry of Afro-Puerto Rican Communities”, 19th Annual Graduate Research Symposium at William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

2020 \*Winful,O., Delducco, C., Mueller, E., **Benn Torres, J.** “Whole mitochondrial sequences reveal substantial heterogeneity within African descendants in the Caribbean”, American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Los Angeles, California (virtual session due to COVID-19 meeting cancellation).

**Poster Presentations (continued)**

2020 \*Mueller, E., Chen, L., **Benn Torres, J.** “Indigenous American and African Interaction in Puerto Rico: Ancestry in Afro- Puerto Ricans: a Comparative Analysis”, American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Los Angeles, California (virtual session due to COVID-19 meeting cancellation).

2019 \*Winful,O., Delducco, C., Mueller, E., **Benn Torres, J.** “African Ancestry in the Americas: Perspectives on Afro-Puerto Rican Maternal Ancestry”. American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Cleveland, Ohio.

2018 \***Benn Torres, J**. Muller, E. and Fuller, H. **“**Linking the past to the present, anthropological genetic approach to African and Indigenous American interaction in the Caribbean”, American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Austin, Texas.

2018 Nieves-Colón MA, **Benn Torres J**, Stone AC. “Genome-wide admixture patterns in Afro-Caribbean populations from the Lesser Antilles”, American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Austin, Texas.

2017 \*Martucci,V., **Benn Torres, J**., Vilar, M., Gaieski, J., Bharath Hernandez, R., Browne, Z., Stevenson, M., Walters,W., Bradford,Y., Aldrich,M., Schurr,T. and The Genographic Consortium, “Analysis of Biogeographic Ancestry Reveals Complex Genetic Histories for Indigenous Communities of St. Vincent and Trinidad”, Vanderbilt Genetics Institute Fall 2017 Symposium, Nashville, Tennessee.

2016 \*Saavedra, F. and **Benn Torres, J.** “Examining Mitochondrial Haplotype Diversity in Ancient and Modern Indigenous Caribbean Populations”,American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Atlanta, Georgia.

2015 \*Saavedra, F. and **Benn Torres, J.** “Within and Beyond Africa: Genetic Ancestry of Jamaican Maroons”, American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, St. Louis, Missouri.

2015 \*Kotey, A., Guobadia, P. and **Benn Torres, J**. An evaluation of the relationship between self-identified race and genetic ancestry in a clinical sample, COS-JAM, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.

2014 \*Saavedra, F. Madrilejo, N, and **Benn Torres, J.** From Swab to Sequence: Potential Methods to overcome PCR Amplification Inhibitors in Field Samples, COS-JAM, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.

**Poster Presentations (continued)**

2013 Schurr TG, **Benn Torres J**, Vilar M, Gaieski JB, Torres G. Genetic diversity in

the Lesser Antilles and its implications for the settlement of the Caribbean Basin. NHLBI Mitochondrial Biology Symposium: Mitochondrial Genetics in Health and Disease Abstracts, Bethesda, Maryland.

2013 \*Madrilejo, N. and **Benn Torres, J.** A tale of two Sisters: Maternal ancestry of Jamaican Maroons. American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Knoxville, Tennessee.

2012 \***Benn Torres, J**., Lombard, H.  **Genetics and identity: ethnogenesis in a Jamaican Maroon community.** American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Portland, Oregon.

2012 \*Lombard, H., **Benn Torres, J**. Maternal Origins of Accompong Maroons**.** American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Portland, Oregon.

2010 **Benn Torres, J.,** Stone, A., Hooker, S., Kittles,R. The genetic legacy of indigenous Caribbean peoples: evidence from autosomal and mitochondrial data. American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

2010 Hernandez, W., **Benn Torres, J**., Hooker,S., Robbins,C., Carpten,J., Kittles, R.A.

Interrogating Region 4 of 8q24 for Prostate Cancer Risk in African Americans.

American Association for Cancer Research annual meeting, Washington, DC.

2009 Kupfer, Sonia; **Benn Torres, J.**; Hooker, S.; Anderson, J.R.; Ellis, N.A.; Kittles, R. Novel SNP Associations with Colorectal Cancer on 8q24 and 5q in African and European Americans. Digestive Disease Week, Chicago, Illinois.

2005 Benn Torres, J. Biogeographical Ancestries throughout the Anglophone Caribbean. Gates Millennium Scholars Alumni meeting November Los Angles, California.

2004 **Benn Torres, J.**; Stone, A. Genetic Diversity in an urban population in West

Africa: a preliminary analysis. American Society of Human Genetics Meetings annual meeting, Toronto, Canada.

2001 **Benn, J**.; Smith, J., Stone, A. Y-chromosome STR analysis in *Pan troglodytes*.

American Association of Physical Anthropologists Meetings annual meeting, Kansas City, Missouri.

**Session Organizer**

2017 **Benn Torres, J.** and Nelson, R. ‘Anthropology Matters - Fighting essentialist ideas about poverty, race, and intelligence in the Trump era’, Roundtable Discussion. American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Washington, DC.

2013 **Benn Torres, J.** Human Experience in the Genomic/Post-Genomic Age, Podium

Presentations. American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Chicago, Illinois.

**Media Exposure**

2019Beyer and Robertson.  *“*History Unshackled: Jada Benn Torres is part of a

multidisciplinary effort to uncover new details about the African slave trade”. [Vanderbilt Magazine](https://news.vanderbilt.edu/vanderbiltmagazine/history-unshackled-genetic-anthropologist-jada-benn-torres-is-part-of-a-multidisciplinary-effort-to-uncover-new-details-about-the-african-slave-trade/)

2015 Berger, M. “Researchers mapping genetic history of the Caribbean”. [Phys Org](https://phys.org/news/2015-11-genetic-history-caribbean.html).

**Invited Commentary**

2020 Wade, L. “Ancient DNA reveals diverse origins of Caribbean’s earliest

inhabitants”. [Science](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/ancient-dna-reveals-diverse-origins-caribbean-s-earliest-inhabitants).

2019 Yong, E. “How Ancient DNA Can Help Recast Colonial History”, [The Atlantic](https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/09/what-ancient-dna-says-about-puerto-ricos-history/598246/).

2019 Callaway, E. “Genomes trace origins of enslaved people who died on remote island”. [Nature.com](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03152-9).

2019 Wade, L. “Genes of ‘extinct’ Caribbean islanders found in living people”. [Science.com](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/02/genes-extinct-caribbean-islanders-found-living-people)

2018 Flickinger, E. “Genetic matches for the Taino found in modern Caribbeans”. [The Tartan](https://thetartan.org/2018/2/26/scitech/caribbean)

**TEACHING Related Activites**

**Courses Taught**

(Upper-level) Human Adaptation and Disease

(Upper-level) Human Evolutionary Genetics

(Upper-level) Genetics and Society

(Upper-level) Bioethics in Anthropology

(Upper-level course and lab) Molecular Methods in Anthropology (at Notre Dame)

(Intro writing course) Human Variation Genetics (formerly called Genetics and Society)

(Intro Course) Introduction to Anthropology (at Notre Dame)

(Intro Course) Introduction to Biological Anthropology

**Independent Study Courses Taught**

2020 Elsa Mueller, BSCI 3961, co-taught with Nicole Creanza

2019 Chole Stallion and Jaime Rivera

2017 Elsa Muller, ‘Genetic Anthropological perspectives of Afro-Puerto Rican

communities’

2016 Astra Sharma ‘Genetics and Anthropological perspective on Australia’

2015-2016 Fernando Saavedra, Genetic Survey of Indigenous Caribbean Lineages,

University of Notre Dame

2014-2015 Amanda Kotey and Pierre Guobadia, ‘An evaluation of the relationship between

self-identified race and genetic ancestry’, University of Notre Dame

2013-2015 Fernando Saavedra, Autosomal and Y chromosome markers in Accompong

Maroons, University of Notre Dame

2011-2014 Nicole Madrilejo, Mitochondrial Lineages in Accompong Town Maroons, University of Notre Dame

2011-2013 Holden Lombard, Autosomal Markers in Accompong Maroons, University of

Notre Dame

2012-2013 Rachel Tullio, Peopling of the Caribbean, University of Notre Dame

2012-2013 Jess Gambil, Student Designed Major, Senior Comp research, A comparison of

DNA extraction methods, St. Mary’s College

2009-2010 Kasey Kendell, Caribbean Mitochondrial Haplogroups typing, University of

Notre Dame

**Primary Doctoral Students**

2019-present Catherine McCormack, Vanderbilt University, Department of Anthropology

2018-present Olawunmi Winful, Vanderbilt University, Department of Anthropology

**Doctoral Dissertation Committees**

2020-present Keila Velazquez Arcelay, Vanderbilt University, Department of Biological Sciences

2020-present Yakov Pichkar, Vanderbilt University, Department of Biological Sciences

2018- present Maya Krause, Vanderbilt University, Department of Anthropology

**Independent Study Courses Taught (continued)**

2016-present Krystal Tsosie, Vanderbilt University, Interdisciplinary Program, Department of Psychology

2015-present Lauren Springs, University of Texas at Austin, Department of Anthropology

2014-2017 Maria Nieves Colon, Arizona State University, School of Human Evolution and

Social Change (Ph.D. 2017)

**Undergraduate Student Theses**

2015-2016 Daphne Reynolds, Departments of Anthropology and Economics,

“Past Connections Today on the Great Lakes: An Ethnohistory of the

Three Fires Confederacy among the Pokagon”, University of Notre Dame

2014-2016 Fernando Saaverdra, Pre-professional Studies and Department of Anthropology,

“Genetic Survey of Indigenous Caribbean Lineages”, University of Notre Dame

2013-2014 Nicole Madrilejo, Pre-professional Studies and Department of Anthropology,

“Genetic diversity of Marronage: mtDNA and Y-chromosome analysis of Jamaican Maroons”, University of Notre Dame

2012-2013 Holden Lombard, Department of Physics and Department of Anthropology, “An

Anthropological genetic analysis of Accompong Town Maroons”, University of Notre Dame

2010-2011 Elizabeth Van Dyke, Glynn Honors Program, “Evaluation of three healthcare

programs for women affected by obstetric fistulas in Ethiopia”, University of Notre Dame

## SERVICE

## To Department

2020-present Graduate Program Committee

2018-2019 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

2017-present Diversity & Inclusion Committee

2016-present Library Liaison

2016-2018 Speakers Committee

2015-2016 Graduate Curriculum Committee, University of Notre Dame

2013-2016 Chair of the Safety Committee, University of Notre Dame

2011 Student Awards Committee, University of Notre Dame

2009-10 Faculty representative for at First Year Orientation

2008; 10 Graduate school information session, University of Notre Dame

2002 Minority Affairs Committee, University of New Mexico

## SERVICE (continued)

**To College**

2018 Research Scholar Grant review committee

2017   Judge at Vanderbilt’s 5th Annual Three Minute Thesis Competition

2015-16 Nominating and Elections Committee, University of Notre Dame

2012 Proposal Faculty Review Committee for the Institute for Scholarship and

Learning (ISLA), College of Arts and Letters

2011 Hosted Cénacle Poétique, Book discussion group for First-year students

**To University**

2019-2021 Appellate Review Board, Undergraduate Honor Council Faculty Adviser

2016-2018 University Library Committee

2014 Professional Development Committee member for the Black Faculty Staff

Organization, University of Notre Dame

2008 Invited speaker for Honor Student and High Achiever, “My Graduate School

Experience”, University of Notre Dame

**To Profession**

2020-2023 Biological Seat, American Anthropological Association, Executive Board

2020-2023 Electorate Nominating Committee (ENC) of the Section on Anthropology, American Association for the Advancement of Science

2018-present Increasing Diversity in Evolutionary Anthropological Sciences (IDEAS) Faculty,

Committee on Diversity, American Association of Physical Anthropology

2017-2020 Biological Seat, American Anthropological Association, Nominations

Committee

2017-2019 Executive Committee, American Association of Anthropological Genetics

2016 Session Chair, Human genetic variation, Contributed Podium Presentations,

American Association of Physical Anthropology annual meeting

2010 Session Chair, Biocultural Acts, Biocultural Survival, American Anthropological

Association annual meeting

2010 Invited panelist for Encuentro at Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN, “Career

Alternatives”

2009 Guest Lecturer, Intercultural leadership Class, Saint Mary’s College, Notre

Dame, IN “Biology and Race”

**Peer Review Activities**

National Science Foundation

National Geographic Society

Human Nature

New Genetics and Society

American Journal of Human Biology

American Anthropologist

American Journal of Physical Anthropology

Current Anthropology

PLOSOne

Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports

## SERVICE (continued)

**To Community**

2019 Fisk/Meharry/TSU breakfast club speaker

2016-present TNAchieves, Mentor

2014 Invited Speaker for the International Baccalaureate Program, John Addams High School

2011-12;14-16 Workshop leader for Expanding Your Horizon (EYH) conference, University of

Notre Dame

2008 Invited speaker for Science Outreach, Chicago Public Radio, Chicago, IL “My Journey into the Sciences”

2000 School Science & Mathematics Association ACT/SAT preparation course,

University of New Mexico