

Research Notes for Hairstory

Thank you for taking the time to explore the research behind Hairstory.

This book was shaped by months of reading, listening, collecting, and learning from the beautiful and diverse hair traditions across Africa and the diaspora. Hair is history. Hair is culture. Hair is story.

This document brings together a selection of the sources that informed my work – from scholarly articles and cultural archives to personal narratives and historical studies. It is not an exhaustive record of African hair culture, which is far too expansive to contain in any single text. Instead, it offers a transparent look at the materials that helped shape my understanding while writing this book. I hope these resources deepen your reading experience and open doors to further exploration, conversation, and celebration!

Thank you for your curiosity!

- Sope Martins

Books

- Ayana D Byrd & Lori L Sharps, *Hair Story: Untangling the Roots of Black Hair: Untangling the Roots of Black Hair in America*
- Emma Dabiri, *Don't Touch My Hair (UK) / Twisted: The Tangled History of Black Hair Culture (US version)*

Journals

Ginetta E. B. Candelario, 'Hair Race-ing: Dominican Beauty Culture and Identity Production', *Meridians*, vol. 1, no. 1 (Autumn, 2000):

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325113092_Hair_race-ing_Dominican_beauty_culture_and_identity_production

Majestie Varnado, 'Heavy is the Head: Evolution of African Hair in America from the 17th Century to the 20th Century': <https://www.loc.gov/static/programs/of-the-people/represent/junior-fellows/documents/CCDI-Guide-Majestie-Varnado.pdf>

Links

- Cornrows and The TransAtlantic Slave Trade; <https://www.theafrocurlyhaircoach.com/post/cornrows-and-the-transatlantic-slave-trade>
- Tangled Roots: Decoding the history of Black Hair: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/tangled-roots-decoding-the-history-of-black-hair-1.5891778>
- A Short History of Hair Discrimination: <https://halocollective.co.uk/halo-background/>

Hair by Tribe

Afar: <https://talkafricana.com/afar-tribe-the-ethiopian-tribe-where-men-use-butter-to-style-their-hair/>

Asante: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/knowledge--464996730263199821/>

Basara Arab: <https://www.vogue.com/article/chebe-hair-ritual-chad>

Fante:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/375083066_Historical_Roots_of_Makai_Hairstyle_of_Elmina_People_of_Ghana

Fon: <https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/news-photo/portrait-dune-femme-fon-au-b%C3%A9nin-vers-1950-1953-portrait-news-photo/948106346>

Fulani: <https://en.rattibha.com/thread/1475879795963559937>

Hamar: <https://www.101lasttribes.com/tribes/hamer.html>

Himba: <https://face2faceafrica.com/article/himba-hairstyles>

Igbo: <https://www.facebook.com/100066676973079/posts/453954149975128/>

Mandinka: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/661888476460308762/>

Mangbetu: <https://www.utterlyinteresting.com/post/the-sculpted-skull-understanding-the-skull-elongation-tradition-of-the-mangbetu-people>

Maasai: <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/warriors-of-the-maasai-national-museums-of-kenya/VAXROaOyMUDY4A?hl=en>

Mbalatu: <https://sartorialadventure.tumblr.com/post/662968086403661824/the-eembuvi-plaits-of-mbalantu-women-before-the>

Mende: <https://sm76626.wordpress.com/tag/mende/>

Wagogo: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/545217098614789012/>

Wolof: <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/wolof-woman-dakar-senegal-296322850474755403/>

Yorùbá: <https://www.oriire.com/article/hairstyling-and-hairstyles-in-yorubaland-history-nature-dynamics-and-significance>

Zulu: <https://tribalnow.wordpress.com/2019/09/02/isicholo-hats-zulu-people-kwazulu-natal/>