

I have been involved in ASWAD since 2005, when I attended the conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. More recently, I participated in the association's 2015 gathering in Charleston, SC, and plan to take part in the panel "Strategies for Teaching about the African Diaspora: Curricular and Pedagogical Perspectives" this fall in Williamsburg, Virginia. As a specialist in the history of the African Diaspora in the Caribbean and Latin America, and Afro-Latinx communities in the U.S., particularly comparative slavery and freedom and race, gender, migration, and politics, my research is aligned with ASWAD's mission to advance knowledge about the dispersal of people of African descent throughout the world. Currently, I am a professor in the Department of Africana Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, where I have demonstrated institutional leadership by spearheading an Afro-Latin American and Afro-Latino Studies Initiative and creating undergraduate and graduate study abroad programs on Afro-Cuban history and culture. In April 2019, I chaired and organized the "Representations of Afrolatinidad" conference, which featured keynote speakers Juliet Hooker (Brown University) and Nancy Mirabal (University of Maryland), and 14 additional presenters from across the country. In addition, I have garnered over 50 grants (12 in the past year), including 10 national awards, to support research and programming surrounding the African Diaspora in the Americas. I would be honored to serve as a Board member, and contribute my expertise in scholarship, grant writing, and conference organizing to expand the work of ASWAD.