

CHERYL STERLING
Director of African Studies
Associate Professor of English
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

African Literature, African Diaspora Literature, Post-Colonial Theory, Critical Race Theory, Gender Studies, Social and Cultural Movements in Brazil and the Caribbean.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., African Languages and Literature, Univ. of Wisconsin – Madison, 2003.
M.Phil., Univ. of Ghana, Legon. Institute of African Studies.
B.A., Political Science/Public Administration, Fordham University.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

Director of African Studies, The Pennsylvania State University

Director of Black Studies, The City College (CUNY)

Responsibilities:

- Serve as principal program officer or principal liaison between the program, university and college administration;
- Speak for program policy in relations with other chairs, directors, University and College officials, and the general public;
- Direct administration of program affairs in consultation with faculty and committees;
- Oversee annual budget;
- Manage routine fiscal affairs of the program;
- Hire, manage and supervise departmental administrative staff;
- Oversee curriculum development;
- Oversee and conduct student advising for Black Studies courses;
- Schedule all programmatic course offerings;
- Handle program procedures related to promotion and tenure cases;
- Convene and preside over meetings of the Faculty, Advisory and Executive Committees, and program committees;
- Write and submit all yearly departmental reports;
- Oversee faculty recruitment;

- Recommend merit salary and other salary adjustments;
- Hire and manage faculty; conduct annual reviews;
- Create rubrics and administer program assessment;
- Identify, write grants, and funding proposals for public programs.

Accomplishments:

- Expanded faculty through Affiliates across the University;
- Revitalized African Studies Brown Bag Series;
- 900% increase in Black Studies Majors;
- 56% increase in overall student enrollment;
- Created cross-listing of courses with Theater, Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, English, Media and Communication Arts, History, Latin American Studies, Economics, and Political Science;
- Collaborated with English, History, Media and Communication Arts, Latin American Studies, the Dominican Studies Institute, Biology, The Grove School of Engineering on public programs;
- Oversaw revamping of program website, logo and public profile;
- Oversaw creation of student newsletter;
- Forged linkages with student groups like the Black Student Union, the Caribbean Students Association, the National Council of Negro Women, and International Students and Scholar Services;
- Created and hosted Black Studies Lecture Series (total 18 speakers);
- Created and hosted the Chinua Achebe Legacy Series;
- Hired tenured and tenure track faculty;
- Created pipeline to Career Development for Students;
- Created recruitment pipeline from Big Brothers/Big Sisters to the College;
- Expanded grant, research, and internship opportunities for majors;
- Set strategic plan and leading curriculum revision for the program;
- Organized and hosted African Studies international conferences.

Co-founder and Editor, AfroBeat Journal.org

- Created on-line Arts journal. Directed production team for educational television series: researched topic areas and scheduled guests, conducted interviews, wrote program scripts, directed editing process, planned logistics and shooting times.

Chairperson, Global Cultures, NYU

- Organized curriculum restructuring of Great Books program to global cultures program; organized teaching workshops, publishing, and grant writing for junior faculty; Served on committees to hire faculty; mentored and improved support system for junior faculty; created various colloquia and began a presentation model for student research; sat on faculty renewal committees, and prescribed merit and annual raises.

Outreach/ Internship Specialist – UW-Madison

- Supervised university internship and outreach programs: cultivated relationships with community organizations for student placement, generated presentations for local organizations, interfaced with organizations to meet program goals and created, new diverse educational programs for all school ages.

Director, International Program, NCBS, Ghana

- Managed staff of international education program, which included designing program contents, developing cultural awareness seminars, recruiting and orienting fellow/faculty for exchange program, monitoring student participants, ensured organizational compliance with university bi-laws, government immigration policies. Wrote funding proposals and set budgetary requirements. Organized international conference.

Producer/Host – GBC, Ghana, West Africa

- Created two television interview programs, “Diaspora Dialogue” and “African Heritage Series,” that bridge the gap between academic and public knowledge and educated on local and international African cultural modalities.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS HELD

Director of African Studies, Penn State U.	2018 - Present
Director of Black Studies, CCNY, CUNY	2013 – 2018
Co-founder and Editor, AfroBeat Journal.org	2009 - Present
Chairperson, Global Cultures, Liberal Studies, NYU	2005 – 2007
Outreach/ Internship Specialist African Studies Center, UW-Madison	1998 - 2000
Director, International Program	1994 – 1995
National Council for Black Studies, Inc., Ghana, West Africa	
Producer/Host Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, Ghana, West Africa	1992 - 1994
WEP Coordinator	1989 - 1991
General Services Administration, New York City	

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor, African Studies & English, PSU	Jan. 2019 – Present
Associate Professor, English Department, CCNY	Aug. 2013 – Aug. 2018
Teaching Professor, NYU	Sept. 2002 – Aug. 2013
Assistant Professor, NYU-Accra	Jan. 2010 – May 2011
Assistant Professor, Gallatin School, NYU	Jan. 2007 – May 2007
Assistant Professor, Africana Studies, NYU	July 2006 – Aug. 2006

Teaching Assistant, Wisconsin-Madison, Univ. of
Dept. of African Languages and Literature
Teaching Assistant, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison,
Dept. of Afro-American Studies

Jan. 1998 – Dec. 2000

Sept. 1997 – Dec. 1998

COURSES DEVELOPED

Advanced Anglophone Literature
African Literature
Literature of Africa and the African Diaspora
Black Atlantic Cultures
African Heritage/ African American Experience
African Heritage/ Caribbean-Brazilian Experience
Into the Post-Colonial World
Global Blackness? Writing into the World
African Cultures
(Wo)Man, God, and the Cosmos in the Literature of Africa and the Diaspora
Black Women's Writing
Slavery Revisited: U.S. and Brazil
From Roots to Rap: Africa in the Americas
Poetry, Performance, and Vernacular Culture in African American Literature

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- National Endowment for the Humanities Grant (100,000K) 2019 pending.
- CUNY PSC Advanced Research Grant. 2018. \$11,000. (Declined)
- New York Council for the Humanities – Vision Grant, 2017.
- New York State HCDC Grant, 2017.
- Humanities Research Initiative, Grant-in-Aid, NYU, 2012
- Fulbright Scholar, Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, 2010-2011
- New York University Research Development Grant, Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, 2009
- Dean's Circle Appointment. NYU in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, 2004
- Vilas Scholar, *Centro de Estudos Afro-Orientais*, Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, 2001-2002
- Visiting Scholar, New York University, Africana Studies, 2001–2002
- Organization of American States Fellow (OAS), 2000–2001
- Tinker Fellow - Dissertation Field Research Grant (NAVE), 2000
- Vilas Travel Grant 2000
- FLAS for Portuguese Language Study, 1999 – 2000
- FLAS for Yoruba Language Study, 1999
- Advanced Opportunity Fellowship, 1998 – 2001
- FLAS and FLEP (CIC Traveler's Scholars Grant) 1998.

PUBLICATIONS

Book:

African Roots, Brazilian Rites: Cultural and National Identity in Brazil. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. Winner New York African Studies Association Book Prize, 2013.

Edited Volume - Transnational Trills in the Africana World. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2019.

Special Issue, Editor – WAGADU: A Journal of Transnational Women’s and Gender Studies: *African and Diasporic Women’s Literature: Transitions, Transformations and Transnationalism*, Vol. 18 (Winter 2017). Web.
<http://webhost1.cortland.edu/wagadu/>.

Articles:

“Triste Tropique in Jacqueline Bishop’s Patchwork Aesthetics,” *African Arts Journal* (forthcoming) 2019.

“The Art and Life of Abdias Nascimento.” *Journal of Black Studies Special Edition* (forthcoming) 2019.

“The Word in the World: Transnationalism and African/African Diasporic Women’s Writing.” *WAGADU: A Journal of Transnational Women’s and Gender Studies*. Special Issue: *African and Diasporic Women’s Literature: Transitions, Transformations and Transnationalism*, Vol. 18 (Winter 2017), 1-13.
<http://webhost1.cortland.edu/wagadu/>.

“A Criação da Estética Negra: O Movimento das Artes Negras e o Quilombhoje.” *Africa é Brasil. IV Encontro Internacional de Literatura, Histórias e Culturas Afro-Brasileiras e Africanas*. Universidade Estadual do Piauí - Teresina, Brasil. 2016. Anais 2015. Web.
<http://nepa.uespi.br/informativos/anais-2015>

“Race Matters: Cosmopolitanism, Afropolitanism, and Pan-Africanism via the works of Edward Wilmot Blyden.” *Journal of Pan-African Studies*, 8.1 (June 2015): 119-145. See <http://www.jpanafrican.com/vol8no1.htm>.

“On Jacqueline Bishop’s Jamaican Views: Frames, Vistas and Images.” *Wasafiri*. 81 (Spring 2015): 17-26.

“A Bença: The Blessings of the Bando de Teatro Olodum.” *African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal* (July 2012): 229-242.

“The (Un)broken Cycle in *Death and the King’s Horseman*.” *Journal of the African Literature Association* 5.1 (Summer/Fall 2010): 37-59. (7,336 hits online)

“Women-space, Power, and the Sacred in Afro-Brazilian Culture.” *The Global South, Special Issue: Latin America in the Global Age* 4.1 (Spring 2010): 71-93. (43 hits online)

“Can You Really See Through a Squint?: Theoretical Underpinnings in Ama Ata Aidoo’s, *Our Sister Killjoy*.” *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 45.1 (March 2010): 131-150.) (Named as an exemplary essay by the Journal)

Book Chapters:

- "Africana Matrix Ideology as Aesthetics." *Transnational Trills in the Africana World*. Ed. Cheryl Sterling. Cambridge: Cambridge SP, 2019. 1-19.
- "Requiem to Kofi Awoonor through his Novels, *This Earth, My Brother and Comes the Voyager at Last*." *Transnational Trills in the Africana World*. Ed. Cheryl Sterling. Cambridge: Cambridge SP, 2019. 284-304.
- "A Bença: The Blessings of the Bando de Teatro Olodum." Ed. Fassil Demisse. *African Diaspora in Brazil: History, Culture and Politics*. London: Routledge, 2013.
- "From Third World to Third Wave: Lauryn Hill Educated and Unplugged." *Archipelagos of Sound: Transnational Caribbeanities, Women and Music*. Ed. Ifeona Fulani. Kingston: UWI Press, 2012. 344-356.
- "Eduardo Mondlane." *Encyclopedia of African Thought*. Ed. F. Abiola Irele and Biodun Jeyifo. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- "Visions of War, Testaments of Peace: The 'Burden' of Sierra Leone." *Narrating War and Peace in Africa*. Ed. Hetty tar Haar, et. al. Rochester: University of Rochester Press, 2010. 195-230.
- "Finding Africa in the Dances of the Gods." *Migrations and Creative Expressions of Africa and the African Diaspora*. Ed. Toyin Falola, et. al. Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2008. 47-63.
- "Blackness Re-visited and Re-visited in the works of the Black Arts Movement and Quilombhoje." *Afro-Brazilian Mind / A Mente Afro-Brasileira: Contemporary Afro-Brazilian Literary and Cultural Criticism*. Ed. Niyi Afolabi and Márcio Barbosa. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2007. 51-72.
- "Future Conditionality as a Visionary Imperative in Ayi Kwei Armah's *Two Thousand Seasons*." *Perspectives on African Literatures at the Millennium*. Ed. Arthur D. Drayton, et. al. Trenton, NJ: AWP, 2007. 33-43.
- "Black Arts Movement and Quilombhoje." *Cadernos Negros / Black Notebooks: Contemporary Afro-Brazilian Literary Movement*. Ed. Afolabi, Barbosa and Ribeiro. Trenton, NJ: AWP, 2007. 5-33. (Portuguese version, pp. 165-189.)
- "Only the Brave... Women of Color Crossing the Continental Divide." *Marvels of the African World: African Cultural Patrimony, New World Connections, and Identities*. Ed. Niyi Afolabi. Trenton, NJ: AWP, 2003. 593-609.

In-Progress:**Books:**

Monograph – *Beyond the Text: Aesthetic Theory in Black Narrative and Visual Culture*. Its aim is to construct alternate patterns of theoretical engagement from which to read black-centered texts, films, and images to create a new aesthetic theory that engages in social critique on the issues of race, representation, signification, and subjectivity. The book begins with the premise that queries on aesthetics and blackness derive from the codification of blackness in color theory and its alignment with the sublime in Enlightenment discourse. It proffers an

alternate model derived from art historian, Omoyosore Okediji's (2003) explanation of how color theory works among Yoruba traditional artists. All color comes from black, they say, coal and its sparkling within fire becomes the basis for this theory, for all colors are generated in fire. I transform the centrality of blackness in Yoruba color theory and Orisha traditions to generate an aesthetic of blackness, to engage texts from the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa.

Edited Volume – Transnational Fictions: Africana Women's Literary Voices. Preparing manuscript for submission to Routledge.

Translated Volume - 5 Afro-Brazilian Plays – plays of the only Black identifying theater group in Brazil, The Bando de Teatro Olodum. The plays are: Cabaré da Raça (Race Cabaret); A Bença (The Blessings); Zumbi (self described); É a Nossa Praia (This is our Beach); África (a play for children). *Two translations completed.*

Articles:

"Regimented Visibility: 'Love' Stories in *Here Comes the Sun* by Nicole Dennis Benn and *Under the Udala Tree* by Chinelo Okparanta." (Early writing stage for submission to *Journal of the African Literature Association*).

"Going thru Changes: Feminisms and Foundations in African Women's Writing," for *Transnational Fictions: Africana Women's Literary Voices*.

"The African Matrix in Afro-Brazilian Poetry and Performance." (Final editing for submission to *Journal of Black Studies*).

PRESENTATIONS

Invited:

- "Testimonies in Stone: Memorials and Memories," Retrospective on Paa Joe's Slave Castles, American Folk Art Museum, December 11, 2018.
- Moderator – The Schomburg Center, "*Barracoon: The Story of the Last 'Black Cargo'*" with Dr. Deborah Plant, Dr. Sylviane Diouf, and Glory Edim, May 8, 2018.
- "A Traveling Life." SUNY-Purchase. May 3, 2018.
- Chair and Discussant – Roundtable – "Foreign Aid and Alternative Development Ideas." 43rd NYASA Conference – Seton Hall University, April 14, 2018.
- "Monuments, Memorials and Ancestry: Material Culture under the aegis of Black Lives Matter," Symposium, "Honoring Ancestors in Africa and Beyond: Arts & Actions," Dept. of Art History, University of Wisconsin – Madison, April 6 - 7, 2018.
- "Requiem to Kofi Awoonor." African Studies Program. Penn State University, April 3, 2018.
- Somi - Petite Afrique: Performance and Dialogue Series. Aaron Davis Hall. Oct. 20, 2017.

- “What do we see? And what do we say? - Visualizing Slavery and Freedom in Brazil and Haiti.” Westfield College. March 30, 2017.
- Respondent – Dennis Tyler, “The Disabilities of Color Blindness and Anti-Blackness.” University Seminar: Disability, Culture and Society. Columbia U. Feb. 3, 2017.
- “Afro-Brazilian Women in the Arch of Globalization.” Spelman College, April 25, 2016.
- Panelist - UN International Decade for the People of African Descent – “Women of African Descent Fighting Racism.” United Nations Plaza, March 23, 2016.
- Panelist – Trade/itions: Trans-Atlantic Orisha Sacred Traditions. Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute. Aaron Davis Hall, The City College (CUNY), February 28, 2016.
- Panelist - “The Art and Life of Abdias Nascimento.” *Homenagem: Remembering the Life and Work of Abdias Nascimento*. Brown University. Watson Institute, December 4, 2015.
- Keynote – “Aesthetically Black: Quilombhoje and the Black Arts Movement.” IV Encontro Internacional de Literaturas Histórias e Culturas Afro-Brasileiras e Africanas. Africa é Brasil. State University of Piauí. November 18, 2015.
- Panelist – UN International Decade for the People of African Descent – “Confronting the Silence: Perspectives and Dialogue on Structural Racism against People of African Descent Worldwide,” United Nations Plaza, November 3, 2015.
- Moderator - Harlem Book Fair, “Literature and the Diaspora.” July 18, 2015. With Tiphonie Yanique, Ifeona Fulani, Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa, and Gillian Royes.
- Moderator - Symposium: “Walter Mosely. Unbound and Unrestricted: A Master Writer of Many Genres.” Langston Hughes Festival. November 21, 2014.
- “Man, God and the Cosmos in *Arrow of God*.” Symposium in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Chinua Achebe’s *Arrow of God*. African American Studies Program, Syracuse University, October 17, 2014.
- “Introduction to the History of Ghana and Pan Africanism,” McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research, NYU Silver School of Social Work. July 6, 2014.
- “Other Cinemas.” The Americas Film Festival of New York. June 3, 2014.
- “Forging a Common Path: An Anthology of Afro-Caribbean and Brazilian Poetry, Culture and Thought.” Schomburg Center for Research on Black Culture. March 21, 2014.
- “The African Matrix in Afro-Brazilian Poetry and Performance.” Seton Hall University. History Department. March 19, 2014.
- Moderator - “Bearing Witness: The Role of Culturally Specific Museums in the Public Discourse on Human Rights,” Human Rights: A Yearlong Forum, February 20, 2014. The City College.

- “Kwanzaa – The Nguzo Saba as Lived Praxis.” Imagination- Cultural Forum. New York. December 29, 2013.
- “Cultural Diplomacy: The Resources and Capabilities of National Diasporas.” The Jordan Institute, The Russian Diaspora and Cultural Diplomacy Conference. New York University. November 15, 2013.
- “150 Years After the Emancipation Proclamation: Are We Really Free.” Congressional Black Caucus – Author’s Pavillion. Washington, D. C. September 19, 2013.
- “Configuring the Past and Present.” OWWA Women Writers of Africa –Yari Yari Ntoaso. Accra, Ghana. May 15th – May 20th, 2013.
- Harlem Speaks Series – “In Conversation with Awa Sangho.” The National Jazz Museum in Harlem. April 25, 2013.
- “A Life on Three Continents: Intersectional Caribbeanity as a Mode of Being.” Caribbean Studies Association. New York University. March 13, 2013.
- “The Siré: Empowering Improvisation in the City of Women.” University of Virginia Commonwealth. Feb. 22, 2013.
- “Black Power and the Dream of Racial Equality.” SUNY-Cortland. Feb. 15, 2013.
- “Traveling the Road of the Orishas: From Yoruba Identity to Nagô Ideal.” African Studies Center, Boston University. Feb. 4, 2013. Live stream through NPR local station WBUR – World of Ideas program: <http://worldofideas.wbur.org/2013/02/17/sterling/player>
- “From Yoruba to Nagô: Afro-Brazilian Remembrance and Reconstruction of Africa.” Jordan Center for Russian Studies, NYU. Feb. 1, 2013.
- “Abdias Nascimento: Quilombola Extraordinaire.” BRASA Conference, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Campaign, Sept. 6-9, 2012.
- “Representing the Challenges of Africa on Film: Then and Now, Xala and Ezra.” *Celebrating Chinua Achebe*. Wellesley College. March 2010.
- Experts Workshop – International Peace Institute, United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. February 2010.
- “What is Africa?” Medgar Evers College, CUNY. December 2009.
- “The Social Context of *Ga* Outdoor Ceremonies.” The Silver School of Social Work, NYU. December 2008.
- “Women and Slavery in the Caribbean.” Dean Circle Lecture Series. New York University. Nov. 2006.
- “Tamar Kali: Geechee Goddess Hardcore Warrior Soul.” African Women in the Diaspora Series, Institute of African-American Affairs, New York University. April 2003.

Conferences:

- Panelist – “Exploring the Caribbean Female Erotic in *Here Comes the Sun*.” Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Santa Marta, Columbia, June 3 -7, 2019.

- Panelist - "Female Desire in 'An African City:' Feminism and AutoEroticism in the Making of the Afropolitan." African Literature Association. Columbus, Ohio. May 15 -18, 2019.
- Chair and Panelist - "The Art of Desire: Exploring the Black Female Erotic." African Literature Association, Washington DC, May 23-26, 2018.
- Panelist - "Decolonizing Decoloniality: Maria Lugones in conversation with Oyeronke Oyewumi." Towards Decolonial Feminisms. Penn State University. May 11-12th, 2018.
- Panelist - "Feast of the Gods - A Diasporic Play." ASWAD, Seville, Spain. Oct. 9, 2017.
- Panelist - "Ancestral Time in Trans-formulation in the Afro-Brazilian Play, Bença." African Literature Association. Yale Univ. June 16, 2016.
- Panelist - "I didn't have a farm in Africa." West Indian Literature Conference, Oct. 6-8, 2016.
- Panelist - "Represent This, Imagine That: Visuals of Slavery and Freedom in Brazil and Haiti." West Indian Literature Conference, Oct. 6-8, 2016.
- Presenter - "Say it Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud," *Black Power Discourse in Brazil*. Afro-Latin Association, Curaçao, Aug. 7. 2016.
- Presenter - "The Darker Mother in Literature." Caribbean Studies Association, Haiti, June 6, 2016.
- Panel Chair and Presenter - Motherhood and Social Justice. "The Darker Mother, The Darker Other." ALA Conference, Atlanta. April 7, 2016.
- Panel Chair and Organizer - CCNY Student Panel - Literature of the Africana World. New York African Studies Association. 41st Annual Conference. The City College (CUNY). April 1, 2016.
- Presenter - "What type of Hero is this?" *Aesthetic Twists and Turns with Shango's Twirls*." ALA Conference, University of Bayreuth, Germany. June 4, 2015.
- Panelist - The State of Africana Studies: Creating an Africana Studies Ph.D. Union College, Albany, NY. April 3, 2015.
- Panel Chair and Organizer - CCNY Students Panel - *Literature of Africa and the Diaspora*. NYASA, Union College, Albany, NY. April 3, 2015
- Panel Chair and Presenter - *In Honor of Kofi Awoonor - Politician, Poet, Writer, Thinker*. "The Voyager Came at Last - Kofi Awoonor and the Pan-African Dream." NYASA, SUNY-Cortland, NY. April 4th, 2014.
- Panel Chair and Presenter - *Spirit Possession, Gender and Power*, "What Gender are the Orishas?: An Incarnation of Yemanja in Salvador da Bahia." African Studies Association. Baltimore, MD. November 21, 2013.
- "The Triple Heritage of the Bando de Teatro Olodum." NYASA, Binghamton University, April 5, 2013.
- "Ancestral Time and Memory as Liberatory Ethos in an Afro-Brazilian Play." African Literature Association. College of Charleston. March 21, 2013.
- "Performing Race and Destabilizing Blackness in Afro-Brazilian Theater?" *Race, Resistance, and Reason: Rethinking the Boundaries*. SUNY-Cortland. Oct. 20, 2012.

- “*Bleque Pau*, Black *Bailes* and the Perfor(n)ormative in Afro-Brazilian Cultural Space.” *The Fire Every Time: Reframing Black Power across the 20th Century*. College of Charleston, Sept. 21-22, 2012.
- “Embodied Memory and the Aesthetic Canvas of Afro-Brazilian Candomblé.” BRASA Conference, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Campaign, Sept. 6-9, 2012.
- “Welcome to the *Cabaré*: Blackness as a Paradigm for Racial Equality in Afro-Brazilian Theater.” ALA Conference. April 11-15th, 2012.
- “Imagining Africa - *Ilê Aiyé*’s Transformation of *Candomblé*.” New York African Studies Association. Pennsylvania State University. Feb. 24-25, 2012.
- “Black Power, Black *Bailes* and Hip Hop in Brazil.” ASWAD, Univ. of Pittsburg. Nov. 4 -7, 2011.
- “Candomblé, Carnival, and the Ideal of African Continuity in Brazil.” *African and the People of African Descent: Issues and Actions to Re-envision the Future*. Howard University. Sept. 14-16, 2011.
- “Aesthetically Black: Quilombhoje and the Quest for an Afro-Brazilian Poetic Voice.” *Ifé Afro-Brazilian Seminar Series*. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ilê-Ifé, Nigeria. July 2011.
- “At the Crossroads of Gender and Race: Orisha Incarnation and Spiritual Pedagogy.” Caribbean Studies Association. May 2010.
- “Cosmopolitanism vs. Pan-Africanism and the African-American ‘Race Men’.” New York African Studies Association. Syracuse University. April 2009.
- “Edward Wilmot Blyden and the Beginnings of Pan-African Ideology.” African Studies Association. November 2008.
- Chair, Women’s Economy in Civil Conflicts - War and Conflicts in Africa. Univ. of Texas, Austin. March 2008.
- “Everything is Everything: Lauryn Hill Educated and Unplugged.” Caribbean Association Conference. Salvador da Bahia. May 2007.
- “Remembering and Reconstructing African Identity through Performance in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil.” University of Pittsburg, Penn. March 2006.
- “Finding Africa in the Dances of the Gods.” Movements and Migrations Conference. Univ. of Texas, Austin. March 2006.
- “Women, Power, and the Representation of the Sacred in Afro-Brazilian Culture.” African Literature Association. Univ. of Colorado. April 2005.
- “Performing Bodies, Performing Culture, Performing Identity.” African Literature Association. Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison. April 2004.
- “Recreating Africa in the Performance of Identity.” Dean Circle Lecture Series, SCPS, New York University. November 2003.
- “Future Conditionality as a Visionary Imperative in *Two Thousand Seasons*,” African Literature Association, April 2000.

Student Groups:

- PANAPA, Faculty Mentor, Graduate Student Conference. April 26, 2019.
- Student Affairs, Diversity Initiative, Black History Month. Feb. 22, 2018.

- The Roosevelt Institute, "Colonialism in the Caribbean: Post- Hurricane Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands," Nov. 16, 2017.
- "Understanding Race after Charlottesville and DACA." Special CCNY Panel Discussion. Sept. 19, 2017.
- "The Christopher Columbus Effect," Student Affairs, The City College, April 6, 2017.
- "Race-The Art of Consumption," Anthropology Club, The City College, March 26, 2015.
- "Why Brazil?," Mellon Fellowship Forum, The City College, March 13, 2014.
- "A Life on Three Continents." Caribbean Students Association, March 2013.
- "Brazil: A 'Latin' Nation?" Latin American Student's Association. Kimmel Center. March 2012.

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Herb Boyd, Talk on Bestselling book, *Detroit*. March 27, 2019.
- Symposia - African Voices, DACA edition. Feb. 21, 2018.
- CUNY Mellon Faculty Diversity Initiative, "Nuts and Bolts of the Annual Review," Feb. 23, 2018. Graduated Center, Segal Theater.
- Planned and Convened - College wide event - "Celebrating the Ancestors: Egungun in the Afro-Atlantic World," May 11, 2017. Aaron Davis Hall.
- Conference Convener, New York African Studies Association, April 1-2, 2016, The City College (CUNY) and Columbia University.
- President, New York African Studies Association, April 2014 to April 2015.
- Fulbright Review Committee for Brazil, IIE, Washington D.C. Fall 2015, 2014, 2012.
- Organized Black Studies Program Lecture Series: Chinua Achebe Legacy Series. CCNY. Fall 2014-Present.
- Organized Black Studies Program Lecture Series - Black Studies: Paradigms, Challenges, Frontiers. CCNY. Fall 2013-Present.
- Organized colloquium of CUNY and SUNY chairs on the state of Africana Studies, SUNY - New Paltz, Nov. 16, 2013.
- Vice President, New York African Studies Association, April 2013 - April 2014.

Service:

- African Studies Graduate Student Advisor, Jan. 2019 to present.
- Faculty Director - CUNY Mellon Diversity Initiative.
- Executive Committee Member, English Department - Spring 2018.
Executive Committee Member Faculty Council - Fall 2017 to August 2018.
- Search Committee for Dean of the Humanities and Arts, Summer 2016.
CCNY- CUNY.
- Chair, Caribbean Studies Search Committee, Black Studies Program, 2014 - 2015.

- Co-chair of the Black Studies / Media & Communication Arts Search Committee, 2014-2015.
- Member of the World Humanities Committee, English Dept. CCNY.
- Executive Committee member – Women Studies Program. CCNY.
- Black Studies Program representative to Faculty Council. CCNY.
- Perform annual Faculty Reviews for Black Studies and English.
- Organized colloquium, “Somalia Now.” Global Cultures Curricula Committee. March 2012.
- Lecture – “‘Glocalization’ in Hip-Hop.” Tisch School of the Arts. October 2009.
- Organized Lecture, Frank B. Wilderson, Prof. of African-American Studies, UC- Irvine. “Incognegro: A Memoir of Exile and Apartheid.” October 23, 2008. NYU, Meyer Hall.
- Planning Committee Member, China: Globalization\$ Past and Present, Liberal Studies, NYU 2007-2008
- Lecture – “Ama Ata Aidoo and a Diasporic Consciousness.” Tisch School of the Arts. September 2008.
- Liberal Studies Faculty Review Committee Member Fall/Spring 2008-2009; 2011-2012; 2012-20013.
- Planning committee member for LSP Colloquium series, Fall/Spring 2007/2008).
- Moderator for book release of Segun Oguntola, *In Celebration of All that Burdens Us*. NY: Seaburn Publishing Group. December 9, 2006.
- Planned and organized NYU Forum, “Reflections on Sudan,” April 20, 2006.
- Planned and organized Global Cultures Colloquium, “Democracy in the World,” March 31, 2006.
- General Studies Curricula Development Committee, NYU, Fall/Spring 2005-6.
- Selection Committee Member for Global Culture Hires. General Studies Program, NYU. Fall /Spring 2004-5.
- Faculty Liaison. Caribbean Students Association. NYU, 2003- 2004.
- Member of Dean Circle Committee, General Studies Program, NYU. Fall/Spring 2003-2004.
- Member of the Global Cultures Curricula Committee, Liberal Studies Program, NYU. (Ongoing)
- Faculty Mentor. Liberal Studies Program, NYU.
- Student Advisor. Liberal Studies. New York University.
- Member of the planning committee for reissue of “... *But Some of Us are Brave.*” Ed. Stanlie James and Nellie McKay. May 2000.

REVIEWS OF WORK

57 Citations

Cullison, Jennifer L. “African Roots, Brazilian Rites: Cultural and National Identity in Brazil.” *Journal of Third World Studies* (Spring 2015): 330-334

Alleyne, Mike. "Archipelagos of Sound: Transnational Caribbeanities, Women and Music." *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* 37.74 (2012): 254+. World Scholar: Latin America & the Caribbean. Web. <http://worldscholar.tu.galegroup.com/tinyurl/WaSUX>.

Rothwell, Phillip. "The Afro-Brazilian Mind: Contemporary Afro-Brazilian Literary and Cultural Criticism." *Research in African Literatures* 39. 4 (Winter 2008): 169-171.

Asante, Molefi K. "Marvels of the African World: African Cultural Patrimony, New World Connections and Identities." *Research in African Literatures* 36.4 (Winter 2005): 238-239.

MEDIA (PUBLIC) APPEARANCES

Televised on National Geographic, April 4, 2018 – Documentary Interview about Martin Luther King, Jr - January 30, 2018.

Interview, ARISE TV - African Immigration and DACA, February 12, 2018.

Fox News, Somali: Performance and Dialogue Series, October 21, 2017.

Apollo Theater – Uptown Hall Series – Feb. 21, 2017.

City Cinematique - *Terra Sonambula* (Sleepwalking Land), June 19, 2015

No Questions Asked, WBAI 99.5 FM, December 24, 2014

No Questions Asked, WBAI 99.5 FM, December 12, 2014

City Cinematique, *Munyurangabo*, City University Television, November 2014.

City Talk, WHCR 90.3 FM, February 10, 2014

Conversations with Klarque, Survival Radio Network, August 21, 2013

Literary Nation Talk Radio, KABF 88.3 FM, June 27, 2013

Gary Byrd Experience, WLIB 1190 AM, April 2013

MEMBER IN PROFESSIONAL BODIES

Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)

Caribbean Studies Association (CSA)

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

African Studies Association (ASA)

African Literature Association (ALA)

New York African Studies Association (NYASA)

LANGUAGES

Portuguese: fluent in speaking, reading, and writing.

Yoruba: intermediate level speaking, reading and writing.

Spanish: fluent reading; intermediate level speaking; basic writing.

French: intermediate reading, basic speaking and writing.

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