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Education

Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Chicago, 1991
M.A., Anthropology, University of Chicago, 1986
B.A., Anthropology, Harvard University, 1982--Magna Cum Laude

Employment

Lawrence Richardson Professor of Cultural Anthropology and of African and African American Studies, 2010-present.

Director, Center for African and African American Research, Duke University, 2009-present.

Chair and Professor, Department of African and African American Studies; Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Duke University, 2009-2010.

Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Howard University, Spring 2002.

Professor of Anthropology and of African and African American Studies, Harvard University, 1998 to 2009.

Hugh K. Foster Associate Professor of Anthropology and of Afro-American Studies Harvard University, 1995 to 1998.

Assistant Professor, Departments of Anthropology and of Afro-American Studies, Harvard University, 1991 to 1995.

Research Intern, Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago), Summer 1985
Research on Yoruba artifacts and master's thesis preparation.

Research Intern, National Museum of Natural History
(Washington, D.C.), Summer 1984
Research on Yoruba artifacts and master's thesis preparation.

Instructor, Phillips Academy (Andover, MA), 1983 to 1984

Taught English, Religion and Philosophy, and Jazz Dance.

Research Intern, National Museum of Natural History
(Washington, D.C.), Summer 1981
Researched and accessioned collections of African bladed weapons.

Selected Fellowships and Awards

- James Marsh Professor-at-Large, University of Vermont, 2013-2019.
- Distinguished Alumni Award, The Maret School, Washington, DC, 2013.
- Alexander von Humboldt Research Award, lifetime academic achievement award honoring internationally recognized scientists and scholars, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Bonn, Germany, 2013.
- National Endowment for the Humanities Grant for “Crafting Freedom,” an America’s Historical and Cultural Organizations Planning Grant for a traveling museum exhibition on free African-American craftspeople in the antebellum South, 2012-13.
- Distinguished Africana Award, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, 16 October 2012.
- Distinguished Africanist Award, awarded by the American Anthropological Association for Outstanding Contribution to African Studies and Anthropology, 19 November 2010.
- Thomas Langford Lectureship Award, Duke University, 16 March 2010.
- Favorite Professors of the Harvard College Class of 2009, Harvard Yearbook. May 2009.
- Lewis Henry Morgan Lectures, University of Rochester, 22 October 2008.
- Outstanding Africana Service Award, African-New World Studies, Florida International University, 8 March 2008.
- Melville J. Herskovits Prize, awarded by the African Studies Association for the best book of 2005, 17 November 2006.
- S. Allen Counter Award for Excellence in Faculty and Administration, Association of Black Harvard Women, 15 April 2006.
- Dr. Brandon Fradd Research Fund, donated to support my research on African diaspora religions—Spring 2006-present.
- Spencer Foundation Major Grant, “The Other African Americans: Ethnicity and the Changing Culture of ‘Black’ Higher Education”—2002-06.
- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers for overseas archival research and writing on Afro-Brazilian religion and politics--1995-1996.

Social Science Research Council Grant for Field Research in Bahia and São Paulo, Brazil--February-September 1992.

W. E. B. Du Bois Fellowship for Afro-American Research for the support of field research and writing on Afro-Brazilian culture--January-December 1992.

Post-doctoral Research Fellowship in Anthropology, Princeton University--1991.

Charles Gaius Bolin Fellowship for teaching and dissertation write-up, Williams College, 1990.

Fulbright-Hays (Dept. of Education) Fellowship for pre-dissertation research--Nigeria, 1988 to 1989.

National Science Foundation Fellowship for Graduate Study, University of Chicago--1985 to 1989.

Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) International Studies Fellowship, Rio de Janeiro and Bahia, Brazil--August-December 1987.

Roy D. Albert Prize for Excellence in the Graduate Study of Anthropology, University of Chicago--1986.

Danforth-Compton Fellowship for Graduate Study--1984 to 1991.

CIC International Studies Fellowship, Nigeria--Summer 1986.

CIC Graduate Fellowship for Minorities, University of Chicago--1984 to 1985.

Rotary Scholarship for Graduate Study Abroad, Nigeria--1982 to 1983.

Professional Memberships and Offices

Advisory Editor, Dictionary of Africans in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2012.

Member, Presidential Advisory Committee on Cultural Property, Department of State, United States Federal Government, July 2003-2011.

Member, Editorial Board, Afro-Àsia (Journal of the Center of Afro-Oriental Studies, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil), 1997 to the present.

Member, Advisory Board, Afropaedia Encyclopedia, editors Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Member, American Studies Association, 1995.

Associate Editor, American Ethnologist, 1994 to 1998.

Member, Board of Advisors, Thirteen/WNET Humanities Programming Initiative, 1994 to the present

Member, Advisory Board, GLQ, A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies, 1993 to 2005.

Member, African Studies Association, 1993 to the present.

Member, American Anthropological Association, 1992 to the present.

Member, Committee on African Studies, Harvard University, 1991 to the present.

Founder and Chair of the "Afro-Atlantic Religions Lecture and Film Series," Williams College (1990), Harvard University (1991, 1993, 1996, 1998, 2003, 2005),

and Duke University, where it is called “Black Gods and Kings: Priests and Practices of the Afro-Atlantic Religions” (2011). Intended primarily to allow priests of these often secretive and sometimes maligned religions to speak to the press and the public.

Films

Executive Producer, “Lucumí Music: Singing, Dancing, and Drumming Black Divinity” (2015). A production of the Center for African and African American Research at Duke University. <http://caaar.duke.edu/lecture-series/conferences>

Executive Producer, “Global Affirmative Action in a Neoliberal Age” (2013). A production of the Center for African and African American Research at Duke University. <http://caaar.duke.edu/lecture-series/conferences>

Executive Producer, “Can We Talk?: Bridges between the Humanities and the Social Sciences” (2012). A production of the Center for African and African American Research at Duke University. <http://caaar.duke.edu/lecture-series/conferences>

Executive Producer, “Human Traffic: Past and Present” (2012). A production of the Center for African and African American Research at Duke University. <http://caaar.duke.edu/lecture-series/conferences>

Selected Publications

Marx, Freud, and the Gods Black People Make: European Social Theory and the Real-Life “Fetish” (under review). Durham and London: Duke University Press.

Stigma and Culture: Ethnological Schadenfreude and Last-Place Anxiety in Black America (in press, expected September 2015). Lewis Henry Morgan Monograph Series. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.

La Religión del Atlántico negro: tradición, transnacionalismo y matriarcado en el Candomblé brasileño (2015). Spanish translation of Black Atlantic Religion: Tradition, Translation and Matriarchy in the Afro-Brazilian Candomblé. Santiago, Cuba: Editorial Oriente/Casa del Caribe. Featured book of the Festival of the Caribbean, Santiago de Cuba, 3-9 July 2015.

Review of The Formation of Candomblé: Vodun History and Ritual in Brazil by Luis Nicolau Parés (in press, expected October 2015). The Americas, Research Notes section.

“Stureplan People: Region, Race and Class in Today’s Sweden” (2015). Transition 118:47-60.

Review of Witchcraft, Intimacy and Trust: Africa in Comparison by Peter Geschiere (in press). Journal of Religion in Africa 44(3-4).

“Hurt People Hurt People” (2015). *Savage Minds*, 5 June. <http://savageminds.org/2015/06/03/anthropology-and-the-boycott-of-israeli-academic-institutions-part-1/>

“From ‘Survival’ to ‘Dialogue’: Analytic Tropes in the Study of African-Diaspora Cultural History” (2014). In Transatlantic Caribbean: Dialogues of People, Practices, Ideas, Ingrid Kummels, Claudia Rauhut, Stefan Rinke and Birte Timm eds. Pp.33-55. Bielefeld, Germany: Transcript Verlag.

- “Affirmative Scapegoating” (2014). The Harvard Crimson, 29 May.
- “One Duke Professor’s Trayvon Martin moment” (2013). NewsObserver.com, 14 July 2013. <http://www.newsobserver.com/2013/07/13/3026219/one-duke-professors-trayvon-martin.html>
- “The Homeward Ship: Analytic Tropes as Maps of and for African-Diaspora Cultural History” (2012). In Transforming Ethnographic Knowledge, Rebecca Hardin and Kamari Maxine Clarke eds. Pp.93-112. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- “‘He Fit the Description’: Prejudice and Pain in Progressive Communities” (2012). Racism in the Academy: The New Millennium, Audrey Smedley and Janis Faye Hutchinson eds. Pp.138-44.
http://www.aaa.net.org/cmtes/commissions/upload/11_Matory.pdf
- “What Harvard Has Taught Me.” Harvard Crimson, 2 June 2009.
- “Favorite Professors” Open Letter to the Class of 2009 (2009). Harvard College Yearbook, Elaine Liu ed. p.53. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Yearbook Publications.
- “Obituary: Elliot Percival Skinner (1924-2007)” (2009). American Anthropologist 111(1):125-30.
- “The Many Who Dance in Me: Afro-Atlantic Ontology and the Problem with ‘Transnationalism’” (2009). In Transnational Transcendence, Thomas Csordas ed. Pp.231-62. Berkeley, London and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- “Feminismo, nacionalismo, e a luta pelo significado do adé no Candomblé” (2008). Revista de Antropologia: Revista de Antropologia da Universidade de São Paulo 51(1 [janeiro-junho]):107-121.
- “The Illusion of Isolation: the Gullah/Geechees and the Political Economy of African Culture in the Americas” (2008). Comparative Studies in Society and History 50(4):949-80.
- “Free to Be a Slave: Slavery as a Metaphor in the Afro-Atlantic Religions” (2008). In Africas of the Americas: Beyond the Search for Origins in the Study of Afro-Atlantic Religions, Stephan Palmié, ed. Pp.351-80. Leiden and Boston: Brill.
- “What Do Critics of Israel Have to Fear?” (2008). The Harvard Crimson, 5 June.
- “Is There Gender in Yoruba Culture?” (2008). In Orisa Devotion as World Religion: the Globalization of Yoruba Religious Culture, K. Jacob Olupona and Terry Rey, eds. Pp.513-58. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Obituary: “David Maybury-Lewis: Anthropologist keen to protect the interests of the peoples of central Brazil” (2008). The Guardian (London), 5 February.
- “Islands are Not Isolated: Reconsidering the Roots of Gullah Distinctiveness” (2008). In Transcendent Traditions: Baskets of Two Continents, Dale Rosengarten, Theodore Rosengarten, and Enid Schildkrout eds. Pp.232-43. Long Island City, NY: Museum for African Art.
- “Orwellian Uses of ‘Free Speech’” (2007). The Harvard Crimson, 30 November.
- “Free to Be a Slave: Slavery as Metaphor in the Afro-Atlantic Religions” (2007). Journal of Religion in Africa 37(3):398-425.

- “Israel and Censorship at Harvard” (2007). The Harvard Crimson, 14 Sept.
- “The Progressives’ Prejudice” (2007). The Harvard Crimson, 7 June, A29.
- “Tradition, Transnationalism and Gender in the Afro-Brazilian Candomblé” (2006). In Cultural Agency in the Americas. Doris Sommer ed. pp.121-45. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Black Atlantic Religion: Tradition, Transnationalism and Matriarchy in the Afro-Brazilian Candomblé (2005). Princeton: Princeton University Press. *Winner of the Melville J. Herskovits Prize of the African Studies Association, 2006.*
- Sex and the Empire That Is No More: Gender and the Politics of Metaphor in Oyo Yoruba Religion--second, revised edition (2005). New York and London: Berghahn Books. *A Choice Outstanding Scholarly Book of the Year, 1994.*
- “Why I Stood Up: the Case against Summers” (2006). Harvard Crimson, 7 June.
- “The ‘New World’ Surrounds an Ocean: On the Live Dialogue between African and African-American Cultures” (2006). In Afro-Atlantic Dialogues: Anthropology in the Diaspora, Kevin Yelvington ed. Pp.151-192.. Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research.
- “Sexual Secrets: Candomblé, Brazil, and the Multiple Intimacies of the African Diaspora” (2004). In Off Stage/On Display: Intimacy and Ethnography in the Age of Public Culture, Andrew Shryock ed. pp.157-190. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press.
- “Gendered Agendas: the Secrets Scholars Keep about Yoruba-Atlantic Religion” (2004). In Dialogues of Dispersal: Gender, Sexuality and African Diasporas (A Gender and History special edition), Sandra Gunning, Tera W. Hunter and Michele Mitchell eds. Pp.13-43. Malden, MA, and Oxford, UK: Blackwell.
- “Gendered Agendas: the Secrets Scholars Keep about Yoruba-Atlantic Religion” (2003). Gender and History 15[3]:408-38.
- “Contradiction and Forgetting among the Yewésseys” (2002). Transforming Anthropology 10(2):2-12.
- “El nuevo imperio Yoruba: Textos, migración y el auge transatlántico de la nación lucumi” (2001). In Culturas encontradas: Cuba y los Estados Unidos, Rafael Hernández and John Coatsworth, eds. Pp. 167-188. Havana: Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo de la Cultura Juan Marinello and Cambridge, MA: David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University.
- “The Gullah and the Black Atlantic.” Footsteps: African American History and Heritage Magazine, (March/April 2001), pp. 10-11.
- “Africans in the United States,” Footsteps: African American History and Heritage Magazine, (March/April 2001), pp. 6-9.
- “The Other African Americans.” Footsteps: African American History and Heritage Magazine, (March/April 2001), pp. 24-25.
- “The ‘Cult of Nations’ and the Ritualization of their Purity” (2001). South Atlantic Quarterly (special issue on “Atlantic Genealogies”) 100(1):171-214.
- “Surpassing ‘Survivals’: On the Urbanity of ‘Traditional Religion’ in the Afro-Atlantic World” (2001). The Black Scholar, 30 (3): 36-43.

- "Cuba and African Diaspora Religion" (2000). ReVista: Harvard Journal of Latin America, Winter.
- "Jeje: Repensando Nações e Transnacionalismo" (1999). Mana: Estudos de Antropologia Social (Rio de Janeiro) 5(1): 57-80.
- "Afro-Atlantic Culture: On the Live Dialogue between Africa and the Americas." In Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience (1999). Henry Louis Gates and K. Anthony Appiah, eds. Pp. 36-44. New York: Basic Civitas Books.
- "The English Professors of Brazil: On the Diasporic Roots of the Yoruba Nation" (1999). Comparative Studies in Society and History 41(1):72-103.
- "Yorubá: As Rotas e as Raízes da Nação Transatlântica, 1830-1950" (1998). Horizontes Antropológicos (Porto Alegre, Brazil) 4(9):263-292.
- Book review (1998) of Yoruba Sacred Kingship: "A Power Like that of the Gods" (1996) by John Pemberton, III, and Funṣo Afọlayan. Anthropological Quarterly 71(3):155-156.
- "Yoruba: A World Civilization" (1998). Calliope: World History for Young People, February, pp. 4-8, 39.
- "Religions, African, in the Americas" (1997). In The Encyclopedia of Sub-Saharan Africa, ed. John Middleton. New York: Simon and Schuster.
- "African and Afro-Caribbean Religions in the United States" (1997). In On Common Ground: World Religions in America, Interactive CD-ROM, ed. Diana Eck. New York: Columbia University Press.
- "The King's Male-Order Bride: the Making of a Yoruba Priest in a Post-Modern Age" (1997). In Queens, Queen Mothers, Priestesses, and Power: Case Studies in African Gender, ed. Flora Kaplan. Vol. 810 of the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, pp.381-400. New York: New York Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- "Revisiting the African Diaspora" (1996) --book review essay concerning Joseph M. Murphy's Working the Spirit (1994), George Brandon's Santeria from Africa to the New World (1993), and Ysamur Flores-Peña and Roberta J. Evanchuk's Santería Garments and Altars (1994). American Anthropologist 88(1):167-70.
- Sex and the Empire That Is No More: Gender and the Politics of Metaphor in Oyo Yoruba Religion (1994). Minneapolis : University of Minnesota Press. *A Choice outstanding scholarly book of the year*
- "Rival Empires: Islam and the Religions of Spirit Possession among the Oyo-Yoruba" (1994). American Ethnologist 21(3):495-515.
- "Government by Seduction: History and the Tropes of 'Mounting' in Oyo-Yoruba Religion" (1993). In Modernity and Its Malcontents: Ritual and Power in Africa, eds. Jean Comaroff and John Comaroff. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Review article (1993) on Creativity of Power: Essays on Cosmology and Action in African Societies (1989), eds. Ivan Karp and William Arens. Journal of Religion in Africa 23(2):175-80.
- Book review (1991) of Africanisms in American Culture, ed. Joseph E. Holloway.

American Anthropologist 93: 489-90.

"Homens Montados: homossexualidade e simbolismo da possessão nas religiões afro-brasileiras" ("Mounted Men: homosexuality and the symbolism of possession in the Afro-Brazilian religions," 1988). In Escravidão e Invenção da Liberdade, ed. João José Reis. São Paulo: Editora Brasiliense).

Lectures, Workshops and Conference Papers

Discussion of *Marx, Freud, and the Gods Black People Make: European Social Theory and the Real-Life "Fetish"* (2015). Faculty Seminar, Department of Comparative Studies and the Diversity and Identity Studies Collective, Ohio State University, 6 May.

"The Black Body under Contestation in Brazil" (2015). Panel on "Expressive Cultures/Global Flows: Histories and Bodies in Flux," Global Brazil Conference, Duke University, 27 March.

"Marx, Freud and the Man-Made Gods of the Yoruba-Atlantic: European Social Theory and the Real-Life Fetish" (2015). Third Annual Oyekan Owomoyela Yoruba Studies Lecture, Ohio State University. 13 March.

"Stigma and Culture: Ethnological Schadenfreude and Last-Place Anxiety in Black America" (2014). African Studies Centre, Leiden University, The Netherlands, 25 November.

"Marx, Freud and the Gods Black People Make: European Social Theory and the Real-Life 'Fetish'" (2014). Seminar of the "Currents of Faith, Places of History" Joint Research Programme of the Humanities in the European Research Area Network, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 24 November.

"Marx, Freud and the Gods Black People Make: European Social Theory and the Real-Life 'Fetish'" (2014). History Department, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany, 20 November.

Discussion of Marx, Freud and the Man-Made Gods of the Black Atlantic (2014). Fachgebiet für Kultur- und Sozialanthropologie (Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology) and Fachgebiet Religionswissenschaft (Department of the Study of Religion), Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany 14 November

"Stigma and Culture: Ethnological Schadenfreude and Last-Place Anxiety in Black America" (2014). Fachgebiet für Kultur- und Sozialanthropologie (Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology) and Fachgebiet Religionswissenschaft (Department of Religious Studies), Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany 13 November.

"Fogo no Céu: O Significado Augusto das Artes Sagradas de Xangô em Nigéria, Cuba e Brasil/Fire in the Sky: the Meaning and the Majesty of Shango's Sacred Arts in Nigeria, Cuba and Brazil" (2014). Bi-lingual lecture, Forum-Brasil, Berlin, 8 November.

"Marx, Freud and the Gods People Make in the Black Atlantic World: the 'Fetish' in the Making and the Critique of European Theory." (2014). Institut für Ethnologie, Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, 6 November.

- “Marx, Freud and the Man-Made Gods of Africa: the Lessons of the Real-Life ‘Fetish’ for European Theory” (2014). Kolloquium zur Kunst Afrikas, Kunsthistorisches Institut (African Art Colloquium, Art History Institute), Freie Universität Berlin, 28 October.
- "Theorizing 'Culture' between Spaces: The Afro-Atlantic Example." Keynote Address, International Research Training Group “Between Spaces” (2014). A collaboration between the Freie Universität Berlin and the Colegio de México, Berlin, 3 September.
- “Fuego en el cielo: el significado augusto de las artes sagradas de Changó en Nigeria, Cuba y Brasil” (2014). Union de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (UNEAC), Santiago de Cuba, 10 July.
- “Hegel, Marx y los dioses que hacen los hombres en el Atlántico negro (el verdadero ‘fetiche’ no visto por la teoría social europea)” (2014). Keynote Address: Coloquio Internacional: el Caribe que Nos Une. Festival del Caribe, Casa del Caribe, Santiago de Cuba, 7 July.
- “La idea de la religión afro-atlántica” (2014). Keynote address, “Curso Taller Internacional de Religiosidad Popular,” Festival del Caribe, Casa del Caribe, Santiago de Cuba, 4 July.
- “The Black Atlantic from a Decolonial Perspective—A Conversation with J. Lorand Matory” (2014). Fachschaftsinitiative des Lateinamerika-Instituts, Freie Universität Berlin. 24 June.
- “‘Ask Me No Questions’: Embodied Knowledge and Ethnographic Objectivism” (2014) Lateinamerika-Institut, Freie Universität Berlin, 23 June.
- “Fire in the Sky: the Meaning and the Majesty of Shango’s Sacred Arts in Nigeria, Cuba and Brazil” (2014). Internationales Begegnungszentrum der Wissenschaft, Berlin (Germany). 19 June.
- “Stigma and Culture: Last-Place Anxiety and Ethnological Schadenfreude in Black America” (2014). Institut für Ethnologie, Universität Hamburg, Germany, 6 May..
- “Marx, Freud and the Gods People Make in West Africa: the Lessons of the Real-Life ‘Fetish’ for European Theory” (2014). James Marsh Professor-at-Large Inaugural Lecture, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, 14 April.
- “Stigma and Culture: Global Migrations and the Crisis of Identity in Black America” (2014). Public lecture, Uppsala University, hosted by the Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology and the Forum for African Studies, 27 February.
- “Marx, Freud and the Gods People Make in West Africa: the Lessons of the Real-Life ‘Fetish’ for European Theory” (2014). Research Seminar in Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, Uppsala University, Sweden, 26 February.
- “Marx, Freud and the Gods People Make in West Africa: the Lessons of the Real-Life ‘Fetish’ for European Theory” (2014). Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University, 24 February.
- “The African Gods of Latin America: the Real-Life ‘Fetish’ in the Making, and the Critique, of European Theory” (2014). Humboldt Prize Honorary Lecture, Lateinamerika-Institut, Freie Universität Berlin, 11 February.

- “Media Stereotypes and Double Consciousness: Telling Your Own Unheard Stories” (2013). John Hope Franklin Young Scholars Program, Duke University, 14 December.
- I Am the Other: Alienation, Empathy and Anthropology” (2013). The Maret School, Distinguished Alumni Lecture, 20 November.
- “Becoming an Anthropologist” (2013). John Hope Franklin Young Scholars Program, Duke University, 16 August.
- “Fire in the Sky: the Meaning and the Majesty of Shango’s Sacred Arts in Nigeria, Cuba and Brazil” (2013). Keynote Address, Annual Shango Festival, Oyotunji Village, Sheldon, SC, 27 July.
- “Black Studies: Choices, Challenges, and Triumphs” (2013). Division of Humanities and the Arts and the Black Studies Program, City College of New York, New York City, 22 April.
- “The ‘Fetish’ in Real Time: On the Positionality of Theory, or Value at the Crossroads” (2013). Roy A. Rappaport Distinguished Lecture in the Anthropology of Religion, Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Biennial Meeting, Pasadena, California, 13 April.
- “Stigma and Culture: Global Migrations and the Crisis of Identity in Black America” (2013). Plenary Lecture at “Remapping the Black Atlantic: Diaspora (Re)Writings of Race and Space: An International Conference,” DePaul University, 12 April.
- “Interwoven Histories: Luxury Cloths of Atlantic Africa” (2013). Gallery talk, John Hope Franklin Young Scholars Program. Lilly Library, Duke University, 26 January.
- “Interwoven Histories: Luxury Cloths of Atlantic Africa” (2012). Gallery talk, Lilly Library, Duke University, 27 November.
- “Global Migrations and the Crisis of Identity in Black America” (2012). Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey Distinguished Africana Lecture, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 15 October.
- “Putting American Slavery and Freedom in Their Place: A Cross-Cultural Perspective” (2012). John Hope Franklin Young Scholars Program, Duke University, 17 August.
- “Popular Democracy and Racial Dictatorship: 19th-Century US Slavery in Historical Perspective” (2012). Keynote Address to the John Hope Franklin Young Scholars Program, Duke University, 13 August.
- “Survival/Creolization/Dialogue: How Tropes Remake the African Diaspora” (2012). Keynote Address to the “Crossroads of the World: Transatlantic Interrelations in the Caribbean,” Freie Universität Berlin, 2 July.
- “The Black Atlantic: A Translocal Civilization” (2012). John Hope Franklin Young Scholars Program, Duke University, 12 May.
- “Of the Race but above the Race: Ethnicity, Class Identity, and Shame in Black America” (2011). Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Duke University, 8 November.
- “I Am the Other: the Making of an Anthropologist” (2011). Chatauqua: a Faculty

- Lecture Series for First-Years. Duke University. 7 November.
- “On the ‘Fetish’: The Black Atlantic Making of Gods and Men” (2011). Provost’s Lecture, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 21 April.
- “Yoruba-Atlantic Ethnicity: On the Essential Indeterminacy of Ethnic Boundaries” (2011). Mellon-Sawyer Seminar on Ethnicity in Africa, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2 April.
- “Sacred Double Consciousness: the Signs of Citizenship and of Spirit Possession in the Afro-Atlantic World” (2010). Distinguished Lecture, Association for Africanist Anthropology, American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, 19 November.
- “Do Affluent Black Kids Feel They Have to Act ‘Ghetto’? Do Poor White Kids Just Want to Disappear?” (2010). Center for Race Relations, Duke University, 28 October.
- “Trends and Prospects in African and African-Diaspora Studies” (2010). “The Future of Africana Studies: A Public Forum,” University of Virginia, Charlottesville, 21 October.
- “Of the Race but above the Race: Ethnicity and Shame in the Global Black Bourgeoisie” (2010). Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften, Vienna. 14 October.
- “Of the Race but Above the Race: Ethnicity, Hope, and Shame in the Global Black Bourgeoisie” (2010). Department of Cultural Anthropology, Duke University. 27 September.
- “Learning from Embarrassment: On Being an Africanist Anthropologist” (2010). “Down to Earth: Making Community Connections” Series. Center for Multicultural Affairs, Duke University. 8 September.
- “The Plantation Cross-Culturally: the Questions Scholars Ask, and How We Try to Answer Them” (2010). Keynote Address to John Hope Franklin Young Scholars Program,” Historic Stagville Plantation, Durham, NC, 10 July.
- “*A Diáspora Africana—na Teoria e na Prática*” (2010). Keynote Address at “*A Circulação de Objetos, Corpos e Espíritos: Processos de Objectivação e Subjectivação nos Movimentos Religiosos entre África e as Américas*,” *Centro em Rede de Investigação em Antropologia—Núcleo e Antropologia da Religião and Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade Nova de Lisboa*, Lisbon, Portugal, 25 June.
- “Free to Be a Slave: Slavery as a Metaphor in the Afro-Atlantic Religions” (2010). Keynote Address at “States of Freedom, Freedom of States” Conference, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica, 16 June.
- “Anthropology, Aspiration, and Poetry” (2010). Commencement address to the Class of 2010, W.G. Pearson GT Magnet Elementary School, Durham, NC, 10 June.
- “*Eniitan: ‘Children of History’*” (2010). Address to the Class of 2010, Department of African and African American Studies, Duke University, 14 May.
- “Of the Race but above the Race: Racial Stigma, Ethnicity, and the Hopes of the Global

- Black Bourgeoisie” (2010). Annual Langford Lectureship, Duke University, 16 March.
- “Three Questions about Race” (2010). Keynote address to Common Ground Retreat, Center for Race Relations, Duke University, Camp Oak Hill, Oak Hill, NC, 26 February.
- “Vodou and Other African-Inspired Religions” (2010). Online Office Hours, Duke University, 12 February. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAcQKhVAjM8>
- “The Cultural Construction of Dis-ease and Healing: An Afro-Atlantic Perspective” (2010). Duke Clinical Research Institute, Duke University, Durham, NC, 21 January.
- “Possessed: People Are Not Always Who You Think They Are” (2009). Duke Durham School Days (mini-immersion to promote the desire to attend college among eighth-graders), Office of Community Affairs, Duke University, 16 October.
- “Sacred Double Consciousness: the Signs of Citizenship and of Spirit Possession in the Afro-Atlantic World” (2009). Center for Black Diaspora, DePaul University, Chicago, 6 May.
- “The African Diaspora—in Theory and in Practice” (2009). Keynote address, African and African Diaspora Studies Workshop, Wesleyan University, 24 April.
- “Of the Race but above the Race: Racial Stigma, Ethnicity, and the Hidden Social Curriculum of the University” (2009). Program in African and African-American Studies, University of Iowa, Iowa City, 26 February.
- “Of the Race but above the Race: Stigma and the Schooling of Ethnicity in the ‘Mecca’ of Black Higher Education” (2009). African and African-American Studies Program and Department of Anthropology/Sociology, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, 19 February.
- “Contemporary Challenges to Afro-Brazilian Religions” (2009). Brazil Studies Program at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, 12 February.
- “The African Diaspora—in Theory and in Practice” (2009). “Power and the Black Experience,” School of the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, 11 February.
- “The Other African Americans: Racial Stigma, Ethnicity, and the Hidden Curriculum of the University” (2009). The Americas Series (Distinguished Scholars of Race in the Americas), Department of African and African Diaspora Studies and Program in American Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, 22 January.
- “Of the Race but above the Race: Racial Stigma, Ethnicity, and the Hidden Social Curriculum of the University” (2008). Lewis Henry Morgan Lecture Series, University of Rochester, 22 October.
- “The Cultural and Political Construction of Dis-ease and Healing: An Afro-Atlantic Perspective” (2008). National Medical Association Post-Convention Seminar on “Collaborative Care with Cultural Competency in HIV/AIDS,” Marco Island, Florida, 2 August.
- “Scholarship and Daily Life: An Anthropologist’s View” (2008). Schomburg-Mellon

- Humanities Institute, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 11 July.
- “*Nacionalismo, Regionalismo, e Feminismo: Arthur Ramos, Édison Carneiro, e Ruth Landes na Encruzilhada*” (2008). Department of Anthropology, Universidade de São Paulo, 1 July.
- “Sacred Double Consciousness: On the Signs of Citizenship and Spirit Possession in the Afro-Atlantic World” (2008). Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs and the Sociology and Anthropology Department, Georgetown University, 18 April
- “Enterprising Africa: Culture as Economic Opportunity” (2008). Chair/President/Manager Program, Harvard Business School, 11 April.
- “Sacred Double Consciousness: On Citizenship and Spirit Possession in the Afro-Atlantic World” (2008). University of Oregon, Eugene, 4 April.
- “The Many Who Dance in Me: Foreignness, Royalty and Slavery in the Afro-Atlantic Self” (2008). Conference on “Orisa Music and Dance: Discourses of Modernity and Transnationalism,” African-New World Studies, Florida International University, Ft. Lauderdale, 8 March.
- “Academic and Accidental Activism in the Professoriat” (2008). Mellon Mays and Bouchet Undergraduate Fellowships Annual Spring Conference at Yale —“Scholars as Change-Makers,” 1 March.
- “What Is Troubling about Zionism: An African American Perspective” (2007). Justice for Palestine, Harvard Law School, 4 December.
- “The African Diaspora—in Theory and in Practice” (2007). Department of African and African American Studies, Duke University, 16 November.
- “Of the Race but above the Race: Ethnicity among the Stigmatized” (2007). Anthropology Day, Harvard University, 14 September.
- “Drums That Talk and Selves That Are Not Your Own: Thinking about Society through African Music” (2007). Kennedy-Longfellow School, 7th grade assembly, 31 May.
- “The African Diaspora—in Theory and in Practice” (2007). Rutgers University, Center for African Studies, Conference on “Circulating People, Circulating Cultures: Legacies of Slavery in Africa and the Americas,” 12 May.
- “Free to Be a Slave: Slavery as a Metaphor in the Afro-Atlantic Religions” (2007). Tulane University, Keynote address at Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship Conference, Stone Center for Latin American Studies, 25 April.
- “The Spirits of History: Ontology, Historiography, and the Haitian Revolution” (2007) Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, 12 April.
- “Of the Race, for the Race, but above the Race: Racial Stigma, Ethnicity, and the Hidden Social Curriculum of the University” (2007). Boston University, Conference on “Community Building and Identity Formation in the African Diaspora,” 31 March.
- “Black Gods and Kings: The African Legacy of Latino and Black America” (2007). English High School, Boston, 28 February.
- “‘He Fit the Profile’: Race and Racism in Progressive Academic Communities” (2007).

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Black History Month Breakfast, 16 February.
- “The Many Who Dance in Me: On the Plural and Transnational Nature of the Afro-Atlantic Self” (2006). Department of Religion, Duke University, 28 September.
- “About Black Atlantic Religion” (2006). Wellesley College, Africana Studies, 27 April.
- “Africa in the Americas: Re-Theorizing the African Diaspora” (2006). Bradford Morse Distinguished Lecture Series, African Studies Center, Boston University, 12 April.
- “Africa in the Americas: Re-Theorizing Africa’s Cultural Influence on the Americas” (2006). The Jerry Wood Memorial Lecture, Swarthmore College, 13 February.
- “The Trans-Atlantic Nation: Rethinking the African ‘Diaspora’” (2005). “Global Black Studies” series of the Department of African Studies, University of Illinois, Chicago, 18 Nov.
- “Free to Be a Slave: Slavery as Metaphor in the Afro-Atlantic Religions” (2005) African Studies Program, University of Washington, Seattle, 20 May.
- “Imaginando Puerto Rico, o “?Y tu abrigo, dónde está?” (2005). Public lecture for the Puerto Rico Winter Institute, University of Puerto Rico, 27 January.
- “*La Salsa en la Falla: Raza, Género y Nación en un Mundo Transnacional*” (“Salsa on the Fault Line: Race, Gender and Nation in a Transnational World”—2005). Two lectures for the Puerto Rico Winter Institute, University of Puerto Rico, 24 and 25 January.
- “Settler Colonialism as a Bloc Position” (2004). Keynote address for the meeting of the Legal Committee of the Harvard Model United Nations, 10 December.
- “Sacred Misnomers and Israel’s ‘Right to Exist’” (2004). Morning Prayers, Memorial Church, Harvard University, 6 December.
- “*Para Inglês Ver: Sex, Secrecy and Scholarship in the Yoruba-Atlantic World*” (2004). Ethnohistory Program (with the co-sponsorship of the African Studies Center and the Africana Studies Program), University of Pennsylvania, 28 October.
- “Africa is Not a Crisis” (2004). Keynote address. Rotary Club of Cambridge, MA, 25 August.
- “Man in the ‘City of Women’: Ethnographic Allegories of Race, Sex and Nation” (2004). Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago, 10 May.
- “*Para Inglês Ver: Black Matriarchy in the Transnational Drama of Racial Democracy*” (2004). Brazilian Studies Program, Georgetown University, 26 March.
- “‘In their effect if not their intent’: Confronting the New Anti-Semitism” (2004). Morning Prayers, Memorial Church, Harvard University, 15 January.
- “Race, Rights, and Rank in the Nation-State: a Cross-Cultural Perspective on the 1963 March on Washington” (2003). Public Affairs Section, United States Consulate, Lagos, Nigeria, 21 August.
- “Is There Gender in Yoruba Society?” (2002). Roundtable: The Invention of Women—Theorizing African Women and Gender Now and into the Future. African Studies Association, Washington, D.C., 6 December.
- “Are Religions Inherently Transnational?” (2002). Transnational Religion and

- Migration: A Planning Meeting of the Social Science Research Council, Istanbul, 13 June.
- “Sources of Sickness, Logics of Healing: An African Cultural View” (2002). Televised lecture for the Continuing Medical Education broadcast of the National Medical Association Convention, Maui, Hawaii, 8-12 August (recorded 6/5/02).
- “Is Oppositional Culture Killing Our Kids?: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on African American Youth Resistance” (2002). Fourth Melvin E. Jenkins, M.D., Lectureship in Pediatrics, Howard University College of Medicine, 7 May.
- “The ‘New World’ Surrounds an Ocean: On the Afro-Atlantic Dialogue” (2002). Twenty-First Annual Lorraine A. Williams Lecture, Department of History, Howard University, 24 April.
- “Who Is the Subject of History?” (2002). Keynote address, Induction Ceremony of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society, Howard University, 22 April.
- “Cooperation in the Workplace/la Cooperación en el Servicio” (2002). Bilingual workshop on Black-Latino Labor Relations for Howard University dormitory staff, 18 April.
- “Are Black North Americans Cultural Imperialists?” (2002). Foreign Policy Forum of the Ralph E. Bunche International Affairs Center, Howard University, 16 April.
- “The Other African Americans: Theorizing Ethnic Diversity at Howard University” (2002). New Perspectives in Faculty Research Colloquium, Howard University, 6 February.
- “Of Many Nations, We Are One” (2002). Annual Black History Month Lecture, Howard University Hospital. Sponsored by the Office of International Healthcare Services, 28 February.
- “Identity and Difference: On Black Ethnic Diversity at Howard” (2002). Black History Month Series, Part Two, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Chapter, Howard University, 20 February.
- “Sex and Secrecy: Reflections on Herzfeld’s Cultural Intimacy in the African Diaspora” (2001). Panel on “Cultural Intimacy and Mass Mediation: Articulating New Grounds for Ethnography between Public and Private Spheres,” organized by Professor Andrew Shryock, 100th Annual Anthropological Association Meeting, Washington, D.C., 29 November.
- “Free to Be a Slave: Slavery as a Metaphor in the Afro-Atlantic Religions” (2001). “Slavery: A Comparative Exploration,” An Interdisciplinary Symposium on Slavery, Howard University, 18-19 May.
- “An African Empire in the Americas: On the Trans-Atlantic Rise of Yoruba Religion” (2001). African Diaspora Series, University of California, Riverside, 20 April.
- “The ‘New World’ Surrounds an Ocean: Africa in the Making of the Modern World” (2001). Keynote Address at “Africa in World History: Thematic Connections,” the Wednesday Workshop of the Northeastern Regional Council for Social Studies (NERC), co-sponsored by the Center for World History (Northeastern University) and the African Studies Center (Boston University), Boston, 7 March.
- “Hombre en la ‘Ciudad de las Mujeres’” (2001). Invited lecture at conference on

- “Cultural Agency in the Americas: Language, Ethnicity, Gender and Outlets of Expression” (sponsored by the Social Science Research Council), Cuzco, Peru, 30 January.
- “The Road to Timbuktu and the Rivers of West Africa” (2001). Lecture series sponsored by Harvard University Alumni Association Tour of Senegal and Mali, 15-27 January.
- “Sex, Dialogue and Secrecy in the Yoruba-Atlantic Tradition” (2000). Panel on “Breaking Taboo: (Theorizing) Sex and Sexualities in the African Diaspora,” 99th Annual American Anthropological Association Meeting, San Francisco, 15–19 November.
- “The ‘New World’ Surrounds an Ocean: On the Afro-Atlantic Dialogue” (2000). Colloquium Series on Transnationalism, Area Studies and Ethnographic Methods, Department of Anthropology, Yale University, 14 November.
- “Disciplining Race: An Anthropological Perspective on ‘Race,’ Migration, and ‘Identity’” (2000). Black Cultural Studies Seminar, Tufts University, 28 September.
- “Parables from the Afro-Atlantic: On the Dialectical Representation of Collective Black Selves” (2000). Conference on “Crossing Boundaries: The African Diaspora in the New Millennium,” New York University, 23 September.
- “Afro-Atlantic Culture: Re-Thinking the Units of Anthropological Analysis” (2000). Anthropology Day, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, 15 September.
- “Afro-Atlantic Dialogue: A New Analytic Metaphor for an Old Reality” (2000). African Diaspora Program, Department of African-American Studies, University of California at Berkeley, 25 April.
- “How I Became White: A Cross-Cultural Look at Race”/ “Contradiction and Forgetting in Yewessey Culture” (2000). The Tenth Emeritus Lecture, in honor of the late Professor Emeritus William Shack, Department of Anthropology, University of California at Berkeley, 24 April.
- “Afro-Atlantic Dialogue: A New Analytic Metaphor for an Old Reality” (2000). Conference on “Transcending Traditions: African, Afro-American and African Diaspora Studies in the 21st Century,” African Studies Center and the Afro-American Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania, 21 April.
- “The New Yoruba Imperium: Texts, Migration, and the Rise of the Trans-Atlantic Lucumí Nation” (2000). Latin American Studies Association International Congress XXII, Miami, Florida, 14-18 March.
- “Man in the ‘City of Women’” (1999). Lecture presented at conference on “The Globalization of Yoruba Religious Culture,” Department of Religious Studies and Department of African-New World Studies, Florida International University, 9-12 December.
- “How I Became White: A Cross-Cultural Look at ‘Race’” (1999). The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology and the Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, 2 December.
- “The ‘New World’ Surrounds an Ocean: On the Live Dialogue between African and African-American Cultures” (1999). Atlantic Studies Group of the “Oceans

- Connect” Project, Duke University, 26 October.
- “An African Empire in the Americas: On the Trans-Atlantic Rise of Yoruba Religion” (1999). Department of African and African-American Studies and the Atlantic Studies Group of the “Oceans Connect” Project, Duke University, 25 October.
- “Contradiction and Forgetting in Yewéssey Culture” (1999). Ethnic Studies Fall Lecture, Shippensburg University (Shippensburg, PA), 18 October.
- “Candomblé’s Newest Nation: Brazil” (1999). Conference on “Regionalism and National Identity in Brazil and Mexico,” Brown University, 24 Sept.
- Discussion of my forthcoming book Black Atlantic Religion: Tradition, Transnationalism, and Matriarchy in the Afro-Brazilian Candomblé (1999). Atlantic History Seminar, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, 19 March.
- “The Trans-Atlantic Nation: Re-thinking Nations and Transnationalism” (1999). Council on African Studies and the Gilder-Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University, 5 February.
- “*El Nuevo Imperio Yoruba: Textos, Migración y el Auge Transatlántico de la Nación Lucumí*” (1999). Conference on “*Las Relaciones Sociales y Culturales entre Cuba y los Estados Unidos,*” *Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo de la Cultura Cubana “Juan Marinello,*” Havana, 30 January.
- “Basic Black: Ethnic Diversity, Immigration, and the Modern Making of Blackness in the United States” (1998). CIC Fellows Conference on “Honoring the Past, Striving toward the Vision: 1978-1998.” Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis, 24 October.
- “Entrepreneurs of Nationhood” (1998). Conference on “Prophets, Visionaries and their Publics in the Afro-Atlantic World.” University of Maryland, College Park, 8 October.
- “The Prestige of Scripture and the Rise of Yorùbá Religion in the United States” (1998). Conference on “Religion Outside the Institutions,” Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, 5-7 June.
- “The Trans-Atlantic Nation: Reconsidering Nations and Transnationalism” (1998). Conference on “Rethinking the African Diaspora: The Making of the Black Atlantic World in the Bight of Benin and Brazil.” Emory University, 18 April.
- “Don’t Take Yourself Too Literally!: On the Metaphors We Live By” (1998). Horace Mann Willard Endowed Lecture, Vermont Academy, Saxtons River, Vermont, 6 April.
- “Basic Black: Ethnic Diversity, Immigration, and the Modern Making of Blackness in the United States” (1998). Conference on “New Directions in Diaspora Research,” Northwestern University, 3 April.
- A Discussion of Steven Spielberg’s “Amistad” (1998). African American Resource Group, BankBoston International Headquarters, Boston, 24 February.
- “*La culture en tant que conflit: politique de la culture afro-atlantique*” (1998). Colloquium on “*Les arts de la rencontre triangulaire, ou les arts du marronnage,*” *Institut Régional d’Art Visuel,* Fort-de-France, Martinique, 17-18 February.

- "The Trans-Atlantic Nation: Reconsidering Nations and Transnationalism" (1998). Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Georgetown University, 21 January.
- "The Other African Americans: Reflections on Domestic Ethnography" (1998). Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan, 26 January.
- "Cultures and Clashes: a Cross-Cultural Look at 'Race'" (1998). The BankBoston Kick-Off to Black History Month. BankBoston International Headquarters, Boston, 27 January.
- "Possessed: the Dizzying Politics of Afro-Atlantic Dance" (1997). Keynote address at Visions of Community: A Symposium in Honor of Five African-American Women in Dance, Smith College, Northampton, MA, 7 November.
- "Revisiting the 'City of Women': Matriarchy and Homosexuality in an African-Brazilian Religion" (1997). Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, Harvard University, 22 October.
- "Embrace One Another: the Ties that Bind Brazil and Africa" (1997). Keynote address at the opening of the BankBoston Brazilian African Collection. Harvard University, 17 October.
- "Culture as Controversy: the Politics of Afro-Atlantic Culture" (1997). Colloquium Series of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research, Harvard University, 8 October.
- "*A Nação Trans-Atlântica*" (1997). A series of three lectures presented at the Fundação Joaquim Nabuco, Recife, Brazil, 20, 21 and 22 August.
- "*As Raízes da Superioridade Nagô: Além do Evolucionismo e da Teoria da Manipulação Branca*" (1997). Lecture presented at the Fifth Afro-Brazilian Congress, Salvador, Brazil, 17 August.
- "The 'New World' Surrounds an Ocean: the Case for Circum-Atlantic History" (1997). Keynote address at "Bringing Africa to Life: an African Studies Conference for Secondary School Teachers" at Phillips Academy, Andover, MA, 2 May.
- "Money Whitens, Love Darkens: On the Ambiguity of Color Hierarchies in Brazil" (1997). Presented at the "Skin Trade: Women, Complexion and Caste" Conference at Brandeis University, 29 March.
- "The Trans-Atlantic Nation: Reconsidering Nations and Transnationalism" (1997). Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, 21 March.
- "The Trans-Atlantic Nation: Reconsidering Nations and Transnationalism" (1997). Social Anthropology Seminar Series, Harvard University, 3 March.
- "Yoruba: the Routes and the Roots of a Trans-Atlantic Nation, 1830-1950" (1997). Black History Month, Black Diaspora Series, Howard University, 21 February.
- "The Real 'Af-Lat-Am': On the Shared Roots of Latin American and African-American Civilizations" (1997). Keynote address for Black Arts Weekend, Phillips Academy, Andover, 15 February.
- "Transnationalism Before the Nation-State: On Trans-Atlantic Black Ethnicity" (1997). Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, 12 February.
- "The Importance of Africa in World Civilization: the American Example" (1997). National Endowment for the Humanities Teacher Seminar on World

- History/World Civilization, Harvard University, 21 January.
- "Return, 'Race,' and Religion in a Trans-Atlantic Yoruba Nation" (1996). African Studies Association, San Francisco, 24 November.
- "'Race,' Ritual and the Meaning of 'African American'" (1996). Blacks in the Diaspora Conference, sponsored by the Harvard Black Students' Association, 16 November.
- "Man in the 'City of Women': Matriarchy and Homosexuality in an African-American Religion" (1996). African and Diaspora Studies, Tulane University, 25 October

- "Agency: Re-thinking the Diaspora" (1996). Adirondack Work/Study Conference on "The Future of African Culture in the Americas," Jay, NY, 6 August.
- "The Diaspora in the Making of the Homeland: Afro-Brazilian Religion and the Invention of 'the Yoruba'" (1996). African Studies Pro-Seminar, University of Pennsylvania. 5 April.
- "The 'Coast' Revisited: the Lagosian Bourgeoisie and the Making of the Yoruba-Atlantic Complex, 1840-1950" (1996). Colloquium on Humanities and Social Sciences in Africa and the Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, 27 February.
- "Candomblé and the Creole Nation-State" (1995). American Academy of Religion, Boston, 31 March.
- "Faculty Perspectives on Diversity" (1995). Address to students at Minority Pre-Freshman Weekend. Harvard-Radcliffe Office of Admissions, 22 April.
- "The Other African-Americans: Recent Black Immigration and the Refiguring of 'Race,' 'Ethnicity,' and 'Assimilation'" (1995). American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, 11 November.
- "The Making of an Anthropologist" (1994). The Maret School, Washington, DC, 10 November.
- "Afro-Brazilians and the Quandary of Human Rights Intervention" (1994), Cultural Survival, Cambridge, Mass., 1 June.
- "The Other African Americans" (1994). Mather House, Harvard University, 16 March.
- "Towards the 21st Century: African Belief Systems in New York City" (1994). Caribbean Cultural Center lecture series on "Yoruba Philosophy in the Diaspora," New York City, 12 March.
- "Afro-Brazilian Religion: Culture as Controversy" (1993). Iberian and Latin American Studies Seminar, Harvard University, 23 November.
- "Nagô's and Índios: Tattered Memories of Africa in an Afro-Brazilian Religion" (1993). Colloquium at the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research, Harvard University, 19 May.
- "Nagô's and Índios: Tattered Memories of Africa in an Afro-Brazilian Religion" (1993). Lecture Series of the Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, 4 May.
- "Faculty Perspectives on Diversity" (1993). Address to students at Minority Pre-Freshmen Weekend, Harvard-Radcliffe Office of Admissions, 24 April.

"The Other African Americans" (1993). Talcott Parsons Sociology Conference, Harvard University, 13 March.

"Sobre o 'Natural' no Candomblé: Planejando uma Resposta ao Eco '92" (1992). Acervo da Memória e do Viver Afro-Brasileiro, São Paulo, 25 April.

"Idoşu: the Making of a Yoruba Priest in a Post-Modern Age" (1991). African Studies Seminar, Harvard University, 6 December.

"The Production and De-Construction of African-American Culture: A Case Study of the Brazilian Candomblé" (1991). Anthropology Department Colloquium Series, Princeton University, 19 February.

"Rival Empires: Islam and the Religions of Spirit Possession among the Oyo-Yoruba" (1990). Conference on Islam and the Religions of Spirit Possession, Harvard University, June.

"Women and Their Sango: Yoruba Women's Religion and a History of Its Metaphors" (1990). Conference on Ritual, Power and Politics in Africa, University of Chicago, February.

"Homens Montados: O Simbolismo da Possessão no Candomblé" (1987). Sociedade Protetora dos Desvalidos, Salvador, Brazil, 8 October.

"A Refined Heathen: the Mythic Construction of the Other and Cultural Synthesis in the Travel Account of an American Missionary among the Yoruba" (1986). Central States Anthropological Society, Chicago, 21-23 March.

Courses Taught

"Black Gods and Kings: Priests and Practices of the Afro-Atlantic Religions"

"Ethnographies of the African Diaspora"

"Introduction to African Studies"

"Syncretism"

"Afro-Latin American Society and Politics"

"West African Cultures"

"The Other African Americans: Ethnic Diversity in the Black Population"

of the US"

"Introduction to Social Anthropology" (undergraduate)

"Theories in Cultural Anthropology"
(required graduate pro-seminar in Cultural Anthropology)

"Key Controversies in the Social Scientific Study of African Americans"
(graduate pro-seminar)

Community Service

Commentator, Roundtable on "Redes sociales en los flujos migratorios: repensando las adscripciones nacionales y locales," Escuela de Verano del Colegio Internacional de Graduados "Entre Espacios," a collaboration between the Lateinamerika-Institut of the Freie Universität Berlin and the Colegio de México, Berlin, 5 September 2014.

Outside Consultant and Examiner, Area Studies Reading and Oral Examination Committee (on the Lusophone Atlantic) of Jess Merry Auerbach, Ph.D. student in Anthropology, Stanford University, 2012-2013.

Member, Title IX Harassment and Adjudication Advisory Committee, Duke University, 2011-2013.

Curator, "Interwoven Histories: Luxury Cloths of Atlantic Africa," an exhibition of African artisanal textiles, Lilly Library, Duke University, November 2012-January 2013.

Member, Steering Committee on the Africa Initiative, on adding Africa to Duke University's Global Strategy, 2012-present.

Chair, "Black Gods and Kings: Priests and Practices of the Afro-Atlantic Religions" Lecture Series, Center for African and African American Research, Duke University, fall 2011.

Advisory Editor, Dictionary of Africans in Latin America and the Caribbean, Oxford University Press, 2012-present.

Discussant, Panel on "Re/Mapping African Diaspora Arts—Centering Peripheries," Arts Council of the African Studies Association, 26 March 2011.

Moderator, Roundtable Discussion on "Race in Latin America," Black in Latin America Conference, W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, Harvard University, 29 January 2011.

Editorial Board Member, African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal, fall 2010-present.

Representative of the Department of Cultural Anthropology, the Arts and Sciences Faculty Council, Duke University, Fall 2010-present.

Discussant, "Reappraising Melville J. Herskovits: Scholarship at and beyond the Heart of Blackness," Association for the Study of African American Life and History," Raleigh, NC, 2 October 2010.

Respondent, "Symposium II: Sudan," Center for Middle Eastern Studies Alumni Reunion, 3 April 2009.

Discussant, "Bahia's Place in Traveling Theory: Diaspora, Ethnography, and Cosmopolitanism in Northeastern Brazil," American Anthropological Association panel, San Francisco, 22 November 2008.

Discussant, "Black Atlantic and Caribbean Religions: Transnational Flows and Local Histories," San Francisco, American Anthropological Association panel, 19 November 2008.

Faculty Adviser, Association of Black Harvard Women, 2008-09.

Member, Board of Advisors, Harvard African Students Association, 2008-09.

Panelist, "Teaching through the Politics of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality," Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University, 11 September 2008.

Discussion-leader, "Community Conversations: Readings for the Class of 2012," Harvard University Freshman Dean's Office, 9 September 2008.

Organizer, Kennedy-Longfellow Poetry Slam, Kennedy-Longfellow School, Cambridge, MA, 5 June 2008.

Organizer, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Public Oratory Festival, Kennedy-Longfellow School, Cambridge, MA, 24 January 2008.

Coordinator, Multi-Cultural and Minority Parents' Group, Kennedy-Longfellow School, Cambridge, MA, Sept. 2007-2008.

Faculty Co-Chair, Association of Black Faculty, Administrators, and Staff, Harvard University, 2006-2009.

Organizer, Student Poetry Slam, Kennedy-Longfellow School, Cambridge, MA, 3 May 2007.

Board of Visitors, Longy School of Music, February 2007-2009.

Member, Scholar Network of African-based Religions, Consejo Nacional de Latinos Unidos, 2006-present.

Consultant, Museum for African Art (New York), Ife art exhibition, 2007-08.

Member, Selection Committee, Burckhardt Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 2005.

Faculty Adviser, Association of Black Radcliffe Women, 2005-06.

Senior Faculty Mentor, Woodrow Wilson Foundation National Fellowship, Princeton, NJ, 2005-06.

Keynote Speaker, Faculty Perspectives on Diversity Pre-Freshman Orientation Session titled "Faculty Perspectives on Diversity," Harvard College Admissions Office, Harvard University, 30 April 2005.

Member, Presidential Cultural Property Advisory Committee, U.S. Department of State, 2003-2011.

Organizer, The Hidden Jewels Poetry Slam, Tobin School, Cambridge, MA, 27 May 2004.

Panelist/Evaluator, American Studies Panel, Collaborative Research Grants, National Endowment for the Humanities, 11 February 2005.

Member, Advisory Committee, African and African-American Baskets Exhibition, Museum of Natural History (directed by Enid Schildkrout), New York, 2005.

Chair, External Review Board, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Howard University, 12 February 2004.

Co-Chair, Search Committee, Joint Search in the Departments of Anthropology and African and African American Studies, 2004-present

Chair, External Review Committee, Program in Anthropology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Howard University, 11-12 February 2004.

Chair, Exploratory Committee, Joint Search in Departments of Anthropology and African and African American Studies, 2003-04.

Chair, Social Anthropology Seminar Series, Harvard University, 2002-03.

Chair, Graduate Admissions Committee in the Social Sciences, Afro-American Studies, 2003.

Lecture: "Africa in the Americas: Icons in Afro-Latin Culture." Assembled third- and fourth-grade classes, Tobin School, Cambridge, MA, 25 October 2002.

Art Exhibit: "Africa in the Americas: Icons in Afro-Latin Culture," Tobin School, Cambridge, MA, October 2002-March 2003.

Member, Senior Faculty Search Committee, Afro-American Studies, Harvard University 2002-03.

Member, Junior Faculty Search Committee, Afro-American Studies and Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University, 2002.

Member, Latin American Studies Junior Faculty Search Committee, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, 2002.

Member, External Review Board, Department of Anthropology, Duke University, 6-8 March 2002.

Lecture-Demonstration: "*Àfrica en las Américas: Lo Africano en la Música y el Baile de Latinoamérica y E.E.U.U.*" Annual Black History Month Assembly, Grades K-6, Escuela Bilingüe Oyster. 22 February 2002.

Art exhibit: "*Los Espíritus de la Unidad: los Íconos en las Culturas Afro-Latinas/The Spirits of Unity: Icons in Afro-Latin Culture.*" Foyer, Escuela Bilingüe Oyster, Washington, D.C., 13 February to 30 June 2002.

Presentation on "*La Iconografía de las Religiones Afro-Latinas.*" Second-grade art classes, Escuela Bilingüe Oyster, Washington, D.C., 1 February 2002.

Discussant, Invited Session on "2001 Black Odyssey: The Cultural Politics of Race and Nation at the Dawn of the Millenium," organized by Professors Deborah A. Thomas and Kamari M. Clarke. 100th Annual American Anthropological Association Meeting, 30 November 2001.

Member, Cora DuBois Fellowship Committee, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, 1999-2001.

Member, Advisory Board, Boston Healing Landscape Project (Dr. Linda Barnes, Director), Boston University School of Medicine / Boston, Medical Center, 2000 to present.

Member, Advisory Board, Black Ethnic Diversity Project (Ms. Joanne Jones-Rizzi,

- Director), The Children's Museum, Boston, 2000 to present.
- Member, Standing Committee on Expository Writing, Harvard University, 2000 to 2002.
- Member, External Review Board, African and African-American Studies, Dartmouth College, 1999.
- Member, Ethnic Studies Committee, 1998 to 2003.
- Member, Faculty Committee on Public Service, Harvard University, 1998 to 2002.
- Member, Hoopes Prize Committee, 1997 to the present.
- Policy Committee of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, 1995 to the present.
- Research Committee of David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, 1995 to the Present.
- Member, Committee on Iberian and Latin American Studies, Harvard University, 1993 to the present.
- Member, Faculty Advisory Council on Social Sciences, Center for the Study of World Religion, Harvard University, 1992 to the present.
- Center for Brazilian Studies and Committee on Latin American Studies, Harvard University, 1999-present.
- Faculty Adviser, Haitian Student Alliance, Harvard University, 2001 to 2002.
- Faculty Adviser, Caribbean Club, Harvard University, 1997-98, 2000-2001.
- Faculty Adviser, Ballet Folclórico de Aztlán, Harvard University, 1997-98.
- Faculty Adviser, Harvard Debate Society, 1997-1998.
- Chair, Selection Committee for the Jonathan M. Levin Prize for Teaching and Social Justice, Harvard University, 1999-2000.
- Member, Faculty Search Committee to fill joint position on the Committee on Social Studies and the Department of Afro-American Studies, Harvard University.
- Curator, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 1998 to present.
- Discussant, Panel on "Historicizing Central Africans: Brazil" at conference titled "Bantu

- Into Black: Central Africans in the Atlantic Diaspora," Howard University, 17 Sept. 1999.
- Chair, Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration Planning committee, Department of Afro-American Studies, Harvard University, fall 1998 to present (event held on 7-8 April 2000).
- Member, External Review Committee, Program in African and African American Studies, Dartmouth College, 13-14 May 1999.
- Co-Chair, Organizing Committee, "Africa in the Americas" conference, Harvard University, scheduled for 1-2 May 1998.
- Project Reviewer and Adviser, Landscape Planning and Design Studio (on the design of religious communities), Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, spring 1997 and spring 1996.
- Judge, Hoopes Prize Committee, Harvard University, spring 1997.
- Reviewer, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Autumn 1996 applicants for pre-doctoral and faculty research grants.
- Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University--1997, 1994.
- Member, Junior Faculty Search Committee, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, 1996
- Member, Senior Faculty Search Committee (Middle-Eastern Studies), Harvard University, 1996.
- Member, International Advisory Panel, "The Development of an African Diaspora: the Slave Trade of the Nigerian Hinterland, 1650-1900," research project of Professors Robin Law et al., 1995 to present.
- Discussant, "Revolutionary Politics and Cultures of Black Atlantic Dance," panel at the American Anthropological Association convention, 21 November 1996
- Guest lecturer, "On the Meaning of 'Diaspora,' Blacks in the Diaspora conference, Black Students' Association, Harvard University, 16 November 1996
- Panelist, Conference on "Sexuality, Binary Categories and Religion," The Park Ridge Center, 1 November 1996.
- Discussion leader, African and Diaspora Studies Fall Planning Seminar, 26 October 1996

Member, Senior Faculty Search Committee--Middle Eastern Studies, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, 1996.

Judge, Romance Languages Travel Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching, spring 1996.

Guest discussion leader, Woodbridge Society (foreign undergraduate students' association), Harvard University, 28 Feb. 1996

Commentator, Program on "*Le Dixième Doué* [The Talented Tenth]," Voice of America, with correspondent Maimouna Mills, Francophone Africa Service, 9 April 1996

Commentator, *Commémoration du Jour de Martin Luther King* [Martin Luther King Day Commemoration], Voice of America, with correspondent Maimouna Mills, Francophone Africa Service, 15 Jan. 1996

Discussant, "Translocal and Transnational Cultural Currents and Gender," panel at the American Anthropological Association convention, 15 November 1995.

Judge, Weissman Travel Fellowship, Harvard-Radcliffe College, Spring 1995.

Guest lecturer, "African Cultures" class (Prof. Rosalind Shaw), Tufts University, 4 April 1995.

Judge, Selection Committee for the Luard Scholarship, the English-Speaking Union of the United States, 1995, 1993.

Guest lecturer, Afro-American Studies 10, 27 September 1993

Over the years, I have also reviewed numerous book manuscripts for Princeton University Press, University of Minnesota Press, Temple University Press, Columbia University Press and Routledge, and have reviewed article innumerable manuscripts for journals, such as Cuban Studies, Transforming Anthropology, Comparative Studies in Society and History, Cultural Anthropology, American Ethnologist and American Anthropologist.

I have conducted intensive field research in Nigeria (1982-83; Summer 1986; 1988-89) and Brazil (July-December 1987, February-September 1992; November 1995-January 1996). Since 1981, I have also conducted frequent research among communities of Cuban-American, Puerto Rican and African-American practitioners of African religions. I speak Spanish, French, Portuguese and Yoruba. Since 2002, I have conducted ten months of intensive participant observation at Howard University and in its alumni networks in New Orleans, Nigeria, Trinidad and Jamaica.

Professional Trajectory

My several years of field research in Nigeria and the People's Republic of Benin (1982-83, 1986, 1988-89, 1992, 1995, 2003, 2005) have led to the publication of a book entitled Sex and the Empire That Is No More: Gender and the Politics of Metaphor in Oyo Yoruba Religion (University of Minnesota Press, 1994; Berghahn Press, 2005 [second edition]). It concerns the changing but still central role of female and transvestite male possession priests in the Yoruba political order of the past two centuries. Sex and the Empire was recognized as an outstanding book of 1994 by Choice magazine.

Several years of field research in Bahia (Salvador and Ilhéus), Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo has given me a fundamental understanding of the rites, beliefs, and organization of the Candomblé, as well as the controversies that surround it in the Brazilian academic community and the larger society. I have conducted numerous interviews with priests, observed a range of public and private rites in a dozen temples, and studied newspaper, missionary, and governmental archives documenting the history of the Candomblé. This research has led to the numerous articles and a book titled Black Atlantic Religion: Tradition, Transnationalism and Matriarchy in the Rise of the Afro-Brazilian Candomblé, (Princeton University Press, 2005). It concerns Afro-Brazilian history, the ritual construction of personhood, and a circum-Atlantic dialogue between Candomblé and other discourses of collective identity, ranging from Brazilian nationalism and regionalism to transnational feminism, environmentalism and Black racial nationalism. Black Atlantic Religion is a companion volume to my first book, intended to illuminate the study of cultural diasporas and the importance of historical and socio-political context in the study of "African" culture in the Americas. BAR won the Melville J. Herskovits Prize from the African Studies Association for the best book of 2005.

Black Atlantic Religion and its ethnographic twin are part of an overall trajectory that leads homeward. I have also recently completed a manuscript called Stigma and Culture: Last-Place Anxiety in Black America. It flows from my 2008 Lewis Henry Morgan Lectures, the most esteemed lecture series in anthropology. The book argues that stigma and the competitive pursuit of earnings and honor are, and have long been, key dimensions of ethnogenesis, and it addresses the direct role of universities in structuring both ethnic identities and inter-ethnic hierarchies. Ethnographically, Stigma and Culture focuses on the interaction and self-presentation of African-descended faculty, administrators, students and alumni of historically black Howard University, in Washington, DC, but it also makes significant reference to my lifelong experience of black class and ethnic diversity in the United States. My main interlocutors in this research have been Caribbean and African migrants and transmigrants in the United States and in their countries of origin, as well as several ethnically marked populations native to the US, such as Gullah/Geechees from the South Carolina and Georgia Lowcountry, Louisiana Creoles of color, and several Indian tribes of partly African ancestry in the southeastern US. The research producing this manuscript has been a sizable project, requiring intensive and long-term engagement with several highly

divergent field sites. Its theoretical implications are likely to be as provocative as the topic itself. Stigma and Culture will be published by the University of Chicago Press in September 2015.

I am currently at work on an online museum exhibition, which is tentatively called "The Sacred Arts of the Black Atlantic." It concerns the international capitalist context and the industrial materials that have shaped the transformation of Yoruba sacred art over the centuries amid its trans-Atlantic expansion. So far, we have organized, professionally photographed, and begun the uploading of brief descriptions, measurements, and catalogue numbers for approximately 1000 items in a collection that I have assembled over the past 35 years. Soon thereafter, we will add film footage of such objects in use and of priests explaining their sacred meaning and aesthetic properties. I anticipate inviting other scholars of African and African-diaspora cultural history to create virtual online tours that use these objects to illustrate arguments about the conditions of convergence and divergence among African and African-diaspora spiritualities.

The next book, under review at Duke University Press, is Marx, Freud and the Gods Black People Make: European Social Theory and the Real-Life "Fetish." It concerns the African and African-inspired gods to whom such European theorists as Marx and Freud employed as universal paradigms of disordered thinking. On the one hand, the book offers an explanation of the social theory and practice actually embodied in the Yoruba-Atlantic gods worshiped in Nigeria, Benin Republic, Brazil, Cuba and Haiti. On the other, it offers a sociological, political and biographical explanation of why Marx and Freud joined so enthusiastically and influentially in this gratuitous put-down of Africa.

Eventually, I plan to write an ethnography of a white supremacist group in the United States. This book will test my skills as a field researcher and as a scientist committed to the careful documentation of local points of view and to their fair-minded social contextualization.

In between these major projects, I would like to undertake the translation of several important books on African-American religions into English. Among these books are Raimundo Nina Rodrigues' *L'animisme fétichiste des nègres de Bahia* (1900) and Fernando Ortiz's *Los Negros Brujos* (1906). One might think that such translation work is better suited for non-scholars or persons in other disciplines, but I have found that the vocabulary specific to African-American religions requires translation by specialists, and the vocabulary of writings influenced by old-fashioned anthropology, psychiatry and criminology requires careful annotation.