
KIMBERLY EISON SIMMONS, PH.D.

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am a cultural anthropologist with an interest in applied anthropology. Much of my research focuses on the cultural construction of identity, race and gender, color/colorism, women's organizations, and Black ethnic groups in the African Diaspora (focusing on Afro-Dominicans and African Americans). I am the author of *Reconstructing Racial Identity and the African Past in the Dominican Republic* (University Press of Florida, 2009) and co-editor of *Afrodescendants, Identity, and the Struggle for Development in the Americas* (Michigan State University Press, 2012). I am currently working on a book project focusing on the global natural hair movement in the Dominican Republic (within the context of the African Diaspora). My applied work involves facilitating workshops on diversity and inclusion, cultural competence, participatory development, and international education.

SKILLS

- Inclusive Teaching Practices
- Qualitative (Ethnographic) Research and Analysis
- Social Impact Analysis
- Race/Ethnicity and Gender Analysis
- Applied Cultural Anthropology
- Inclusive Excellence and Diversity Facilitator
- International Education, Experiential Learning, and Study Abroad
- Team Building (Participatory and Concensus)
- Bilingual (Spanish)
- Cultural Awareness and Cultural Competence

EDUCATION

Ph.D.: Anthropology, 05/2002

Michigan State University - East Lansing, Michigan

Dissertation: Reconfiguring Dominicanness: Competing Discourses Surrounding Race, Nation, and Identity in the Dominican Republic

- Researcher-in-Residence, African Diaspora Research Project (ADRP)
- Recipient, King, Parks, Chavez Doctoral Fellowship

Master of Arts: Anthropology, 08/1994

Iowa State University - Ames, Iowa

Thesis: Dominican Women: The Cultural Construction of Gender and Female Identity

- M.A. Program in Cultural Anthropology
- Development (Applied) Track

Bachelor of Arts: Spanish (major) and African American Studies (minor), 05/1989

Grinnell College - Grinnell, Iowa

- Semester in Seville, Spain (Fall 1988, Council on International Educational Exchange)

RECENT WORK HISTORY

Assistant/Associate Professor, 08/2004 to Current

University of South Carolina – Columbia, SC

- Engage in ongoing teaching, research, and service and actively contribute to the fields of Anthropology and African American Studies.
- Facilitate discussions with students in class by actively soliciting input and creating opportunities for inclusive discussions.
- Create a dynamic, student-centered learning environment incorporating unique assignments, practical activities and interactions, and discussions and projects.
- Sustain professional contact with colleagues and engage in professional activities for collaboration.
- Engage in curricular development and innovation in teaching strategies.
- Mentor students and advise them on career paths, degree requirements, experiential learning (especially education abroad), and post-graduate education options.
- Establish and maintain an inclusive, collegial, and collaborative culture in the classroom and in administrative work situations.
- Faculty-led study abroad programs.

Director, Institute for African American Research, 08/2018 to 06/2022

University of South Carolina – Columbia, South Carolina

- Assisted with the merger between the Institute for African American Research (IAAR) and the African American Studies Program in the formation of the African American Studies Department.
- Collaborated with staff on curricular and programming initiatives.
- Mentored students (majors and minors).
- Assisted with annual program assessment.
- Represented the unit in the College of Arts and Sciences and the University of South Carolina during meetings and events.

Associate Dean for Recruiting, Diversity, and Inclusion, 07/2013 to 05/2017

South Carolina Honors College, UofSC – Columbia, South Carolina

- Developed diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
- Coordinated parent and alumni events.
- Developed study-abroad initiatives. Took two student groups to Brazil and assisted with program development in other countries.
- Worked closely with experiential learning opportunities for students.
- Advised students.

Director, Latin American Studies Program (LASP), 07/2011 to 07/2013

University of South Carolina – Columbia South Carolina

- Developed curriculum for the Latin American Studies Program (major and minor).
- Worked with LASP Faculty Affiliates.
- Planned events/talks related to Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latino/a history and culture.

Resident Director, 06/2000 to 06/2004

Council on International Educational Exchange – Portland, Maine

- Engaged with students, university partners, and constituent groups in the Dominican Republic to create positive relationships for students studying abroad.
- Facilitated workshops for U.S. college and university students participating in the study abroad program in the Dominican Republic. Presented research, conducted exercises, and led discussions about cross-cultural communication, cultural awareness, and Dominican culture.
- Mentored and supported CIEE staff in the Dominican Republic and helped to create a positive workplace culture.
- Conducted assessments and made recommendations to the host university in the Dominican Republic and the CIEE program office in the United States.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Established Inclusive Excellence, LLC, July 2022 (Facilitate DEI and Cultural Competence Workshops)
 - Latin America and Caribbean Learning and Rapid Response (LACLEARN), Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Expert, Empowering Stakeholders for Transformational Development in the Dominican Republic Project, August 2023-January 2024.
 - Touch of Whit Creative, Impact of Language in Marketing, June 13, 2023.
- Pipeline for Academic Leadership (PAL) Fellow, University of South Carolina, 2014-2015
- Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award, University of South Carolina, 2010
- Former President, Association of Black Anthropologists, 2008-2010

RECENT FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2021 Program Participant Series on Training for Advanced Research (STAR), Office of the Vice President for Research, UofSC.
- 2021 CAS 2021 Theme Semester Co-Curricular Programming Award (\$1500), “African Americans and the Search for Climate Justice.” Mossville: When Great Trees Fall film screening with Michelle Lanier, Executive Producer.
- 2020 CAS 2020 Theme Semester Co-Curricular Programming Award (\$1500). “Hurricane Katrina and the Artwork of JRenee: Race, Injustice, and Memories of Home.”
- 2019 Advocate for African American Students: University Level Award. Presented by the Center for the Education and Equity of African American Students (CEEAAAS), 2019 Annual Conference. College of Education, University of South Carolina, (1/15/2019).
- 2014-15 Pipeline for Academic Leadership (PAL) Fellow, University of South Carolina.
- 2010 Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award, University of South Carolina.
- 2007 Nominated for the Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award, University of South Carolina.
- 1997-2000 Martin Luther King, Jr.-Cesar Chavez-Rosa Parks (KCP) Future Faculty Program Fellow.

BOOKS PUBLISHED

Afro-Descendants, Identity, and the Struggle for Development in the Americas. Co-Edited volume with Bernd Reiter. Ruth Simms Hamilton African Diaspora Book Series. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2012.

Reconstructing Racial Identity and the African Past in the Dominican Republic. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2009. Paperback, January 2011.

REFEREED ARTICLES PUBLISHED

“Constructing and Promoting African Diaspora Identity in the Dominican Republic: The Emergence of Casa de la Identidad de las Mujeres Afro,” in *African and Black Diaspora* (Special Issue on Rewriting the African Diaspora in the Caribbean and Latin America), 5(1): 123-133, 2012.

“Navigating the Racial Terrain: Blackness and Mixedness in the United States and the Dominican Republic,” in *Transforming Anthropology*, 16(2):95-111, 2008.

“Somos una Liga: Afro-Dominicanidad and The Articulation of New Racial Identities in the Dominican Republic,” in *Wadabagei: A Journal of the Caribbean and its Diaspora*, 8(1):51-64, 2005.

REFEREED BOOK CHAPTERS AND ESSAYS

“Centering Blackness: Reflections on the Summer of 2020,” in *Breonna Taylor and Me: Black Women, Racial Justice and Reclaiming Hope*, Black Studies and Critical Thinking Series, Peter Lang. Forthcoming, 2024.

“Navigating the Racial Terrain: Blackness and Mixedness in the United States and the Dominican Republic” in Bernd Reiter and Kimberly Eison Simmons (editors) *Afro-Descendants, Identity, and the Struggle for Development in the Americas*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press (reprint - printed with permission with some minor edits), 2012.

Co-edited “Introduction” in *Routes of Passage: Rethinking the African Diaspora* (Ruth Simms Hamilton, editor). Co-edited the introduction with Michael Hanson and Raymond Familusi. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press (ADRP Series), 2007.

“Racial Enculturation and Lived Experience: Reflections on Race at Home and Abroad” in *Anthropology News*, 47(2): 10-11. Special issue on The RACE Project (American Anthropological Association), 2008.

“La Hermandad en la Diáspora Africana: Mujeres Afrodominicanas y Afronorteamericanas Forman Comunidades de Identidad y Acción” (“Sisterhood in the African Diaspora: Afro-Dominican and African American Women Form Communities of Identity and Action”) in *La Ruta del Esclavo* (The Slave Route). Santo Domingo: Editora Búho, 2006.

“A Passion for Sameness: Encountering a Black Feminist Self in Fieldwork in the Dominican Republic” in Irma McClaurin (editor) *Black Feminist Anthropology: Theory, Praxis, Politics and Poetics*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2001.

GRANTS RECEIVED

- Project Director, Ethnographic Overview and Assessment for Charles Pinckney and Fort Sumter & Fort Moultrie, National Park Service, July 2022 - present, \$139,250.
- “Voices of South Carolina: Black Lives Matter,” (co-PI). Amie Freeman, Lead Investigator. Racial Justice and Equity Research Fund (UofSC Internal Award). University Libraries, \$13,829.
- Southeastern Conference (SEC) Visiting Faculty Travel Grant Program, 2018-2019, Office of the Provost, University of South Carolina, \$1800.00
- College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research Initiative, University of South Carolina, \$3415.00, December 2017-December 2018.
- Provost Grant, Social Sciences, University of South Carolina. August 2017-May 2018, \$9805.00.
- Service-Learning Course Development Grant (South Carolina Honors College), Spring 2009, \$2890.00.

BOOK AND FILM REVIEWS

Race and Racialized Experiences in Childish Gambino's “This is America.” *Anthropology Now*, September 2018, Volume 10(2): <http://anthronow.com/book-reviews/this-is-america-reviewed>, 2018.

Book Review of *Life on the Malecón: Children and Youth on the Streets of Santo Domingo*, by Jon Wolseth. *American Anthropologist*, December 118(4):986-7, 2016.

"The Politics of Race and Representation: Melville J. Herskovits and the Issue of Blackness," (film review of Herskovits at the Heart of Blackness) in *Current Anthropology*, 52(3): 483-485 (June 2011).

Book Review of *Constructing Vernacular Culture in the Trans-Caribbean*. (Holger Henke and Karl-Heinz Magister (editors), Lanham MD: Lexington Books. New West Indian Guide (NWIG) 84-1&2, 2010.

Book Review of *The Devil Behind the Mirror: Globalization and Politics in the Dominican Republic*. (Steven Gregory), Berkeley: University of California Press. *American Anthropologist*, September 109(3):560-561, 2007.

Book Review of *The Tears of Hispaniola: Haitian and Dominican Diaspora Memory*. (Lucía M. Suárez), Gainesville: University Press of Florida. *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, April 12(1):287-289, 2007.

Book Review of *The Development of Literary Blackness in the Dominican Republic* (Dawn F. Stinchcomb), Gainesville: University Press of Florida. *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, November 11(2):491-493, 2006.

Book Review of *The Dominican Americans* by Silvio Torres-Saillant and Ramona Hernández. *Transforming Anthropology*, 9(2):37-38, 2000.

NON-REFEREED ARTICLES, ESSAYS, AND REPORTS PUBLISHED

“W.E.B. Du Bois” in *Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology* (Encyclopedia entry), 2013.

“Foreword” in *The African Presence in Santo Domingo* by Carlos Andújar (Michigan State University Press), 2012.

“Foreword” in *Decolonizing Anthropology: Moving Further Toward an Anthropology for Liberation*,” Faye V. Harrison (editor). Washington, D.C.: American Anthropological Association, 2010.

“Black Students and Study Abroad.” *Anthropology News*, 42(3). ABA Section News. Arlington: American Anthropological Association, 2001.

“A Double-Edged Sword: White Privilege.” *Anthropology News*, 42(4). ABA Section News. Arlington: American Anthropological Association, 2001.

“Mulataje: Towards a Reconceptualization of Race Mixture in Latin America and the Hispanic Caribbean” in *Ojeada* (Newsletter for the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies), 13(2) Spring publication. East Lansing: Michigan State University, 2001.

MANUSCRIPT IN PROCESS

Book project *Pajones and Rizos: Dominican Women and the Global Natural Hair Movement*. Book proposal sent to Michigan State University Press (Ruth Simms Hamilton African Diaspora Series).

Guest Editor, *Estudios Sociales*, Cultural Identity in the Dominican Republic (Special Issue). Centro Montalvo and Instituto Superior Pedro Fco. Bonó. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

MANUSCRIPTS REVIEWED

American Anthropologist

Social Identities

Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology

Transforming Anthropology

Race and Social Problems

Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies

Ethnic and Racial Studies

Pearson, Allyn & Bacon Publishers

New York University Press

Rutgers University Press

University of Alabama Press

Columbia University Press

EXTERNAL REVIEW PANELS

Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

National Science Foundation (NSF - Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences)

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Review Panel

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“From Identidad de las Mujeres Afro to Miss Rizos and other Natural Hair Projects: Exploring Afro-Dominicanidad, Feminism, and Community in the Dominican Republic.” Paper presented at the Dominican Studies Association (DSA) Conference (virtual), December 1-3, 2022.

Virtual Panelist/Presenter, ABA@50: A Roundtable Conversation on the Association of Black Anthropologists and its Impact on the Discipline of Anthropology.” Baltimore, MD, November 20, 2021.

“Afros, Rizos, y Pajones: Natural Hair and Articulations of Dominican Blackness.” Paper presented at the Dominican Studies Association Conference (Virtual), Hostos Community College, December 4-5, 2020.

Presenter, Black Women's Activism as Critical Black Feminist Praxis Roundtable, November 9, 2018, National Women's Studies Association (NWSA), Atlanta, GA, November 8-11, 2018.

“Embracing the Pajón and Afro-Dominicanidad: Identity and the Natural Hair Movement in the Dominican Republic,” Global Dominican Conference, University of London, June 22, 2018.

Outsider Within, 10 Years Later: Celebrating the Important Interventions of Faye V. Harrison. Presenter, November 18, 2018, American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, November 14-18, 2018.

“Yo Amo mi Pajón: Embracing Natural Hair from the Dominican Republic to Spain,” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), Seville, Spain, November 7-11, 2017.

“The Creation, Implementation, and Outcomes of a European-Based Professional Development Program for Faculty/Staff,” Panel with Jennifer Engel, Lisa Guido, and Sarah Langston. Forum on Education Abroad European Conference, Athens, Greece, October 5-7, 2016.

“Yo Amo Mi Pajón: Afro-Dominicanness and the Politics of Natural Hair in the Dominican Republic,” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), Charleston, SC, November 4-7, 2015.

“Diversity and Honors Education: Strategies for the Recruitment and Retention of African American Students,” Honors Education at Research University (HERU) Conference, Oregon State University, May 18-19, 2015.

“Women, Rice, and Everyday Life in the Dominican Republic: Constructing a National Identity Through Food,” Women's and Gender Studies Conference, University of South Carolina, February 20, 2014.

“Dominican Women, Global Black Feminism, and Red De Mujeres: An Afro-Latin American and Caribbean Women's Network and Agenda,” ACS Gender Conference, Furman University, April 4-5, 2014.

“Global Black Feminism and Red De Mujeres: An Afro-Latin American and Caribbean Women's Network and Agenda,” American Anthropological Association's Annual Meetings, Chicago, November 2013.

“From Straight to Curly: The Natural Hair Movement in the Dominican Republic.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association's Annual Meetings. San Francisco, CA, November 2012.

"Stirring the Sancocho and Seeing Africa: The Roles of Women and the Changing Significance of Blackness in the Dominican Republic," presented at the "Afro-Latin America: Rethinking Identity, Politics, and Culture Symposium," African American Studies & Research Center, Purdue University, December 1-3, 2011.

"From Geraldine to Madea: Masculine Representations of Women in Popular Culture and Film," presented at the American Anthropological Association's Annual Meetings, Montreal, Canada, November 16-20, 2011.

"Stirring the Sancocho and Gumbo and Seeing Africa: Afro-Dominican and African American Identity in the Context of the African Diaspora," presented at "Afro-Latin@s Now: Strategies for Visibility and Action Conference," New York, NY, November 3-5, 2011.

“Stirring the Sancocho and Seeing Africa: The Emergence of Afro-Dominican Identities in the Dominican Republic. Fifth National Dominican Student Conference. Invited participant, Yale University, New Haven, CT., April 8-10, 2011.

“Advertising Lightness and Near-Whiteness: Beauty, Desirability, and the Black Elite in Chicago, 1920s-1940s.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association's Annual Meetings, in New Orleans, LA, November 21, 2010.

“Black to African American and Back Again: Identity Construction and the Politics of Naming,” American Anthropological Association's Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA., November 19-23, 2008.

“Situated Passing: Black Women Who Passed for White.” Paper presented at the Women's Studies Program 21st Annual Conference, University of South Carolina, February 28-29, 2008.

“Before We Were Black, Some of Us Were Brown: The Emergence of the Brown Fellowship Society, Mixedness, and the Roots of Colorism in the African American Community.” Paper presented at the AAA Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C., November 28 – December 2, 2007.

“Mestizo(a), Indio(a), Mulato(a) and Afro-Dominican: Competing Representations of Race and Gender in the Dominican Republic.” Presented at The Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) Conference, Barbados, October 9-12, 2007.

“Identidad de la Mujer Afro: Sisterhood, Feminism, and the Politics of a Black Women's Movement in the Dominican Republic” Paper presented at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Meetings, Montreal, Canada, September 5-8, 2007.

“Mujeres Negras: Black Women and Feminism in the Dominican Republic.” Paper presented at the Women's Studies Program 20th Annual Conference, University of South Carolina, March 1-2, 2007.

“From Mestizo and Indio to Mulato: Racial Enculturation and the Changing Significance of Blackness and Mixedness in the Dominican Republic.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, San Jose, California, November 15 – 19, 2006.

“Racial Formation in the African Diaspora: Blackness and Mixed-ness in the United States and the Dominican Republic.” Paper presented for the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, October 5-7, 2005.

“(Re)Claiming the African Past: Constructing Afro- and Mulato/a Identities in the Dominican Republic.” Paper presented at the Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, May 30- June 4, 2005.

“La Hermandad en la Diaspora Africana.” UNESCO-sponsored seminar “La Ruta del Esclavo” (The Slave Route), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. March 24-27, 2004.

“On Becoming a Black Feminist Anthropologist: Integrating the Personal, the Political, and the Intellectual.” Paper prepared for the American Anthropological Association, Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C., November 28 – December 2, 2001.

“The Dominican Republic as Both African Diaspora and Homeland: African American and Latino/a Students' Experiences Abroad.” Co-authored paper presented by David S. Simmons at the LASA XXIII International Congress, Washington, D.C., September 6 –8, 2001.

“Reconfiguring Dominicanness: Competing Discourses Surrounding Racial Identities in the Dominican Republic.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association, Annual Meetings, Chicago, Illinois, November 17-21, 1999.

“India, Black, and Afro-Dominican(a): Negotiating and (Re)Constructing Identities in the African Diaspora.” Paper presented at the IMGIP/ICEOP-KCP Joint Fellows Conference, Northbrook, Illinois, November 7-9, 1997.

“Homeplaces, Dispersions, and Passages: (Re)Claiming and (Re)Constructing African American Identity on a Predominantly White College Campus.” Co-authored paper with David S. Simmons. Presented by David at the American Anthropological Association, Annual Meetings, San Francisco, California, November 20-24, 1996.

“There is No Racial Democracy Here: Exploring Afro-Venezuelan (Re)Emerging ‘Community of Consciousness’ and Action.” Co-authored paper with Ruth Simms Hamilton. Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association, Annual Meetings, San Francisco, California, November 20-24, 1996.

“Becoming Afro-Dominican: The Role of International Migration, Race, and Gender in (Re)Constructing a Black Identity.” Paper presented at the National Black Graduate Student Association Conference. Claremont, CA, May 1996.

“Las Mujeres Negras: A Grassroots Approach to Collective Identity in the Dominican Republic.” Paper presented at the American Ethnological Society, Annual Meetings, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 18-21, 1996.

“Becoming Afro-Dominicanas: (Re)Negotiating Indio in the Company of Sistahs.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association, Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C., November 15-19, 1995.

“Palm Oil and Cassava Processing in Nigeria: A Close Look at Development and Gender Issues” (co-authored and co-presented with David Sean Simmons), Paper presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology, Annual Meetings, Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 29 - April 2, 1995.

"The Cultural Construction of Gender and Female Identity: Dominican Women Within a Cultural Context." Paper presented at the National Women's Studies Association Conference, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, June 15 –18, 1994.

"Matrifocality and Marianismo in the Dominican Republic: A Look at Traditional and Changing Gender Roles." Paper presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology, Annual Meetings, Cancun, Mexico, April 13 –17, 1994.

SEMINARS, PRESENTATIONS, AND INVITED LECTURES

"No es Pelo Malo: Embracing Natural Hair and the Pajón in the Dominican Republic" and "Rizos, Afros, y Pajones: Natural Hair, Texturism, and Colorism in the Dominican Republic." Invited presentations at the Trauma, Tresses, & Truth Conference (virtual), August 4-5, 2023.

"Childish Gambino's "This is America:" Five Years Later...Where are We Now? Invited Lecture. Department of Anthropology, Colorado College, April 19, 2023.

"Creating Inclusive Classroom Discussions." Presentation and workshop prepared for the Inclusive Excellence Program, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, June 14, 2022.

“Afros, Rizos, y Pajones: Natural Hair and Articulations of Dominican Blackness.” Invited Lecture, Black Studies Unit, Hostos Community College/CUNY, February 9, 2021.

“Embracing Curls, Natural Hair, and the Pajón: Afro-Dominicanness and the Reconstruction of Racial Identity through Hair.” Invited lecture, African Studies Program, University of Tennessee-Knoxville (part of the SEC Faculty Travel Grant), February 5, 2019.

“Dominican Blackness: Race, Migration, and the Natural Hair Movement in the Dominican Republic and Beyond.” Invited speaker, Conference on Race, Ethnicity, Migration Studies, Clemson University, April 19, 2018.

“Yo Amo mi Pajón: Embracing Afro-Dominicanness and Natural Hair in the Dominican Republic.” Invited lecture: Claflin University, October 10, 2017.

“Yo Amo mi Pajón: Afro-Dominicanness and the Natural Hair Movement in the Dominican Republic and Beyond.” Invited lecture: University of Kentucky, April 3, 2017.

“Yo Amo mi Pajón/I Love my Afro: The Emergence of the Natural Hair Movement in the Dominican Republic.” Invited Lecture: Gender Bender Series, University of South Carolina – Beaufort, March 16, 2017.

“The State of the Art Today: Black Women's Movement in Latin America.” Invited roundtable participant: University of Tennessee at Knoxville, March 31, 2014.

Charleston Carifest, College of Charleston. "Stirring the Sancocho and Seeing Africa: The Emergence of Afro-Dominican Identities in the Dominican Republic." June 16 - 18, 2011.

5th National Dominican Student Conference, invited panelist, Yale University, April 8 - 10, 2011.

“Stirring the Sancocho and Seeing Africa: The Emergence of Afro-Dominican Identities in the Dominican Republic.” Presented at UNC Chapel Hill, Carolina/Duke Working Group on Afro-Latin Issues and Perspectives, March 3, 2010.

“Casa Por La Identidad De Las Mujeres Afro: Afro-Dominican Feminism and The Formation of African Diaspora Feminisms.” Paper presented at the Black/Afrodescendant Feminisms in the Americas Symposium, at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, April 2-3, 2010.

“Black Denial or Blackness Denied? Unburying the African Past in the Dominican Republic.” Presented at the SANA/ABA Conference, in Denver, CO, April 15-17, 2010.

“Stirring the Sancocho and Seeing Africa: Afro-Dominicanidad, Mixture, and the Emergence of Mulato/a in the Dominican Republic.” Presented at the Reexamining the Black Atlantic: Afro Descendants Still at the Bottom? Symposium, at the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, April 28-30, 2010.

“Racial Identity in the African Diaspora: Dominicans, African Americans, and the Cultural Significance of Blackness,” Institute for African American Research, University of South Carolina, October 15, 2008.

“Cultural Diversity in the Classroom” GRAD 800 (Center for Teaching Excellence), March 31, 2008.

“Constructing Racial and Color Identities: Blackness and Mixed-ness in the Dominican Republic and the United States.” Workshop for North Carolina Central University, Santiago, Dominican Republic, July 9, 2007.

“Situating Identidad de la Mujer Negra: Feminism, The Cultural Construction of Gender, and the Emergence of a Black Women's Movement in the Dominican Republic.” Women's Studies Program Research Lecture Series, University of South Carolina. January 18, 2007.

“Indio/a, Mulato/a, and Black in the African Diaspora: Comparative Constructions of Race in the United States and the Dominican Republic.” Department of Cultural Anthropology, Duke University, December 4, 2006.

“Racial Formation in the African Diaspora: The Construction of Blackness and Mixedness in the United States and the Dominican Republic.” Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Faculty Seminar Series, College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, October 6, 2006.

Diversity and the Doctorate Symposium, Assistant Professor Panel, Trio: Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, USC, April 1, 2006.

“Racial Enculturation: Race, Culture, Identity, and Lived Experience,” 23rd Multicultural Symposium, Black Psychology Graduate Student Association, Department of Psychology, USC, March 24, 2006.

“Mediated Representation: A Conversation about “Othering Through Popular Media,” Department of Anthropology, USC, CABLE, February 21, 2006.

McNair Scholar Guest Speaker, May 30, 2005.

“Becoming Afro-Dominican and Mulato/a: (Re)Constructing Racial Identities in the United States and the Dominican Republic,” Consortium for Latino Immigration to South Carolina, September 29, 2005.

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Invited Speaker, Welcome Reception, May 30, 2005.

“Becoming Afro-Dominican and Mulato/a: (Re)Constructing Racial Identities in the United States and the Dominican Republic” presentation given at the Consortium of Latino Immigration to South Carolina, University of South Carolina, March 25, 2005.

Displaced Peoples Group Meeting (Walker Institute) November 18, 2004.

USC Study Abroad Fair, Presenter, University of South Carolina, September 28, 2004.

“La Diaspora Africana: Articulaciones de Africanidad, Raza y Género por Identidad” en Raza y Identidad: Re-Elaborando la Africanidad (Panel), PUCMM Campus, Santiago, Dominican Republic, April 9.

La Diversidad en el Campus: Un Conversatorio Sobre Raza, Género, y Diversidad, PUCMM Campus, Santiago Dominican Republic, October 12, 2000.

SESSIONS CHAIRED AND SESSIONS ORGANIZED

Chair/Moderator, "What's in a Name? African/a, African American, and Global Black Studies" Panel. South Carolina Higher Education Africana Studies Marketing (SCHEASM) Symposium, University of South Carolina, April 22, 2022.

Organizer, Carolina-Barbados Connections Symposium. Commemorating 350 years of the historical connection between Barbados and the Carolina colony, November 13-14, 2020. Part of the Institute for African American Research (IAAR).

Chair, Black Performance, Black Internationalism in the Age of Anticolonialism Session, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), Seville, Spain, November 8, 2017.

Discussant, "Legacies and Connections: African-Americans and the Island of Hispaniola" panel, August 7, 2014. Afro-Latin/American Research Association (ALARA) Conference - "Latin American Routes in the Caribbean: Articulations of Circum-migration and Cultural Transnationalism," Kingston, Jamaica, August 5-9, 2014.

Chair, "Negotiated Blackness: The Politics of Genes, Gender, Beauty and Multi-Racial Identity," American Anthropological Association's Annual Meetings. San Francisco, CA, November 2012.

Chair, "Transforming Economics: The Limits of Sex, Work, and Family," The Politics of Knowledge, Women's and Gender Studies Conference, University of South Carolina, March 19-21, 2009.

Discussant, "Collaboration between AAA Sections in Advancing the Position of Practicing Anthropology within the AAA," Committee on Practicing, Applied, and Public Interest Anthropology (CoPAPIA). American Anthropological Association, Annual Meetings, November 19-23, 2008.

Discussant, "Race and Ethnicity in the Caribbean Women's Movement," Gender and Feminist Studies Section, Latin American Studies Association (LASA), September 5, 2007, Organized by Helen Safa and Rhoda Reddock.

Co-Chaired and Co-Organized "Changing as They are Changed: Conceptualizing the Global African Diaspora with David Sean Simmons. American Anthropological Association, Annual Meetings, (reviewed by the Association of Black Anthropologists), November 20-24, 1996, San Francisco, California.

Organized and Chaired "Situating Selves: Identity Formation and Experience in Africa and the African Diaspora." American Anthropological Association, Annual Meetings, (reviewed by the Association of Black Anthropologists), November 15-19, 1995, Washington, D.C.

RESEARCH AND LANGUAGES

Santiago, Dominican Republic: 1993-present

United States: 1993-present

Madrid, Spain: 2018-2019

My current research focuses on the following: race/ethnicity, color, and gender; cultural identity; colorism in the African American community and in the Dominican Republic; women's organizations; and the natural hair movement in the Dominican Republic and African Diaspora. Fluent in Spanish.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association (AAA)

Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA)

Association for Feminist Anthropology (AFA)

Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA)

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

Caribbean Studies Association (CSA)

Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA)

National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NAPA)

Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA)

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

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

Dominican Studies Association (DSA)

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

SELECTED COMMUNITY SERVICE (COLUMBIA, SC)

- Keynote Speaker, Celebration of Excellence Awards, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, USC, 3/29/17.
- Moderator, President's Forum on Inclusion, University of South Carolina, 3/20/17.
- Presentation – Hispanic Heritage Month Speaker, Kelly Mill Middle School. October 25, 2013.
- Presentation – Spears Creek Child Development, Bridge Creek Elementary School, "African Folktales," presented with David Simmons, February 9, 2009.
- Presentation – Kelly Mill Middle School (6th grade Kelly Mill, Inc. Magnet Program), "The Cultural Construction of Identities," September 16, 2008.
- Black History Month Invited Speaker, St. Luke's' Episcopal Church, Columbia, SC, February 3, 2008.
- Presentation – Lake Carolina Elementary School (5th grade class), "Palmetto's Finest Leaders: Sailing Beyond Excellence," September 18, 2007.
- *On Point with Cynthia Hardy*, Radio Show, Big DM 101.3 FM, August 3, 2008.
- "Africans Talk About Americans," *Connections*, ETV, March 23, 2008.

- “Barack Obama, Blackness, and the African American Community,” *Awareness with Craig Melvin*, WIS-TV, August 26, 2007.
- “My Name Ain’t Eve” (documentary of African American naming practices). Interviewed for the documentary. Produced by Urica Pope. August 2006.
- WIS Awareness television show with Craig Melvin. Topic: Colorism and the Politics of Skin Color in the African American community, July 23, 2006 (aired).
- The Center for Child & Family Studies, University of South Carolina. Videotaped interview on cross-cultural and inter-racial adoption to be used with social workers and foster families in South Carolina for training, June 2006.
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (Faculty Mentor, University of South Carolina), 2004- present.

DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DIAC), Committee Member, USC, December 2015 – 2018
 Carolina and McNair Scholar Review Panelist and Interviewer, USC, 2015 - present
 Carolina Core Committee, 2013 - 2019
 Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award Committee, 2010 - 2011
 Fulbright Campus Committee (Committee Member – student reviews/interviews), 2012- present
 Maxcy College International Learning Community Task Force, 2010 – 2011
 MOSAIC Program Committee (USC, Study Abroad), 2011-12
 Institute for African American Research (USC), Board member, 2009-present
 University Service-Learning Task Force (USC), 2010 – 2011
 U.S. – Brazil FIPSE Exchange Co-Coordinator, USC, 2004-07
 African American Studies Program Curriculum Committee, USC, 2004-06
 First Year Reading Experience, August 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 USC Showcase Co-Organizer, Department of Anthropology, USC, Spring 2005

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

Book Series Co-Editor, The Ruth Simms Hamilton African Diaspora Series, Michigan State University Press, 2022-present
 Chair, Ruth Simms Hamilton Dissertation Fellowship Committee (TIAA-CREF), 2009-2011
 President, Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA), 2008-2010
 Chair, ABA Legacy Scholar Award Committee, 2008-2014
 AAA Executive Program Committee, 2008-09
 ABA Program Committee, 2007-2012
 Contributing Editor, *Transforming Anthropology*, 2007-present
 Book Series Editor, The Ruth Simms Hamilton African Diaspora Series, Michigan State University Press, 2007 - 2013
 Board Member, Gender and Feminist Studies Section, Latin American Studies Association (LASA), 2006
 Program Chair, Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA), 2005-07
 Program Chair, Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA), 2000-01
 Advisory Board, Association of Black Anthropologists Student Group, 1994-2001