

EDUCATION

University of Chicago	
Ph.D. in Anthropology	2018
Dissertation: “Jarocho Publics and the Presencing of Blackness in the Port City of Veracruz, Mexico”	
Committee: Stephan Palmié (Chair); Shannon Dawdy; Justin Richland	
Certificate in Latin American Studies	2017
M.A. in Anthropology	2013
Harvard College	
A.B. in African and African-American Studies and Social Anthropology	2009
<i>magna cum laude</i> ; Spanish Language Citation	

RESEARCH INTEREST

Blackness in Latin America | Cultural Politics | Processes of Identification | Discourse | Leisure

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor , Department of Black Studies University of Rochester	2024-Present
Assistant Professor , Department of African and African-American Studies Washington University in St. Louis	2020-2024
Postdoctoral Associate , Center for Latin American Studies Rutgers University-New Brunswick	2018-2020

PUBLICATIONS

2022	“How Veracruz, Mexico, Became Black: “Just-So” Stories and the Retelling of Mestizaje,” <i>The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology</i> (Invited to Resubmit.)
2022	“Enumerating Blackness: The Shifting Politics of Recognition in Mexico.” In <i>Hemispheric Blackness: Bodies, Policies, and the Exigency of Accountability in the Afro-Américas</i> edited by Jennifer Gomez Menjivar and Nicolas Ramos Flores, University of Pittsburgh Press, 163-179.

Book Manuscript

Local Color: Race, Roots, and Reputation in Contemporary Veracruz, Mexico
Under Contract at the University of California Press

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

External

- 2023-2024 ACLS/Marwan M. and Ute Kraidy Centennial Fellowship in the Study of the Arab World and Latin America
- 2022 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Higher Education Faculty: Transnational Dialogues in Afro-Latin American and Afro-Latinx Studies, University of Pittsburgh, June 6-17
- 2018 Latin American Studies Association, Mexico Section: Student Travel Scholarship
- 2016 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Dissertation Completion Grant
- 2016 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Honorable Mention
- 2014 COMEXUS Fulbright-García Robles Scholarship, Mexico
- 2014 Slavery, Memory, and Citizenship Summer Institute, SSHRC-funded Research Project, Harriet Tubman Institute at York University and Instituto Nacional de Antropología, Ciudad de Mexico, August 18-22.
- 2014 SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant
- 2013 SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant
- 2011 SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant
- 2011-2014 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2007-2009 Mellon May Undergraduate Fellowship

Internal

Washington University in St. Louis

- 2024 Center for the Humanities First Book Faculty Fellow, Washington University in St. Louis (Semester Residential Fellowship) -- Declined
- 2023 Center for the Humanities Summer Research Fellowship
- 2022 Provost's Office COVID Faculty Support Initiative Research Grant
- 2022 Washington University in St. Louis Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures Programmatic Grant—Black Joy Collaborative (Co-PI; \$15K)
- 2022 Washington University in St. Louis NEH Summer Stipend Nominee (Internal competition for federal grant; 1 of 2 nominated by institution)
- 2022 Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity Faculty Fellow, Washington University in St. Louis (Semester Residential Fellowship)

University of Chicago

- 2015 Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture Residential Fellowship
- 2013 Center for Latin American Studies Tinker Field Grant
- 2012 Center for Latin American Studies Field Research Grant

Harvard College

- 2009 Alain LeRoy Locke Prize for Academic Excellence (most outstanding academic scholar among graduating African American Studies Track concentrators)

CONFERENCES, TALKS, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “The New Torna Atrás: Conjuring Black Ancestry in Modern-Day Mexico.” *Indigenismo, negritud, migración y construcción del territorio en México*. Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Congress. Bogotá, Colombia. June 12-15. **(Chair.)**
- 2024 “Speculative Genealogies and the Archetypal Black Ancestors of Veracruz, Mexico.” *New Approaches to Family Structures in Latin America*. Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS) Annual Meeting. Asheville, NC, April 4-6. **(Chair.)**
- 2023 “Cultivating Practice: Workshop Spaces and the Revitalization of Traditions.” Dangerous Subjects Workshop, University of Washington, May 5 **(Invited.)**
- 2023 “Of Live Music, Living Roots, and Everyday Life: Public Dancing as Afro-Caribbean Culture in the City of Veracruz.” Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, May 4 **(Invited.)**
- 2023 “On Having the Blood: Black Ancestry and the Politics of Identity in Veracruz, Mexico.” Davidson College, Davidson, NC, February 9. **(Invited.)**
- 2022 “The Just-So Story of Mexico’s Blackness.” *Down the Rabbit Hole: Fiction as Ethnographic Looking Glass for the Racial Order*. American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meeting. Seattle, Washington, Nov 9-13.
- 2022 ““We All Have a Pringa”: Allusions to Black Ancestry in Veracruz, Mexico.” Convocation. Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, October 26. **(Invited.)**
- 2022 Roundtable, “Migration and Blackness in Mexico,” Unbordering Migration in the Americas: Causes, Experiences, Identities. Sawyer Seminar at the University of Rochester, March 15-16. **(Invited.)**
- 2021 “Negritos Mexicanos” Ethnographic Theory Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis, October 4.
- 2019 “Grappling with Expectations of Blackness in the Port City of Veracruz, Mexico.” *Weathering the Storm: Spaces of Blackness*. American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meeting. Vancouver, Canada, Nov 20-24.
- 2019 “Music that Moves the Heart: Tempos and Temporalities of Blackness in Veracruz, Mexico.” *Diasporic Sounds: Black Music, Identity, and Migrations*, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) Conference, Williamsburg, VA, Nov 5-9.
- 2019 *Takes on Whiteness: Experiments in Collaborative Ethnography*, Harvard University, May 17. **(Organizer.)**
- 2019 “Mexico’s Evolving Third Root: Rhetorical Shifts in the Recognition of Blackness” Center for Latin American Studies Research Symposium Rutgers University-New Brunswick, April 5.
- 2019 “‘Our’ Third Root: Recognizing Blackness in the Age of the Afro-Mexican” *Citizenship and the Making of Difference*, Eagleton Institute of Politics, New Brunswick, NJ, February 22. **(Invited.)**
- 2018 “The Requisite Reckoning of “Lo Afro” in Mexico’s Son Jarocho.” *“Lo afro” and “lo negro” Latin America and Its Elsewheres: Histories, Images, Bodies*,

- Performances, Virtualities*. Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Congress, Barcelona, Spain, May 23-26.
- 2017 “Anchors Aweigh.” *Anthropology and the Matter of Whiteness*. American Anthropological Association Meeting, Washington, DC, November 14-18
- 2017 “The Afro-Andalusian Caribbean in Veracruz/Veracruz in the Afro-Andalusian Caribbean: A View from the Port.” *From Andalusia to Veracruz: The Afro-Hispanic Presence*. Collegium for African American Research (CAAR), Malaga, Spain, June 13-16.
- 2015 “‘Igualito que las cubanas’: Dance as Public Displays of Afro-Caribbeanness in Veracruz, Mexico.” *Race Displays: Presentation and Performance in the Black Atlantic*. Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) Conference, Charleston, SC, November 4-7.
- 2014 “On Having a History but Not a People: Imaginaries of Blackness in Veracruz, Mexico.” *Issues of Memory in Diaspora*. York University Harriet Tubman Institute/ Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH), Mexico City, Mexico, August 18-23.
- 2013 “The Perks of Being a Cultural Platypus: Presumptions of Political Efficacy in *The African Presence in Mexico*.” *Travel and Museums: Rethinking the Modern Experience*, Berlin Roundtables on Transnationality, Berlin, Germany, June 26-29.
- 2012 “*The African Presence in Mexico*: Re-Presenting a “Hidden Past” for Contemporary Times.” Mellon Mays Graduate Student Summer Conference, Bryn Mar College, June 19-21.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<i>University of Rochester</i>	2024-Present
300-level	Flights to Freedom: Maroons, Marronage, and the Making of the Americas
<i>Washington University in St. Louis</i>	2020-Present
100-level	First Year Seminar: Travel Noire: Consumption and the Gaze in the Black Travel Movement
200-level	Introduction to Africana Studies
200-level	Blackness and the Politics of Recognition in Latin American
300-level	<i>Zambaje</i> : Afro-Indigenous Relations in Latin America
300-level	Maroons and Marronage
<i>Rutgers University-New Brunswick</i>	2018-2020
100-level	Latin America: An Introduction
200-level	Maroons and Marronage
300-level	Blackness and Indigeneity in Latin America
400-level	Geographies of Race and Ethnicity in the Americas
<i>The University of Chicago</i> (Instructor of Record)	2016-2020
200-level	Colonizations I, <i>Civilization Studies Abroad Program</i> (2017)

Who Counts? What Counts?: Racial Governance in 21st Century Latin America, *Ignacio Martín Baró Prize Lectureship in Latin American Studies and Human Rights*

Defining the “Afro” in Afro-Latin America, *Starr Prize Lectureship in Anthropology*

SERVICE

Disciplinary

Journal Reviewer (*American Ethnologist*; *Current Anthropology*; *Caribbean Studies*; *Kalfou: A Journal of Comparative and Relational Ethnic Studies*)

Washington University in St. Louis

2023 Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity Scholar Grants Reviewer
2023 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship 31st Cohort Interviewer
2022-2023 African & African-American Studies Dept Executive Committee
2022 African & African-American Studies Dept Race & Ethnicity Cluster Hire Search Committee
2021 English Dept Black Diaspora and/or Anglophone African Literature Search Committee
2021 Chancellor’s Graduate Fellowship Selection Committee
2020 The WashU & Slavery Project
2020 African & African-American Studies Dept Community Engagement Committee

The University of Chicago

2015; 2017 Fulbright Campus Interview Committee, **Interviewer**
2015 Minority Graduate Students Mentoring and Professionalization Program, **Mentor**
2013 Anthropology Students Association Committee on Faculty Recruitment, **Student Rapporteur**
2013 Workshop on Latin American and the Caribbean, **Co-Coordinator** (2013)

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Proficient Reading, Writing, Speaking)