

CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

- 2017 PhD Harvard University
African and African American Studies & the Study of Religion
Dissertation Title: *Objects and Immortals: The Life of Obi in Ifa-Orisa Religion*
- 2013 AM Harvard University
African and African American Studies
- 2010 MA The City College of New York
History
- 2008 BA City University of New York Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies
African Diaspora in the Americas

PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 “The Color of God: Faith, Race, and Interreligious Dialogue,” *The Journal of Interreligious Studies*, (forthcoming).
- 2018 “Bush Knowledge in the Concrete Jungle: A Day in the Life of an Urban Babalawo,” *Transition*, no. 125 (2018): 89-103.
- 2015 “Cyber Spirits, Digital Ghosts: African and Diasporic Religions in the Age of Collaborative Consumption,” *CrossCurrents*, Vol. 66, No. 1 (December 2015), 448-456.
- 2013 “Sacred Healing and Wholeness in Africa and the Americas,” *Journal of Africana Religions* 1.3, Vol. 1, No. 3 (2013), pp. 376-429.

Book Review

- 2015 “Review of Crossing the Water and Keeping the Faith: Haitian Religion in Miami.” *Review of Religious Research* 57, no. 4 (2015): 587-589.

Online

- 2014 “Holiday of Horrors: Halloween, Hate, and the (Dis)Honoring of Tradition.” *State of Formation*, October 31. <http://www.stateofformation.org/2014/10/holiday-of-horrors-halloween-hate-and-the-dishonoring-of-tradition/>
- 2012 “Goodbye Jesus, Hello... Atheism?” *State of Formation*, February 1. <http://www.stateofformation.org/2012/02/goodbye-jesus-hello-atheism/>

- 2011 “Orunmila, Muhammad and Jesus: Together Again?” *State of Formation*, November 9. <http://www.stateofformation.org/2011/11/orunmila-muhammad-and-jesus-together-again/>
- 2011 “Leaving the ‘Witches’ and ‘Dead Chickens’ Behind.” *State of Formation*, October 27. <http://www.stateofformation.org/2011/10/leaving-the-witches-and-dead-chickens-behind/>

TELEVISION

- 2017 *The Story of God with Morgan Freeman*. “Proof of God.” Season 2, Episode 3. National Geographic, January 30, 2017.
- 2014 *Sacred Journeys with Bruce Feiler*. “Osun-Osogbo.” Episode 5. Directed by Leo Eaton. WGBH for PBS, December 30, 2014.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2017 Karen McCarthy Brown Award
Congress of Santa Barbara (KOSANBA) at the University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2016 – 2017 Scholar-in-Residence
New York Public Library
- 2016 – 2017 Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Harvard University
- 2014 – 2015 Foreign Language and Area Studies Dissertation Research Fellowship
United States Department of Education
- 2012 – 2014 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship
United States Department of Education
- 2012 David L. Boren Fellowship (Alternate)
National Security Education Program
- 2011 – 2012 Junior Fellowship
Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School
- 2011 Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Fellowship
United States Department of Education
- 2008 – 2009 New York Life Graduate Fellowship
Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, The City College of New York
- 2008 Harriet Brows Scholarship
City University of New York Baccalaureate Degree for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies

2007 – 2008 Thomas W. Smith Academic Fellowship
City University of New York Baccalaureate Degree for Unique and Interdisciplinary
Studies

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Conferences Organized

- 2018 “Roots, Rocks, and Ringshouts: A Symposium on African American Spirituality.” New Orleans, LA, April 20-22
- 2016 “The Divine and the Digital: African and Diasporic Ritual Technologies.” Fourth conference of the African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association, Harvard University, April 8
- 2015 “African and Diasporic Spiritual Soundscapes.” Third conference of the African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association, Harvard University, April 3
- 2014 “Love Supreme: Devotion, Intimacy, and Ecstasy in African and Diasporic Religions.” Second conference of the African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association, Harvard University, April 11
- 2013 “Divine Space and Sacred Territories.” Inaugural conference of the African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association, Harvard University, April 5
- 2012 “Sacred Healing and Wholeness in Africa and the Americas.” Harvard University, April 12

Panels Organized

- 2018 “Africana Religions & Emancipatory Thought in the Caribbean & Beyond.” Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference, Havana, Cuba, June 4 – 8
- 2017 “Web Worship: Ritual in Digital Space.” Caribbean Cultural Center TRADE/itions Conference, New York, NY, September 23
- 2016 “On the Matter of Knowing in Afro-Caribbean Religions.” Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, June 5 – 11
- 2013 “As the Spirit Moves: Race, Epistemology, and Technology as Agents of Change in African and Diasporic Religions.” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference, October 30 – November 2

Selected Presentations

- 2018 “Not So Black Magic: Obeah, Agency, and Sexuality in Belize.” Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference, Havana, Cuba, June 4 – 8
- 2017 “‘By This Time Next Year, I’ll Surely Be Worshiping the White Man’s God’: Children, Conversion, and Resistance in Yorubaland.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings, Boston, MA, November 18 – 21

- 2017 “Beyond the Oral: Learning the Language of African and Diasporic Religions.” Congress of Santa Barbara (KOSANBA) Twentieth Anniversary Conference, New Orleans, LA November 1-4
- 2016 “Glass Beads and Geles: Modes and Meanings of African American Ifa-Orisa Practitioners ‘Wearing Africa.’” American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings, San Antonio Texas, November 17 – 20
- 2016 “Aural Aesthetics and Kinesthetic Conversations: Examining Physical Epistemologies through Kola Nut Divination.” Ways of Knowing: Graduate Conference on Religion, Harvard Divinity School, October 27 – 29
- 2016 “From Kola to Coco: Diasporic Change and Continuity in Obi Divination.” Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Port au Prince, Haiti, June 5 – 11
- 2015 “Kinesthetic Knowing: Obi Divination and Epistemology in Yoruba Religio-culture.” The Humanities and the Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) of Africa and Africa’s Diaspora, Lagos, Nigeria, July 22 – 23
- 2013 “Cyber Spirits, Digital Ghosts: Diasporic Religious Identity in the Age of Collaborative Consumption.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings, Baltimore, MD, November 23 – 26
- 2012 “Spiritual Healing in a Digital World: Technology, Authority and Power in African and Diasporic Religions.” Ways of Knowing: Graduate Conference on Religion, Harvard Divinity School, October 26 – 27
- 2012 “Language of the Gods: Using Yoruba in Religio-Philosophical Analysis of Ifa-Orisa Religion.” Southeast African Languages and Literatures Forum, University of Florida, October 12
- 2011 “Revitalizing the Global African *Egbe*: Womanism, Religion & ‘Modernity.’” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference, University of Pittsburgh November 3 – 6
- 2011 “Investigating Indeterminacy in Translation: A Yoruba Example.” African Languages in the Disciplines Conference, Harvard University, April 21 – 22

Roundtables

- 2013 “Youth, Education, and Spiritual Development.” 10th Orisa World Congress: Culture and Global Peace, Obafemi Awolowo University, July 24 – 28

SELECTED INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 2018 Panel on Black Religion and Culture. Black Religion, Spirituality, and Culture Conference, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA
- 2017 Commencement Keynote Speaker, City University of New York Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies, New York, NY

- 2016 Panel on Black Spirituality. Inaugural Black Religion, Spirituality, and Culture Conference, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA
- 2016 “Ethical Living through Orisa.” Ooni of Ife Ojaala II Symposium. Howard University, Washington, DC
- 2016 “*Aje, Dide!* (Women of Power, Stand Up!): Women, Spirituality, and the African Renaissance.” 7th Annual African Unity for Renaissance Conference, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2016 “NextGen: Legacy, and Living in Orisha,” Trade/itions: Trans-Atlantic Orisha Sacred Traditions Symposium, Caribbean Cultural Center and African Diaspora Institute, New York, NY
- 2015 “African Spirituality across the Water: Connections, Change, and Continuity,” Osemeji Obamoro Festival, Ibadan, Nigeria
- 2015 “African Dialogue: African Religions in Contemporary Society,” Channel Africa Radio, Tshwane, South Africa
- 2013 “Matters of Spirit: Ancestral Veneration,” Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, NY
- 2011 Opening Plenary, 1st Youth Empowerment Retreat, Orisa Community Development Corporation, Osogbo, Nigeria
- 2010 “Healthy Habits for Academic & Social Success,” Bronx CUNITY Second Annual Educational Summit, Lehman College, Bronx, NY
- 2010 Commencement Speaker, Bronx Community College, Bronx, NY
- 2010 Keynote Speaker, Phi Theta Kappa Induction, Hostos Community College, Bronx, NY

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

New York City College of Technology (CUNY) – Brooklyn, NY

- 2016 Blacks in Science, Technology, and Business
- 2016 Early African American History

Boston College – Boston, MA

- 2014 Introduction to African and Diaspora Religions

Harvard University – Cambridge, MA

- 2013 – 2014 African and African American Studies Sophomore Tutorial: The Other African Americans (Teaching Fellow)
- 2013 Introduction to African Languages and Cultures (Teaching Fellow)

The City College of New York (CUNY) – New York, NY

2010 Early Modern Europe (Teaching Assistant)

Bronx Community College (CUNY) – Bronx, NY

2008 Fundamentals of Interpersonal Communication (Teaching Assistant)

2007 History of the Modern World (Teaching Assistant)

2004 – 2008 Composition and Rhetoric I (Supplemental Instructor)

RELATED EXPERIENCE

2018 Academic Tutor
Varsity Tutors, Philadelphia, PA

2015 Project Advisor
Science, Religion, and Culture Program, Harvard University

2014 Junior Tutorial Advisor
Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University

2013 – 2014 Departmental Teaching Fellow
Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University

2012 Research Assistant
Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, Joycelyn Wilson
(Fellow)

2011 Research Assistant
Harvard University, Joanna Lipper (Visiting Lecturer)

2006 Academic Intern
Salzburg Global Seminar, Salzburg, Austria

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2017 – Present Member, Steering Committee, African Religions Unit, American Academy of Religion

2012 – Present Founding Director, African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association

2014 – 2017 Executive Director, Orisa Community Development Corporation

2016 Peer Reviewer, *Anthropology Today*

2016 Peer Reviewer, *Review of Religious Research*

2010 – 2015 Chair, Steering Committee, W.E.B. Du Bois Graduate Society, Harvard University

2010 – 2013 Voting Member, Board of Directors, Orisa Community Development Corp.
2012 Peer Reviewer, *Student Anthropologist Journal*
2011 – 2012 Voting Member, Board of Directors, Creating a Culture of Peace
2009 – 2010 Judge, Quality of Life Scholarship Competition, Working in Support of
Education

LANGUAGES

English (native)
Yoruba (advanced intermediate)
Spanish (intermediate)
Portuguese (working knowledge)
Haitian Creole (working knowledge)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association
African Association for the Study of Religions
American Academy of Religion
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
Center for African Studies at Harvard University
Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard Divinity School
Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at the City College of New York
Salzburg Global Seminar