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Education

8/96: Ph.D. in religion, Temple University, Philadelphia
1/92: M.A. in religion, Temple University
8/90-8/91: Doctoral studies in ecumenism and Catholic theology; Universität, Tübingen Germany
2/86-5/86: Graduate studies in rural development and African cultures; Université Nationale du Zaïre
5/85: B.A. in philosophy and religion; Stockton State College, New Jersey;
2/83-9/83: Undergraduate studies in philosophy, linguistics, and English literature; The University of Wollongong, Australia

Employment History

8/03-present: Associate Professor of African and Caribbean Religions; Department of Religious Studies, Florida International University, Miami
8/97-8/03: Assistant Professor of African and Caribbean Religions; Department of Religious Studies, Florida International University, Miami
8/97-present: Affiliated Faculty; African-New World Studies Program; Latin American and Caribbean Center; Florida International University
7/96-7/97: Director; Human Rights Fund; Port-au-Prince, Haiti; direction of a 1-million dollar USAID-financed national project in human rights education and victim assistance
12/95-7/97: Professeur de Sociologie des Religions; Faculté d'Ethnologie, Université d'Etat d'Haïti; Port-au-Prince, Haiti;
10/95-11/95: Consultant; CARE-HAITI; developed base line indicators for project evaluation for *Projet de Lutte Contre l'Erosion dans le Nord-Ouest*,
9/94-9/95: Director; Centre de Service pour le Secteur Populaire (PIRED/America's Development Foundation); a national relief program for victims of human rights abuse in Haiti
6/94-9/94: Interpreter; Ebon Research Systems/United States Coast Guard; liaison between Haitian migrants and personnel aboard U.S. Coast Guard cutters during "Operation Able Manner"
9/89-5/94: Graduate Assistant in Religion; Temple University; various semesters and courses
8/92-12/93: Secondary English and Humanities Teacher; Union School; Port-au-Prince, Haiti
1/92-5/92: Adjunct Lecturer in Catholic Theology; Manor Junior College, Philadelphia
9/90-7/91: English Language Tutor; Universität Tübingen
10/88-7/89: Assistant Director/Writer; Liberation Theater, Asbury Park, New Jersey
9/87-3/88: Assistant Coordinator; Women's Literacy Campaign, Equateur, Zaïre
1/87-3/88: Guest Lecturer in Philosophy; Seminaire de Notre Dame de Bwamanda, Zaïre
8/87-9/87: Trainer of Peace Corps Volunteers; Centre de Formation pour Le Corps de la Paix en Afrique Centrale, Bukavu, Zaire
5/86-9/88: Peace Corps Volunteer; Zaire: **Director;** *Projet Mai Kitoko Ya Zone de Santé Rurale de Tandala* - a rural potable water, sanitation, and public health education program for 120 villages in northwestern Zaïre

Scholarly Publications

Books:

Faith Across the Water: Haitian Religion in Miami. Co-Authored with Alex Stepick. In progress.

In Progress: Religion, Immigration and Social Civic Capital in Miami. Co-edited with Alex Stepick and Sarah Mahler. In progress.

Orisha Devotion as World Religion: The Globalization of Yoruba Religious Culture (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 2003). Edited with Jacob K. Olupona. In press.

Our Lady of Class Struggle: The Cult of the Virgin Mary in Haiti. Trenton: Africa World Press, 1999. Nominated for the 7th Annual Gordon K. Lewis Award for Caribbean Scholarship

Ph.D. Dissertation:

“Classes of Mary in the Haitian Religious Field: A Theoretical Analysis of the Effects of Socio-Economic Class on the Perception and Uses of a Religious Symbol.” Department of Religion, Temple University, August 1996. Awarded distinction.

Articles and Book Chapters:

“Catholicism in the Americas.” Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History: The Black Experience in the Americas, forthcoming

“Divination and Spirit Possession in the Americas.” Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History: The Black Experience in the Americas, forthcoming

“Romaine-la-Prophétesse.” Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History: The Black Experience in the Americas, forthcoming

“Habitus and Hybridity: A Bourdieuan Interpretation of Syncretism in Afro-Atlantic Religion.” Social Forces, forthcoming

“Kongolese Religious Influences in the Haitian Revolution and Beyond.” Proceedings from Freedom in the Florida Territory Conference: American and Caribbean Connections to the Underground Railroad; Black Archives Foundation, forthcoming

“Refugee Catholicism in Little Haiti: Notre Dame d’Haiti Catholic Church,” in Alex Stepick et al. (eds.) Religion, Immigration and Civic Life in Miami, forthcoming; co-authored with Alex Stepick

“Gendered Violence and Women’s Struggle in Haiti,” in Faith Smith (ed.) Gender and Sexualities in the Caribbean, forthcoming; co-authored with Yolette Mengual

“Marketing the Goods of Salvation: Bourdieu on Religion.” Religion, forthcoming

“Simon Kimbangu,” in Karna Hughes et al. (eds.), The Encyclopedia of Holy People, forthcoming

“Makandal,” in Karna Hughes et al. (eds.), The Encyclopedia of Holy People, forthcoming

“Lavyej Mari pa aou zafè kawotchou ankò: Histoire de Développement du Renouveau Charismatique en Haïti, Archives en Science Sociale des Religions, forthcoming

- “Marian Devotion at a Haitian Catholic Parish in Miami: The Feast Day of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.” Journal of Contemporary Religion, forthcoming
- “Vodou, Water and Exile: Symbolizing Spirit, Passage, and Pain in Port-au-Prince.” In Oren Stier and Shawn Landres (eds.) Recovering Memory: Religion, Violence, and the Remembrance of Place (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press) forthcoming
- “The Spirit(s) of African Religion in Miami,” in Robin Poyner and Amanda Carlson (eds.), Africa in Florida (Gainesville: The University Press of Florida, forthcoming)
- “Trees as Sacred in Haitian Vodou,” in Bron Taylor et al. (eds.) The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature (London: Continuum, 2003) forthcoming
- “Congo River Basin.” The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature, forthcoming
- “Religion and Nature in Caribbean Cultures,” The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature, forthcoming
- “Rubber and the Catholic Church in the Belgian Congo.” The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature, forthcoming
- “Introduction,” in Jacob K. Olupona and Terry Rey (eds.) Orisha Devotion as World Religion: The Globalization of Yoruba Religious Culture (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, forthcoming); with Jacob K. Olupona
- “Ancestral and Saintry Root Experience in Afro-Atlantic Christianity: From Kongo to Saint-Domingue,” in Jose Curto and Renee Soulodre-LaFrance (eds.), Africa and the Americas: Interconnections during the Slave Era (Trenton and Asmara: Africa World Press, 2003) forthcoming
- “The Politics of Patron Sainthood in Haiti: 500 Years of Iconic Struggle.” The Catholic Historical Review, v. 81, n. 4, 2002, 519-545
- “Vodou,” in Gordon Melton and Martin Baumann (eds.) Religions of the World: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia (Santa Barbara: ABC CLIO, 2002)
- “Religion in Haiti,” Religions of the World: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia
- “Khoisan, religionsgeschichtlich,” in Hans Dieter Betz, Don S. Browning, Bernd Jankowski, and Eberhard Juengel (eds.) Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart: Handbücher für Theologie und Religionswissenschaft, vierte Auflage (Tübingen, Germany: J.C.B. Mohr, 2001)
- “A Consideration of Kongolese Catholic Influences on *dominguais*/Haitian Popular Religion,” in Linda Heywood, (ed.), Central Africans and Cultural Transformations in the Atlantic Diaspora (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001)
- “The Virgin's Slip is Full of Fireflies: The Multidimensional Struggle over the Virgin Mary's *legitimierende Macht* in Latin America and its US Diasporic Communities. University of California-Davis Law Review, v. 33, n. 3, Spring 2000, 955-972
- “Junta Rape and Religion in Haiti: 1993/94.” Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion, v. 15, n. 2, Fall 1999, 73-100

“Vodou and “Blackwater” in the Face of a Plague: A Response to “Children in the Age of AIDS” (“A Vodou Response”) in Regina Wentzel Wolfe, and Christine E. Gudorf (eds.), Ethics and World Religions: Cross-Cultural Case Studies. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1999, 380-390

“The Virgin Mary and Revolution in Saint-Domingue: The Charisma of Romaine-la-Prophétesse.” Journal of Historical Sociology v. 11, n. 3, 1998, 341-369

Reviews:

Divine Utterances: The Performance of Afro-Cuban Santería, Katherine J. Hagedorn, Cuban Studies, forthcoming.

Nation Dance: Religion, Culture, and Identity in the Caribbean, Patrick Taylor (ed.), Caribbean Studies, forthcoming.

Religion, Culture and Tradition in the Caribbean, Hemchand Gossai and Nathaniel Samuel Murrell (eds.). Church History v. 7, n.3, 2001

The Kongolese Saint Anthony: Dona Beatriz Kimpa Vita and the Antonian Movement, 1684-1706, John K. Thornton. Transforming Anthropology v. 9, n. 2, 2000

“The Place of Islam in America: An Encounter in Islamic/Jewish/Christian Interreligious Dialogue” (event report), Journal of Ecumenical Studies v. 35, n. 1, 1998

Sacred Places, Sacred Spaces: The Geography of Pilgrimage, Robert H. Stoddard & Alan Morinis (eds.). The Professional Geographer v. 50, n. 4, 1998

Caribbean Theology, Lewin Williams, Journal of Ecumenical Studies, v. 34, n. 2 (Spring, 1997)

Religion and Human Rights; Kelsay, John & Sumner B. Twiss (eds.). Journal of Ecumenical Studies, v. 33, n. 2 (Spring, 1996)

The Caribbean: Culture of Resistance, Spirit of Hope; Oscar Bolioli (ed.). Journal of Ecumenical Studies, v. 32, n. 2 (Spring, 1995)

Popular:

“Crossroads at the Tender Bridge: The Paintings of John Bailly.” Art exhibit catalogue narrative, Miami-Dade Community College, Kendall Campus, May 1999

“Stones in the Water: The Ongoing Struggle for Human Rights in Haiti.” Hemisphere, v.8, n.3, 1998

Other:

“Files of Abuse and Persecution (FAP): A Data Base of Incidents of Human Rights Abuse Committed by the Raoul Cédras Regime in Haiti from 1991-1994.” Port-au-Prince, 1995.

“Comprehensive Report of Activities: Human Rights Fund, 1994-1995,” USAID-Haiti

Conference Participation

“Ropes, Rhythm, and Religion in Haitian Culture.” Baila-USA Dance and Cultural Festival. Miami-Dade College, February 20, 2004.

“Kongolese Religious Influences in the Haitian Revolution and Beyond.” Freedom in the Florida Territory Conference: American and Caribbean Connections to the Underground Railroad, University of Miami, Miami, January 31, 2004

“Vodou, Water and Exile: Symbolizing Spirit, Passage, and Pain in Port-au-Prince.” Haitian Studies Association, Florida International University, Miami, October 11. 2003.

Panel Chair, “Contemporary Issues in Haitian Religion.” Haitian Studies Association, Miami, October 11. 2003.

““The Virgin Mary is No Longer into Burning Tires”: The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Haiti.” Caribbean Studies Association, Belize City, Belize, May 29, 2003.

Panel Chair, “Current Issues in Caribbean Christianity.” Caribbean Studies Association, Belize City, Belize, May 29, 2003.

Panel Chair, “Race, Performance, and Movement in Contemporary Caribbean Cultures.” Caribbean Studies Association, Belize City, Belize, May 29, 2003.

“Charisma and Pure Ideas in Transnational Haitian Religion.” American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November 22, 2003.

“Women in the Haitian Charismatic Renewal.” Haitian Studies Association, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, October 19, 2002.

Roundtable Participant: “Caribbean Immigrant Religion in Miami.” Caribbean Studies Association, Nassau, Bahamas, May 29, 2002.

Panel Chair: “Caribbean Goddesses: Sources, Symbiosis, and Syncretism.” Caribbean Studies Association, Nassau, Bahamas, May 28, 2002.

“The Wild Roots of Marian Devotion in Haiti.” Caribbean Studies Association, Nassau, Bahamas, May 28, 2002.

“Sending *Maji* and Money Across Waters: Transnational Streams of Haitian Religious Culture.” Allen Morris Conference on the History of Florida and the Atlantic World, Florida State University, Tallahassee, February 2, 2002

“African Dimensions of Miami's Religious Culture.” African Studies Association, Houston, Texas, November 15, 2001.

Panel Chair: “Transnational Dimensions of Haitian Religion: Contemporary Issues.” Haitian Studies Association, St. Michael's College, Colchester Vermont, October 12, 2001.

“The Rebounding Diasporic Flow of Haitian Religion: The Case of Christianity and Vodou in Miami.” Haitian Studies Association, St. Michael’s College, Colchester Vermont, October 12, 2001.

Panel Chair: “Haitian Diasporic Religion in South Florida: Continuities and Changes.” Haitian Studies Association, West Palm Beach, FL, October 26, 2000

Paper Presentation: “The Churches of Little Haiti: A Sociohistorical Analysis.” Haitian Studies Association, West Palm Beach, FL, October 26, 2000

“Ancestral and Sainly Root Experiences in Afro-Atlantic Christianity.” *Enslaving Connections: Africa and Brazil during the Slave Era*, York University, Toronto Canada, October 14, 2000

“Binding Power and Distant Shores: The Abiding Kongolese Influence on Haitian Popular Religion.” International Association for the History of Religions, Durban, South Africa, August 6, 2000.

Conference Co-Convener, with Jacob K. Olupona: “The Globalization of Yoruba Religious Culture, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, December 9-12, 1999.

Panel Moderator, and Closing Panel Discussant. “The Globalization of Yoruba Religious Culture,” Florida International University, Miami, Florida, December 12, 1999.

Paper Presentation: “A Consideration of Kongolese Catholic Influences on *dominguois*/Haitian Popular Religion.” *Bantu into Black Central Africans in the Atlantic World*, Howard University, Washington, DC, September 1999.

“Stemming Apostasy and Resistance: The Scope and Trajectory of the Charismatic Renewal in Haiti.” Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Studies Association, Panama City, Panama, May 1999.

Panel Chair: “Changing Culture and Circumstances in Haiti and its Diaspora.” Caribbean Studies Association, Panama City, Panama, May 1999.

“Cultural Collision and the Inculturation of Haitian Marianism,” American Academy of Religion, Roman Catholic Studies Group, Orlando. November 1998.

“*Lavyej Kafu Fey ki Rive Miyami*: Diasporic Devotion and Haitian Identity Cultural Maintenance.” Haitian Studies Association, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. October 28, 1998.

Panel Chair: “‘This is Not Haiti’: Change and Continuity among Haitians in South Florida.” Haitian Studies Association, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. October 28, 1998.

“Violence Against Women in the Caribbean.” Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Studies Association, St. John’s, Antigua, May 1998.

Other Scholarly Presentations

Invited Respondent to paper delivered by Karen McCarthy Brown: “Making Wanga: the Case of Abner Louima in New York City.” Latin American Center, The University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, October 23, 2001.

“Role de la religion dans la révolution a Saint-Domingue.” College Inter-familiale, Jacmel, Haiti,

September 25, 2001.

Visiting NEH Scholar of African and African-American Religion and Philosophy, Florida Memorial College, Miami, May 21-24, 2001.

“From *kanga* to *mare*: Kongolese Influences on the Use of Ropes in Popular Haitian Religion and Culture.” South Florida Religious and Theological Studies Cooperative, St. Thomas University, Miami, Florida, December 15, 1998

“Sorcery, Deviance, and Disease in Haitian Religious Culture.” The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, April 6, 1998

Referee and Other Scholarly Assignments

Book Manuscripts: Routledge Press; University Press of Kentucky; Columbia University Press

Articles: Journal of Ecumenical Studies; Contours; Journal of American Ethnic History

Assistant Editor for Africa and Caribbean Sections, The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature

Courses Taught and/or Designed

“Pentecostalism.” Florida International University

“Christian Mysticism”

“Readings in Caribbean Religion.” Florida International University

“Christianity and Capitalism.” Florida International University

“Topics in Religion and Social Theory.” Florida International University

“Readings in African Religion.” Florida International University

“Religion and Politics in Latin American History.” Florida International University

“Meditation and Mystical Traditions,” Florida International University

“Modern Analysis of Religion,” Florida International University

“Latin American and Caribbean Catholicism,” Florida International University

“Modern Catholicism,” Florida International University

“Religion, Violence, and Conflict,” Florida International University

“Methods in the Study of Religion,” Florida International University

“Rasta, Vodou, Santeria,” Florida International University

“Studies in World Religions.” Florida International University

“African American Religions.” Florida International University

“African American Religious Movements.” Florida International University

“African Spirituality.” Florida International University

“Violence and the Sacred.” Florida International University

“Religion: Analysis and Interpretation.” Florida International University;

“African Religions.” Florida International University

“Caribbean Religions.” Florida International University

“Sociologie des religions.” Faculté d’Ethnologie, Université d’Etat d’Haïti

“Religions comparées.” Faculté d’Ethnologie, Université d’Etat d’Haïti

“Introduction to African-American Religion.” Temple University

“Philosophy.” Union School

“Ethics.” Union School

“English Literature.” Union School

“American Literature.” Union School

“Death and Dying.” Temple University

“Fundamentals of Catholic Theology.” Manor Junior College

“Esquisse sur la philosophie américaine.” Séminaire de Notre Dame de Bwamanda

Independent Research Directed

“William James’s Theory of Consciousness”
“Religious Experience in African American Pentecostalism”
“Mariology”
“Islam in the Caribbean”
“African Religious Influences in Brazil”
“Readings in Afro Caribbean Religions”
“Archival Research on Miami’s Religious History”
“Documenting Miami’s Religious Landscape”
“Theory and Method in the Study of Immigration and Religion: The Case of Miami”
“Blood Sacrifices, Symbolism, and Taboos”
“Cuban and Cuban American Popular Religion”
“African Ontologies”
“Human Rights in Haiti”
“Liberation Themes in African-American Christianity”
“Yoruba Religious Culture”
“Marian Devotion in Latin America”
“Anthropological Research on Indigenous Central American Religion”

Master's Theses Directed

“The Black Church in Perrine: History and Power in an African American Church in South Florida.” Su Fink, Department of Religious Studies, Summer 2004.
“African American Yoruba Revivalism in Miami.” Sabrina Collins, African-New World Studies Program, Summer 2004
“Feminist Psychology and an African Goddess: Understanding the Global Importance of Ochun. Jayne Atchison-Nevel. Department of Religious Studies, Fall 2004
“Our Lady of Charity and the Struggle for Cuban Identity.” Alma DeRojas, Latin American and Caribbean Center, Spring 2004
“The Struggle for Souls in Dondon: Religious Competition in a Haitian Village.” Yola Menard, Latin American and Caribbean Center, Spring 2004
“African and Indigenous Roots of the Cult of Nuestra Senora de Caridad del Cobra in Santiago, Cuba.” Maria Poviones-Bishop, Department of Religious Studies, Fall 2002
“The Ethical Confluence of Candomble and Movimiento Negro in Bahia, Brazil.” Zipporah Slaughter, Latin American and Caribbean Center, Summer 2002
“Boy Exile Turned Saint: The Religious Dimension of the Elian Gonzalez Experience for Cuban American Catholics in Miami.” Ikam Acosta, Department of Religious Studies, Spring 2001
“Arara Religious Culture and Dance in Colonial Cuba: Cosmological Rhythms.” Niurca Marquez, Latin American and Caribbean Center, Spring 2001
“A Sociological Analysis of Miami’s Botanicas.” Jose T. Lammoglia, Latin American and Caribbean Center, Spring 2001
Also served on two Doctoral Comprehensive Examination Committees, Department of Modern Languages, University of Miami, 2001, 2002

Grants and Awards

4/03: College of Arts and Sciences Research Grant, Florida International University
4/00: The Pew Charitable Trusts (\$600K); Religion, Immigration, and Civic Life in Miami. Co-Principal Investigator.
10/99: College of Arts and Sciences Grants-in-Aid Research grant, Florida International University
8/99: Ford Foundation (\$38K); International Conference “From Local to Global: Rethinking Yoruba

Religious Traditions for the New Millennium.” Florida International University, December 9-12, 1999;
Principal Investigator

7/98: College of Arts and Sciences Research grant, Florida International University

3/98: College of Arts and Sciences Grants-in-Aid Research grant, Florida International University

4/96: Awarded distinction for Ph.D. dissertation, Temple University

9/95: Dissertation Completion Grant; Temple University

5/94: Dissertation Research and Travel Grant; Temple University;

8/89-8/90: Doctoral Theological Fellowship; Universität, Tübingen,

8/89-5/96: Future Faculty Fellowship for Minority Students; Temple University

5/85: Distinction in philosophy; certificate in Jewish Studies; Stockton State College

5/85: Certificate in Jewish Studies; Stockton State College

Legal Consultations

Retained as an expert witness on rape in Haiti by the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center for testimony in two immigration hearings, 2001; affidavits submitted in each case.

Retained as an expert witness on Haitian Vodou and subpoenaed by the National Labor Relations Board, February 2002.

Retained as an expert witness on human rights in Haiti by Mitchell J. Cohen, Attorney at Law, for three immigration hearings, November 2002, February 2003, and March 2004.

Retained as an expert witness on human rights in Haiti by Michael Vastine, Attorney at Law, for an immigration hearing. March 2004.

Languages

English (native); French (fluent); Haitian Creole (fluent); Lingala (fluent); German (good); Spanish (reading knowledge); Ngbaka (conversational proficiency).

Professional Affiliations

American Academy of Religion; International Association for the History of Religions; Caribbean Studies Association; Haitian Studies Association, African Studies Association.

Interests and Hobbies

Poetry and Surfing.