

DR. OKEZI T. OTOVO
Department of History and Program in African and African Diaspora Studies
Florida International University

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Georgetown University, History, graduated with distinction. 2009.

Master of Arts, Georgetown University, Latin American Studies, graduated with distinction. 2002.

Bachelor of Arts, Carnegie Mellon University, History, graduated with honors. 1994-1998.

FULL-TIME ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Florida International University, Associate Professor of History and African and African Diaspora Studies, Aug 2017-present.

Florida International University, Assistant Professor of History and African and African Diaspora Studies, Aug 2012- Aug 2017.

University of Vermont, Assistant Professor of History, Aug 2009-May 2012.

PUBLICATIONS IN DISCIPLINE

Book

Progressive Mothers/ Better Babies: Race, Public Health, and the State in Brazil, 1850-1945 (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2016).

Articles

“Marrying ‘Well’: Debating Consanguinity, Matrimonial Law, and Brazilian Legal Medicine, 1890-1930” *Law and History Review*, Volume 33 no. 3 (2015): 703-743.

“The Gender of Social Welfare: Maternalism and Paternalism in Bahia’s Estado Novo,” *Revista da Associação Brasileira de Pesquisadores(as) Negros(as)*, special edition on *Raça, Ciência e Gênero*, Volume 6 no. 14 (2014): 110-128. [Online] <http://www.abpn.org.br/Revista/>

“From *Mãe Preta* to *Mãe Desamparada*: Maternity and Public Health in Post-Abolition Bahia,” *Luso-Brazilian Review*, Volume 48 no. 2 (2011): 164-191.

Chapters in Books

“Medicalized Motherhood as Race and Place: Bahia 1930s-1940s” in Scott Ickes and Bernd Reiter, *The Making of Brazil’s Black Mecca: Bahia Reconsidered*. Michigan State University Press, 2018.

“Embaixadores da academia: puericultura, congressos da criança e a repercussão multinacional da medicina brasileira” in Gisele Sanglard, *Amamentação e políticas para à infância no Brasil: a atuação de Fernandes Figueira, 1902-1928*. Rio de Janeiro: FIOCRUZ, 2016.

“Rescuing the Sacred Mission of Motherhood: The Campaign for Healthy Babies and Educated Mothers in Brazil” in *Documenting Latin America, Volume II: Gender, Race, and Nation*. Edited by Erin O’Connor and Leo Garofalo. Boston: Prentice Hall, 2010.

Book Reviews

Review of *Médicos intérpretes do Brasil*. By Gilberto Hochman and Nísia Trindade Lima. *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Volume 49, Issue 4, November 2017, pp. 952-954.

Review of *Slave Emancipation and Transformations in Brazilian Political Citizenship*. By Celso Castilho. *American Historical Review*, Volume 122, Issue 4, 1 October 2017, Pages 1281–1282.

Review of *Plastic Bodies: Sex Hormones and Menstrual Suppression in Brazil*. By Emilia Sanabria. *Canadian Journal of Latin American Studies*, Volume 42 no. 1 (2017): 113-115.

“Historicizing Gender, Medicine, and Biopolitics,” Review of *Reproducing the British Caribbean: Sex, Gender, and Population Politics after Slavery* by Juanita De Barros; *Gender, State, and Medicine in Highland Ecuador: Modernizing Women, Modernizing the State, 1895-1950* by A. Kim Clark; and *Policing Egyptian Women: Sex, Law, and Medicine in Khedival Egypt* by Liat Kozma. Published in *Journal of Women’s History*, Volume 28 no. 2 (Summer 2016): 149-155.

Review of *A History of Family Planning in Twentieth-Century Peru*. By Raúl Necochea Lopez. Published in *Medical History* Volume 60 no. 3 (July 2016): 427-429.

“Rival Visions and Regional Change,” Review of *The Vigorous Core of our Nationality: Race and Regional Identity in Northeastern Brazil*. By Stanley E. Blake. Published in *A Contracorriente* [Online] Volume 9 no. 1. (2011): 456-463. <http://acontracorriente.chass.ncsu.edu>

Encyclopedia Entries

“Women’s Suffrage: The Female Vote in Latin America” in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World*. Edited by Peter N. Stearns. Oxford University Press, 2008. NPR

Okezi T. Otovo and Roger Cunniff, “Pernambuco” and “Recife” in *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture*. Edited by Jay Kinsbruner. Detroit, Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2008. NPR

PRESENTED PAPERS AND LECTURES

“Maternity and Social Medicine: Complexities of Race, Servitude, and Family Welfare in Brazil’s Early 20th Century;” Davidson College. October 2018. *Invited lecture*.

- “Black Maternity as Political Risk: Abolition, Reproduction, and Republicanism Compounded” Watson Institute Brazil Initiative; Brown University. December 2017. *Invited lecture.*
- “Serving the Nation and Securing the Race: Mothers of Color, Household Labor, and *Trabalhista* Politics.” March 2016. Brazilian Studies Association Congress. Providence, RI.
- “What Remains: Embodied Politics, Historical Memory, and the Return of Presidential Corpses (Brazil 1976-2013).” November 2015. FIU African and African Diaspora Studies, Works-in-Progress Series. *Invited presentation.*
- “Black Maternity as Political Risk: Abolition, Reproduction, and Republicanism Compounded.” September 2015. International Seminar, “Mothering Slaves: Comparative Perspectives on Motherhood, Childlessness and the Care of Children in Atlantic Slave Societies,” University of São Paulo. *Invited Participant.*
- “*Pela Humanização do Parto: A Historical Look at Race, Childbirth, and Black Female Citizenship.*” May 2015. Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- “March 31-April 1, 1964: The First 48 Hours of a Revolutionary, Democratic, Dictatorship.” March 2014. Panel Presentation, “Rethinking the Brazilian Military *Golpe*: 50 Years Later” FIU Latin American and Caribbean Center and Center for the Humanities in an Urban Environment. *Invited lecture.*
- “Temporality in Historical Method.” February 2014. Florida Undergraduate Research Conference. FIU Honors College. *Invited lecture.*
- “*A Cidade-Ama-de-Leite: Race, Servitude, and Maternal Metaphors in the Modern Bahian Welfare State.*” November 2013. Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Annual Conference. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
- “Maternalismo baiano ou paternalismo nacional: o estado brasileiro como patrono e patriarca, 1930-1945” July 2013. Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica Celso Suckow da Fonseca, Rio de Janeiro. *Invited lecture.*
- “Na saúde e na doença: consanguinidade, casamento eugênico, e medicina-legal.” June 2013. Casa de Rui Barbosa, Fifth International Symposium: “Brasil-EUA: Novas Gerações, Novos Olhares.” Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. *Invited lecture.*
- “The Brazilian Welfare State as Patron and Patriarch, 1930-1945.” May 2013. Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
- “Foundling Care and Social Welfare.” October 2012. FIU African and African Diaspora Studies, Works-in-Progress Series. Miami, FL. *Invited presentation.*
- “Of Mammies and Welfare Moms: Patronage, Mothers’ Milk, and Social Welfare in the City of Women, 1934-1953.” September 2012. Brazilian Studies Association Congress. Urbana, IL.
- “Brazilian Miscegenation: Disease as Social Metaphor.” May 2012. Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA.
- “Framing Disease in Modern Brazil: The Invention of Tradition.” November 2011. New England Council of Latin American Studies Annual Conference. Hanover, NH.

“In Sickness and in Health: Consanguinity, Eugenic Marriage, and Brazilian Legal Medicine.” October 2011. Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD.

“(Re)Educating Women: The Birth of *Puericultura* in Brazil.” June 2011. Berkshire Conference on the History of Women. Amherst, MA.

“Miscegenation in Brazil: Discourse and Disease” April 2011. University of Vermont Interdisciplinary Workshop Series. Burlington, VT. *Invited presentation*.

“‘*A família é indispensável*’: From Foundling Home to Foster Homes in Bahia, Brazil, 1937–45.” January 2011. Conference on Latin American History, American Historical Association. Boston, MA.

“Making Better Babies and Perfecting the Race: Mothering and Nation-Building in Brazil.” April 2010. Center for Africanamerican Urban Studies and the Economy Speaker Series. Carnegie Mellon University. Pittsburgh, PA. *Invited lecture*.

“‘*Ha papos de toda casta*’: Charting Disease and Documenting Backwardness in Rural Brazil.” February 2010. Faculty Seminar, Department of History, University of Vermont. Burlington, VT. *Invited presentation*.

“Charting Disease and Documenting Backwardness in Rural Brazil.” January 2010. American Historical Association Annual Conference. New York, NY.

“Caregiver or Contagion? Brazilian Medicine Versus the *Mãe Preta*.” November 2008. University of Texas at Austin. “Making Race, Making Health: Historical Approaches to Race, Medicine, and Public Health.” Austin, TX.

“One of the Greatest Problems Facing Brazil: Maternalism, Getúlio Vargas and the Bahian Estado Novo.” March, 2008. Tulane University. Brazilian Studies Association Congress. New Orleans, LA.

“Domestic Healthcare: A History of Black Maternity in Bahia, 1889-1945.” May 2007. Caribbean Studies Association Conference. Salvador da Bahia, Brazil.

“Prostitutes, Progress, and *Patria*: The Intersections of Race and Sexuality in Late 19th-Century Cuba.” January 2004. University of Calgary. “Negotiating Identities in Latin American Cultures.” Calgary, Canada.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Journal article

“What Remains: Embodied Politics, Historical Memory, and the Return of Presidential Corpses (Brazil 1976-2013).”

PROFESSIONAL HONORS, PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS

Nominated for Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP) Teaching Award for Junior Faculty, 2016.

Selected participant. New York University; Faculty Network Series, Summer Seminar on “Afro-Latino History and Culture,” Summer 2011.

Inductee; Pi Gamma Mu, International Honor Society in the Social Sciences. University of Vermont, 2010.

Awardee in National Competition; Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2008-2009.

Royden B. Davis Teaching Fellowship, Georgetown University, 2007-2009.

Tom Helde Award for Excellence in Teaching, Georgetown University, 2008.

Inductee; Edward Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, Princeton University, 2008.

Patrick Healy University Fellowship, Georgetown University, 2003-2008.

Hisham Sharabi Graduate Essay Competition, Georgetown University. Honorable Mention. Essay: "Population Reform and Proletarian Babies: The Infant Hygiene Movement in Bahia, Brazil," 2005.

Manger Fellowship, Center for Latin American Studies, Georgetown University, 2000-2001.

John Hope Franklin Award for Superior Performance in History, Carnegie Mellon University, 1998.

Graduation with University Honors, Carnegie Mellon University, 1998.

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Service to the Department and Program

Graduate Program Director, History Department 2017-2021.

Graduate Committee, History Department 2014-2015.

Undergraduate Committee, History Department 2012-2014.

Search Committee Chair, Latin Americanist Historian, 2017.

Search Committee, Latin Americanist Historian, 2016.

Search Committee Chair, Visiting Assistant Professor—Modern Latin America, 2015.

Search Committee, Senior Latin Americanist Historian, 2012.

Affiliate to the Search Committee, Africanist Historian, 2012.

Steering Committee, African and African Diaspora Studies Program, 2012-present

Undergraduate Committee, African and African Diaspora Studies Program, 2014-2017

Graduate Committee, African and African Diaspora Studies Program, 2017-present

MA Online Curriculum Development Committee, African and African Diaspora Studies Program, 2015-present

Service to the Green School of International and Public Affairs

Three-Minute Thesis SIPA Judging Panel, 2019.

FLAS Selection Committee, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, 2019.

Building Planning Committee, SIPA II, 2017-2018.

Faculty Advisory Board, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, 2017-2019.

Director of Academic Programs, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, 2015-2017.

SIPA Curriculum Committee Member, 2016-2017.

Brazil Studies Program Planning Committee, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center 2013-2014.

Service to the University

Mentor, Mellon Hispanic-Serving Institutions Pathways to the Professoriate Program, 2016-2017.

OFFICES HELD IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Chair, Warren Dean Memorial Prize Committee, Conference on Latin American History, 2019.

Chair, Brazil Section, Conference on Latin American History, 2018-2019

Secretary, Brazil Section, Conference on Latin American History, 2017-2018

Health and Society Track Chair, Health/Science/Technology Section, Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference, Lima 2016.

Committee member, Scobie Award, Conference on Latin American History, 2016

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Conference Panels Organized and Chaired

Organizer. "Understudied Geographies in Brazilian History: A Methodological Conversation," Conference on Latin American History. January 2020.

Chair. "Family Matters: Intimacy, Affect, and Political Life in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries," American Historical Association. January 2019.

Co-Organizer. "The Multi-dimensionality of Afro-Latin American Antiracist Activism in the 21st Century." AADS Symposium on Blackness in Latin America. March 2017.

Discussant. "Sexuality and Gender." Department of History Graduate Student Conference. March 2017.

Organizer and Chair. "Reproducing Politics, Gendering Health, and Situating Maternity as Practice." March 2016. Brazilian Studies Association Congress.

Moderator. "Tropical Wellbeing: Perspectives on Public Health in Brazilian History." March 2016. Brazilian Studies Association Congress.

Discussant. "Issues of Identity in the Black Atlantic," March 2015. FIU Department of History Annual Graduate Student Conference, The Old World and the New: Journeys in Atlantic History.

Co-Chair and Panel Organizer. "Making Race in the Americas, Creating Scholarship at FIU: An Interdisciplinary Conversation on New Graduate Research." February 2015. FIU Cuban Research Institute International Conference, "'More than White, More than Mulato, More than Black:' Racial Politics in Cuba and the Americas"

Discussant. "Yellow Blindness in a Black and White Ethnoscape: Chinese Influence and Heritage in Afro-Cuban Religiosity," Martin Tsang, Global and Sociocultural Studies. November 2014. FIU African and African Diaspora Studies, Works-in-Progress Series.

Discussant. "Law, Persecution, and Exile: State-sponsored coercion and the Origins of Brazil's Nineteenth-century 'Back to Africa' Movement." November 2013. American Society for Legal History Annual Conference. Miami, FL.

Panel Chair. "On Pro-Poor Sustainable Tourism Development in the Caribbean: Needs, Experiences and Opportunities," April 2013. FIU/AADS/SIPA Tourism and Pro-Poor Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean: Comparative History and Policy Analysis. Miami, FL.

Discussant. "The Woman Question in 19th century India and Egypt," Maya Boutaghou, Modern Languages and Women's Studies. February 2013. FIU African and African Diaspora Studies, Works-in-Progress Series. Miami, FL.

Panel Organizer. "Locating Race: State-Building and Regionalism in Northeastern History." September 2012. Brazilian Studies Association Congress. Urbana, IL.

Panel Organizer. "Poster Children: Pan American Perspectives on Reproduction, Birthing and Child-Rearing," June 2011. Berkshire Conference on the History of Women. Amherst, MA.

Community Engagement: Public Presentations

"Progressive Mothers, Better Babies." October 2016. Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL.

Featured Presentation, Department of History Graduate Student Association Faculty Speaker Series, October 2016.

"Confronting Challenges: Public Health in a Global Perspective," LACC and Miami Dade County Public Schools Workshop "Global Issues and Digital Media: Integrating Latin American and Caribbean Themes into the Curriculum. August 2016.

"Progressive Mothers, Better Babies." July 2016. Beyu Be Connected Author Series, Durham, NC. *Invited speaker.*

"Healthy Women, Healthy Communities, Healthy Planet." March 2016. Community Conversation Series, Ecohumanities for Communities in Conflict: Fragile Habit, Conversations for Miami's Future. *Invited roundtable guest.*

"Haiti and the Reverberation of Freedom." May 2015. HistoryMiami, Museum Forum Series. *Invited roundtable guest.*

"Public Health and Social Welfare in Brazil." March 2010. Elder Education Enrichment. Burlington, VT. *Invited speaker.*

“Axe!: A Mini-Lesson in Afro-Brazilian History.” February 2009. US Army, Fort Belvoir, VA. *Invited speaker.*

Other Research Experience

Featured Author, New Books Network Podcast, July 2019. Interviewed by Patrícia Martins Marcos, https://newbooksnetwork.com/okezi-otovo-progressive-mothers-better-babies-race-public-health-and-the-state-in-brazil-1850-1945-u-texas-press-2016/?fbclid=IwAR2dwBgGrftkWTnjjN7-AIQj5s_7UIVEZ26XjJVnpJb9WUr8s78pYdK2R_Q

Featured Author, Society for the History of Childhood and Youth, September 2018. Interviewed by Bianca Premo. https://www.shcy.org/features/books/progressive-mothers-better-babies-race-public-health-and-the-state-in-brazil-1850-1945/?fbclid=IwAR1pFDpRc8p1IT0-2doQgjVJgjKouUrheZ_ZN6KDwLhYI3wgShxvWO82bU

Interviewed for Dr. Ibram Kendi, “New works in African American History and African Diaspora Studies” on African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS) Blog, <http://www.aaihs.org/progressive-mothers-better-babies-a-new-book-on-race-and-public-health-in-brazil/> 2016.

Interviewed for Autumn A. Arnett, “Color Struck,” *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. September 24, 2015.

Researcher and translator (Spanish and Portuguese to English), *Major Problems in Atlantic History: Documents and Essays*. Edited by Alison F. Games and Adam Rothman. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2008.

Professional Service: Peer Review

Stanford University Press, manuscript review
Cambia Press, manuscript review
University of Texas Press, manuscript review
Oxford University Press, manuscript review
Palgrave Macmillan, manuscript review
Hackett Publishing, manuscript review
Routledge Publishing, manuscript review
Journal of Medical History, article submission review
História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos, article submission review
Law and History Review, article submission review
Luso-Brazilian Review, article submission review
Revista de História Regional, article submission review
SSRC--International Dissertation Research Fellowship, proposal review

Professional Memberships:

American Historical Association
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
Brazilian Studies Association
Conference on Latin American History
Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies
Latin American Studies Association
Research Group, História da assistência à saúde; Fundação Oswaldo Cruz