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EDUCATION

University of Michigan

Ph.D. in Anthropology and History 2015

Dissertation: Caboclos of Nazareth: Renovation and Improvisation in *Maracatu de Baque Solto* of Pernambuco

University of Michigan

M.A. in Anthropology and History 2007

Thesis: Cultivating Continuity: The *Ligas Camponesas* and the MST in Pernambuco, Brazil

Northeastern Illinois University

B.A. Summa Cum Laude in Anthropology 2004

Minor: History

AWARDS

Fulbright Scholar Award to Brazil for “Every Day Is Carnival: Improvisation and Cultural Preservation in the Maracatus of Pernambuco” 2021-22

Mellon / CeLTA Less Commonly Taught Language (LCTL) Partnership Grant for Portuguese 2019

(Grant proposal author and co-coordinator role)

Visiting Research Fellowship – King’s College, London – offered 2015

Ruth Landes Memorial Grant – offered 2015

Finishing fellowship, Anthropology & History, University of Michigan 2015

Rackham Merit Fellowship 2012 – 2014

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship 2009 – 2010

Summer FLAS Fellowship, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Brazil 2007

International Institute Research Fellowship, University of Michigan 2007

Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship 2006 – 08, 2010 – 11

Summer FLAS Fellowship, Bridge Linguatic, Rio de Janeiro 2006

Rackham Merit Fellowship 2005 – 2006

PUBLICATIONS and WRITING

“The Cultural Economy and Transformation of Performance Contexts in the *Mata Norte* of Pernambuco,” *article in progress*

“Credibility, Commitment, and Constructing an Archive in Rural Northeast Brazil”, chapter in *Radical Visions: New Perspectives on Special Collections Curatorship* (forthcoming) 2025

“Maracatu In The Past: Memory and Invented Tradition in Northeast Brazil.” *Article in progress*

“Talking Pretty and Kicking Up Dust: Modernity and Tradition in *Maracatu de Baque Solto* of Pernambuco.” Latin American Music Review (University of Texas Press – Austin)
Issue 38:2, Fall / Winter 2017

“Public Security Versus Cultural Inclusion: The Struggle of *Maracatu de Baque Solto* in Pernambuco” Article published in the Latin American Bureau (www.lab.org.uk) 2014

“Ze Paraiba, 1974”. The Brasilia Review, Issue #2. 2013
Contributor, *Flabbergasted Vibes* music blog. 2008-2021

Wrote essays reflecting the intersection of music and society as found in “classic”, but often lesser-known, recordings in genres including jazz, soul, Latin and Brazilian music.

RECENT PRODUCTION WORK

Guitarist, “Conspirador” – João Paulo Rosa e O Eito Dec. 2022

Contributed guitar work to one track, *Vestido de Flores*, by the ex-Ticoqueiros member João Paulo Rosa.

Performance photography, Nailson Vieira May – Nov 2022

Contributed photographic content, originating in ethnographic participant-observation, to the materials used for booking agents and publicists by bandleader, music education worker, and current president of Maracatu Estrela Dourada, Nailson Vieira.

Recordist - Festival Azouge, Lagoa de Itaenga, Brazil Oct 15, 2022

Captured and documented the presentations of cultural groups performing in the *embolada* and *coco* styles in high-resolution multi-track audio, as well as recording an entire sambada – or sung poetry contest – between Mestre Edmilson João of Maracatu Leão Teimoso and Mestre Bi of Maracatu Estrela Dourada. Over eight hours of performance are represented in this documentation.

Recordist and Post-Production – Festa Alvorada, Nazaré da Mata, Brazil

Sept. 2022

Two-day festival to commemorate the “liberation” of maracatu’s tradition of night-long song contests and rehearsals that were being repressed under the pretext of public safety laws and curfew laws until activists achieved the passing of new legislation in 2015. The first night consisted of performances of a variety of groups with ties to the Mata Norte, while the second night was entirely devoted to maracatu.

Recording and production – “Coco Do Engenho”, Nazaré da Mata, Brazil June – August 2022

Recorded and mixed a CD-length project featuring members of roots music groups Ticoqueiros and Fuloresta, which highlights a locally-specific variation of a Northeastern genre.

This project will be used by the group in promotional materials for projects that use public arts funding, with plans for a commercially released album.

Recording, production, arranging, consulting. “Mais Um Dos Mestres...” Project, Nazaré da Mata, Brazil

May-Sept 2022

Facilitated the workshopping, composition, and recording of new music stemming from a collaboration between maracatu poet Mestre Barachinha and two musicians and arrangers with a conservatory training. The objective was to record a series of demos of songs in a popular “romantic” style that could be re-recorded and commercially released by regionally well-known recording artists, raising Mestre Barachinha’s artistic profile.

Open Rehearsals (Ensaios) of Maracatu

July through November 2022

Multi-track, on-location recording and mixing of the opens rehearsal at the headquarters of various maracatu in Nazaré da Mata and the surrounding region. Representing from four to six hours of music and featuring many *mestre-poets* as guest singers, these recordings are then distributed to the principal maracatu groups’ directorates and membership, and freely available for streaming on YouTube and on my research website.

PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, AND OTHER MEDIA**Interview, “Maracatu de baque solto,” for the podcast *Massa* (<https://essefoimassa.com/>)**

Two episodes devoted to rural maracatu in a podcast which looks at Brazilian music and culture. Aired June 1 and June 8, 2021.

Presentation, “Music, Identity, and Cultural Nationalism in Latin America & the Caribbean”

Invited guest speaker, *Anthropology of Latin America & The Caribbean* course, State University of New York, Geneseo, May 6, 2021.

“Horizontal Class Discussions Using Primary Sources and Roleplaying in History”

Southwest Florida Symposium on Teaching and Learning: Promoting Inclusion In and Out of the

Classroom – Florida Gulf Coast University, January 22, 2019

Moderator, *Nation Building and Conflict in the 20th Century.*

Historical Patterns in the Modern World – Queens College History Symposium, New York City, May 18, 2018

“Hybrid modernity and regulating the authenticity of “folkloric” cultural practices: the case of rural maracatu in Pernambuco, Brazil” Presentation at Intersections in The Americas Conference, University College London, May 3-4, 2018

“Cultural *coronelismo*, culture brokers, and mobilization: a renegotiated marginality for Pernambuco’s rural maracatus.” Paper presented to the Latin American Music Seminar, November 19, 2016, held at Horniman Museum and Gardens, London

“Rhythm, Sampling and the Public Sphere.”

Panel chair at the XII Brazilian Studies Conference
King’s College, London

2014

“*Sambada* is the Pulse of Maracatu: Improvisation and Renovation in the Zona da Mata of Pernambuco”

Paper presented to the XXII BRASA Conference, King’s College, London

2014

“Opening statement - Three years of Ethnography as Activism”

Ethnography-as-Activism: A Conference on Activist Research, University of Michigan

2009

Respondent, "Naming Practices in Brazilian and Caribbean History."

Conference in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Michigan

2008

Engaged Fieldwork and the Writing of Social Movement Histories: The Landless Workers Movement (MST) of Brazil

Ethnography-As-Activism Working Group, University of Michigan

2008

“Cultivating Continuity: The *Ligas Camponesas*, the MST, and the Interrupted History of Agrarian Reform in Pernambuco.”

Paper presented to the 32nd Annual Caribbean Studies Conference, for the panel “Labor, Economics, and Workers’ Mobilizations.” Salvador, Brazil

2007

“Cultivating Continuity: The *Ligas Camponesas* and the MST in Brazil”

Presentation for New Frontiers in History - York University, Toronto

2007

Workshop on fieldwork, Association for Political Anthropology

Conference of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, California

2006

CLASSES DESIGNED AND TAUGHT

Cultural Policy, Intangible Heritage, and Inequality (MC202)
Social Movements (MC382)
Music, Society, and the State in Latin America and the Caribbean (IAH 208)
The Brazilian Military Dictatorship through Literature, Music and Cinema
Intensive Beginning Portuguese
Intensive Intermediate Portuguese
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
History of World Civilizations 1815 to the Present
History of World Civilizations to 1500

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Member, Comissão Pernambucana de Folklore Sept 2022 - present

Member, MSU International Studies & Programs' scholarship committee
 Assess and evaluate applications for international research Spring 2022 – present

Founding member, IAH Student Awards Committee
 Developing an awards program for outstanding student work in IAH, including criteria for selection and rubrics for evaluation. February 2022 – present

Organizing Committee member, department steward, Union for Non-Tenure Faculty (UNTF)
 Steward for James Madison College Aug 2021 -- present
 Steward for RCS, History, and Music departments Dec 2020 – Aug 2021

Affiliate and consultant, Repositioning Africa's Diaspora (RAD) Spring 2021
 Proposed collaboration with MSU's Global Youth Advancement Network and UFB, Salvador

Digital Fellow, MSU Commons Digital Fellows Program Fall 2020

Participant and grant-writer, Mellon LCTL Partnership for Portuguese
 Developed Creative Commons materials in intermediate Portuguese Fall 2019-Summer 2020

Teaching The Day After, College of Arts & Letters series
 Teaching through trauma workshop participant Summer-2020

Adjunct faculty, Anthropology Department, Michigan State University April 2020-present

Core faculty, MSU Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Fall 2019 – present

Peer reviewer – Luso-Brazilian Review (University of Wisconsin Press)

Fall 2019

ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Training Workshop -
University of Chicago Language Center

January 2020

Completed “Introduction to Online Language Teaching”
Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA)

Fall 2019

Faculty Mentor – Florida Southwestern State College Photography Club Spring 2019

Cornerstone Training Certification, FSW

June 21, 2018

Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop

Founder and coordinator, “Ethnography as Activism”

2006 – 2008

Michigan Association of Graduate Anthropologists

Co-Chair

2007 – 2008

Graduate Employees Organization, AFT Local 3550, University of Michigan

Chair, GEO S/PAC – Solidarity / Political Action Committee

2006 – 2007

Union for Puerto Rican Students, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago

Vice-president

2003 – 2004

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

FT Assistant Professor, James Madison College

Fall 2021-Spring 2022

FT Assistant Professor of Portuguese, Michigan State University

Fall 2019 –Fall 2021

Department of Romance and Classical Studies

Adjunct Professor of History and Anthropology, Florida Southwestern State College

School of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Fall 2018 – Spring 2019

Fieldworker – Culture On The Move Fieldwork Survey

Florida Department of Historical Resources

October 2018 – June 2019

Folklife Stage, 64th Annual Florida Folk Festival

Cultural facilitator

May 25-27, 2018

Freelance translation and proofreading

Translating academic journal articles from Portuguese into English

2015-2018

Associação AEC-TEA. Capim Grosso, Bahia, Brazil	
English tutor and technician	2005
Summer Migrant Program, Madison Co. Board of Education. Richmond, Kentucky	
Assistant instructor	2004 – 2005
Learning Center, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois	
Tutor in cultural anthropology	2003 – 2004
Department of Anthropology, Northeastern Illinois University	
Research assistant	2003 – 2004
Chicago Cultural Center	
Production manager and head of technical staff for public and private events	1999 – 2003
Spoonfed Records	
Founder and manager, musician, singer	1998 – 2002
Old Town School of Folk Music	
Audio engineer	1998 – 2000
Various venues, festivals, and recording studios. Chicago, Illinois	
Freelance audio engineer and musician	1996 – 1999

VOLUNTEER WORK AND INTERNSHIPS

Sarasota Forest Monastery – Theravada Buddhist Monastery, Dhammayut Order	
Steering committee member	2018-2019
Housing specialist	
Charlotte County Homeless Coalition	December 2016 – July 2018
WCBN Community Radio	
Co-host of “The Latin Show,” host of “Flabbergasted Freeform Radio”	2006 – 2008
Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Chicago	
Volunteer worker	2003 – 2004
Humboldt Park Participatory Democracy Project, Chicago	
Fieldworker and organizer	2004
Que Ondee Sola magazine, Northeastern Illinois University	

LANGUAGES

English – native language

Portuguese – speak, read, and write fluently

Spanish – read intermediate-adv, speak and write with basic competence