

**EZIAKU ATUAMA NWOKOCHA**  
Presidential Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Department of Religion  
Princeton University  
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## EMPLOYMENT

- 2020-Present    **Presidential Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Department of Religion, Princeton University
- Visiting Fellow**, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University
- 2020             **Lecturer**, College of Humanities and Sciences, Thomas Jefferson University
- 2019- 2020     **Lecturer**, Department of Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania

## EDUCATION

- 2019    **Doctor of Philosophy, Africana Studies**, University of Pennsylvania (with distinction)  
Primary Field: Religion  
Dissertation Title: “Vodou en Vogue: Fashion, Ritual and Spiritual Innovation in Haitian Vodou”
- Dissertation Committee Members: Anthea Butler (Co-Chair), Heather Williams (Co-Chair), Elizabeth Perez and Judith Weisenfeld
- Graduate Certificates: Gender, Sexuality and Women Studies; Latin American and Latino Studies; and Center for Teaching and Learning
- 2015    **Masters in Africana Studies**, University of Pennsylvania
- 2013    **Masters in Theological Studies**, Harvard Divinity School  
African and African American Religions Concentration
- 2011    **Bachelor of Arts**, University of California Santa Barbara  
Black Studies and Feminist Studies, Double major

## PUBLICATIONS

“**Size Me Up!': Gede, Ritual Practice, and Sartorial Innovation in Haitian Vodou.**” *Journal of Africana Religions*. Spring 2021. Plan to submit

**"The 'Queerness' of Ceremony: Possession and Sacred Space in Haitian Religion."** *Journal of Haitian Studies*. Volume 25, Number 2. Winter 2020

**"BAR Book Forum: Books I Teach,"** *Black Agenda Report*, 30 October 2019.

**"An Equilibrant Vodou Goddess."** *Religion in Africa and the Diaspora*. Harvard Divinity Bulletin. Indiana University Press. Volume 41: Numbers 3 and 4. Summer/Autumn 2013.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Thomas Jefferson University

2020 **Lecturer:** "Topics in American Studies." Spring. Hallmarks Program for General Education. College of Humanities and Sciences.

**Lecturer:** "Topics in American Studies." Spring. Hallmarks Program for General Education. College of Humanities and Sciences.

### University of Pennsylvania

2020 **Lecturer:** "Spirit Possession in Caribbean Religions." Spring. Department of Africana Studies and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies.

2019 **Lecturer:** "Religions in the African Diaspora: Divinities, Diviners and Divination." Fall. Department of Africana Studies and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

2018 **Teaching Assistant:** "God is Black: Race, Religion and Nationalism." Summer. Professor Anthea Butler. Center for Africana Studies, Summer Institute

2017 **Teaching Assistant:** "Love, Anger, Madness: History, Memory and Silence in Haiti." Summer. Professor Grace Sanders Johnson. Center for Africana Studies, Summer Institute

2016 **Teaching Assistant:** "Young, Gifted and Black: Understanding the Experience of Black Students at Elite Colleges and Universities". Summer. Professor Camille Charles. Center for Africana Studies, Summer Institute

2015 **Teaching Assistant:** "World Music and Culture." Spring. Professor Tim Rommen. Music and Africana Studies

**Teaching Assistant:** "That's My Song!: Musical Genre as Social Contract." Summer. Professor Guy Ramsey. Center for Africana Studies, Summer Institute

2014 **Teaching Assistant:** "World Music and Culture." Fall. Professor Jim Sykes. Music and Africana Studies

**Teaching Assistant:** "Black Gods of Philadelphia." Summer. Professor Anthea Butler. Center for Africana Studies, Summer Institute

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

- 2020 **“Adorning the Divine: Fashion and Spiritual Innovation in Haitian Vodou,”** Sensory Cultures of Religion Research Group. Invited Lecturer. Yale University. New Haven, Connecticut. January 28, 2020
- 2019 **“Vodou in Media and Art,”** Zombies. COML 002. Invited Guest Lecture. Professor. Veronique Charles, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. April 8, 2019.
- 2018 **“Ford Fellowship Panel,”** Panelist. Graduate Center and Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. November 6, 2018
- 2015 **“Haiti: History, Media and Ritual”** Introduction to Music. MUSC 50. Invited Guest Lecture. Professor Timothy Rommen. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Spring 2015
- 2014 **“Gender, Ritual and Music in Haiti,”** Introduction to Music. MUSC 50. Invited Guest Lecturer. Professor Jim Sykes. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. November 10, 2014

## CONFERENCES/SYMPIOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 **“Say ‘Yes’ to the Spirits: Spiritual Marriage in Manbo Maude’s Temple,”** Queerness in the City: Race, Sexuality, and Urban Religious Histories in the United States and Beyond. American Historical Association. Seattle, Washington. January 7-10, 2021 Forthcoming
- 2020 **Fieldnotes: Making and Unmaking the Ethnography of Religion,** Panelist. Anthropology of Religion Unit and Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Unit. American Academy of Religion (AAR). Boston, Massachusetts. November 21-24, 2020 Forthcoming
- 2019 **Theme: Holy Black Female Personhood: A Roundtable Discussion of The Labor of Faith: Gender and Power in Black Apostolic Pentecostalism,** Panelist. American Academy of Religion (AAR). San Diego, California. November 23-26, 2019
- “Aesthetically African: Head Wrapping in a Vodou ceremony,”** Caribbean Studies Association (CSA). Santa Marta, Colombia. June 3-7, 2019.
- 2018 **“Make me look African!': Headwraps and Race in Haitian,”** American Studies Association. The Demonic Grounds of Decolonial Performance. Atlanta, Georgia. November 8-11, 2018.
- “Divining Dreams: Black Atlantic Fashion in Haitian Vodou,”** Caribbean Studies Association (CSA). Havana, Cuba. June 4-8, 2018.
- “Size Me Up!': Gede, Ritual Practice, and Sartorial Innovation in Haitian Vodou”** Costume Institute of the African Diaspora. Si Wi Yah; Sartorial Representations of the African Diaspora. London College of Fashion. London, UK May 4-5, 2018

- “Size Me Up!': Gede, Ritual Practice, and Sartorial Innovation in Haitian Vodou”** LALS, Africana, and GSWS Graduate Student Series. University Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. April 5, 2018
- 2017 **“Fashioning the Spirit: Materiality and Intersectional Spiritual Exchange in Haitian Vodou”** American Anthropological Association. Vodou Matters, Part II. Washington D.C. December 1-3, 2017
- Theme: Why and How in the World Does the Study of Religion Matter? Interpretive Strategies and Pedagogical Payoffs.** American Academy of Religion. Arts and Interpretations Group. Boston, Massachusetts. Nov 18- 21, 2017
- “Adorning the Spirit: Clothing, Sexuality and Spiritual Exchange in Haitian Vodou”** Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD). Seville, Spain Nov 7-11, 2017
- 2016 **“Adorning the Spirit: Clothing, Jewelry, and the Sacred Accouterments of African Diaspora Religions”** American Academy of Religion. African Diaspora Religions Group. San Antonio, Texas Nov 19- 22, 2016
- 2015 **“The Multi-religious Dimensions of Vodou: The Transnational Spirits of Haitian Altars in North America,”** Caribbean Studies Association (CSA). The Caribbean in an Age of Global Apartheid Fences, Boundaries, and Borders. New Orleans, Louisiana. May 25-29, 2015.
- 2013 **“Deconstructing Ezili Freda: Colorism, Sexuality and Performance in Vodou Communities,”** Haitian Studies Association (HSA). Haiti Representations, Revisions, Responsibilities: Toward New Narratives for Haiti in 2013 and Beyond. Karibe Convention Hotel. Port-au-Prince, Haiti. November 7-9, 2013.
- “Your Spirit Walk With Us: Conversations on Sexuality and Ezili Danto's Influence on Haitian Scholars and Practitioner.”** With Dr. Charlene Desir, Geraldine Valentin. KOSANBA. Center for Black Studies Research. Harvard University October 18-20 2013
- “Gender, Colorism, and Sexual Performativity in Vodou Communities: The Case of Ezili Freda”** African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association, inaugural conference entitled, “African and Diasporic Religions: Divine Space and Sacred Territories” Harvard University Friday, April 5, 2013.
- 2012 **“Unearthing the Divine: Intersections of Race, Gender, and Sexuality within Ezili Danto and Ezili Freda.”** Haitian Studies Association (HSA). Haiti Beyond Borders: Challenges and Progress Across the Diaspora. CUNY, November 8-10, 2012
- “Vodou and the Self-Fashioning of Sexual Identity: The Case of Ezili Danto.”** Reconsidering Caribbean Diaspora Graduate Conference. The Archive of Women Panel. Harvard, September 29, 2012
- 2011 **“Carving Spaces for Black Feminism within Haitian Religion”** Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) Undergraduate Research Colloquium Poster Presentation. UCSB, May 19, 2011

- 2010 **Black Studies Graduate Center Panel.** Present information on how to apply for graduate school and how students can make themselves more competitive. UCSB, October 12, 2010
- Student Leadership Panel:** The Past, Present & Future of Student Collaboration at UCSB. Corwin Pavilion, UCSB September 25, 2010
- Undergraduate Research Information Panel:** Girvetz UCSB August 22, 2010
- "Ezili Dantò: Rethinking Sexuality and Gender Discourse in Haitian Vodou."**American Academy of Religion. Lesbian - Feminist Issues in Religion Group. Atlanta, Oct 31-Nov 2, 2010
- "Black Feminism and the Complexity of Gender and Sexuality within Haitian Religion."** Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) Summer Undergraduate Research Colloquium Poster Presentation. UCSB, August 12, 2010
- "Black Feminist Critique on Vodou."** 16<sup>th</sup> Annual SAEOPP McNair/ SSS National Research Conference. McNair: A Pathway to Scholarly Research Opportunities. Oral/Powerpoint Presentation.. Co hosted by Georgia State University & Morehouse College. Atlanta, June 25-27, 2010
- "TET ANSANM/ Heads Together: How UC Students Can Help Haiti."** HAITI FLAG WEEK. UCSB, May20, 2010
- "Haiti Fallen, Haiti Rising Responses to the Earthquake in Haiti."** Panel. UCSB, January 2010
- "Ezili Danto: Carving Spaces for Sexuality and Gender Discourse in Haitian Religion."** Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) Undergraduate Research Colloquium Poster Presentation UCSB, May 21, 2010
- "Ezili Danto: Transgressing Sex and Gender in Haitian Vodou."** Lecturer. Center for Black Studies Research. Feb 23, 2010
- "Ezili Danto: Motherhood Vs Sexuality."** American Academy of Religion Annual Western Regional Conference Arizona State University, Arizona, March 13-15, 2010
- 2009 **"Ezili Danto: Motherhood Vs Sexuality."** KOSANBA .Center for Black Studies Research. Mirebailais, Haiti, July 13-17, 2009.
- "Ezili Danto: Motherhood Vs Sexuality."** University of California Santa Barbara Undergraduate Research Symposium (poster), Department of Black Studies UCSB, May 20, 2009

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2019 **Research Assistant for Africana Studies Department**, Investigation of published findings in academic and professional journals, and other credible sources. Evaluation and analysis of data using Excel and Word.

Supervisor. Dr. Barbara Savage, July- Present

2011 **Research Assistant for Feminist Studies Department**, Research assistant, innovate and revise curriculum in two Feminist studies courses concerning women of color, spirituality and resistance.

Supervisor. Dr. Grace Chang UCSB, March- June 2011

**Research Assistant for Feminist Studies Department**, Independent research and readings concerning spirituality, Black women and the Black Atlantic Slave trade.

Supervisor. Dr. Mireille Miller-Young UCSB, March- June 2011

**Research Assistant for Black Studies Department**, Research assistant working on various independent community projects within Haiti. Working with local community organizers in Haiti and with one neighborhood in Haiti. Working on setting up ties with the UC System and organizing students and faculty and research teams. Supervisor. Dr. Clyde Woods and Nadege Clitandre UCSB, Oct- Dec, 2011

2010 **Research Assistant for Black Studies Department**, Create online document Graduate Research for M.A. and Ph.D. in African American Studies Programs. Tools to apply successfully to graduate schools. Supervisor. Dr. Jefferey Stewart UCSB, July- Sept, 2010

**Research Assistant for Center for Black Studies**, Record Archives for Haiti Culture and Arts Assist Center with Haiti Flag Week Event. Supervisor: Dr. Clyde Woods UCSB, March-May 2010

2009 **Field Research in Montreal, Canada**. Conduct interviews and participation observation of Haitian Religion Ceremony. Montreal. Canada, Nov 2009

**Field Research in Mirebalais, Haiti**. Conduct Interviews of Haitian Religion scholars and practitioners, for Department of Black Studies. KOSANBA: A Scholarly Association for the Study of Haitian Vodou International Colloquium IX. University of California, Santa Barbara Haiti, July 13-21, 2009.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2019 **Penn Leadership Alliance**. Graduate Mentor. UPenn July 2019

2017 **Penn Leadership Alliance**. Graduate Mentor. UPenn July 2017

2016 **Poster Judge. Penn Honors Diversity Symposium**. UPenn Oct 2016

**Graduate Student Life Panel**. Leadership Alliance Summer Research Early Identification . UPenn. June 2016

- 2015 **Graduate Student Life Panel.** Leadership Alliance Summer Research Early Identification Program. UPenn, June 2015
- 2015- 2017. **Africana Studies Graduate Colloquium Planning Committee, Chair.**
- 2013 **Graduate Student Life Panel.** Howard University students at Africana, UPenn Oct 2013.
- 2013- 2018. **Graduate Fellow and Mentor.** Center for Africana Studies Summer Institute– (UPenn)
- 2013 **Commencement Speaker.** Libations for African/Caribbean Religions. Harvard Divinity School Commencement, Harvard May 2013.
- 2012 **Harambee,** Student Organization for African decent in Harvard Divinity School, Harvard Aug 2012- May 2013
- 2011 **Resident Coordinator,** UCSB Apartment Housing and Living, Westgate UCSB Jun 2010- Jun2011
- Mentor.** Leadership Education and Action Program (LEAP). UCSB, October 1-May 31, 2011
- 2010 **Summer Transition Enrichment Program,** Team Leader, Resident Assistant, Educational Opportunity Program (EOP).UCSB, August 11-19, 2010
- Web Designer, Undergraduate Program –Graduate Center**  
[http://www.blackstudies.ucsb.edu/grad\\_center.html](http://www.blackstudies.ucsb.edu/grad_center.html) **Black Studies Department.** UCSB  
June 31- Oct 11, 2010
- Student Coordinator.** “AN NOU PALE/ Lets Mingle! Flag Week Opening Ceremony.” Haiti Flag Week . Center for Black Studies Research. UCSB. May 17, 2010.
- Spoken Word.** “Poets for Haiti: Benefit Reading for Haiti Soleil” Hosted by David Starkey, Santa Barbara Poet Laurete with Nadege Clitandre founder and Executive Director of Haiti Soleil. SB City College, May 17, 2010.
- Co Host Facilitator.** Film screening with Prof. Claudine Michel “Poto Mitan: Haitian Women Pillars of the Global Economy”. Center for Black Studies Research, Human Rights Council and Black Student Union. UCSB, February 26, 2010
- 2008 **Tour Guide. Historical UCSB Gaucho Guide.** Black Student Union Outreach Program.  
-2010 UCSB, 2010
- Co Facilitator Film Screening, “Still Black: A Portrait of Black Transmen”** Co-sponsored by the Black Student Union and the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender, UCSB, February 2010
- 2009 **Coordinating Committee.** “Sweet Tea: A Discussion with E. Patrick Johnson Supervisors: Mirelle Miller Young, Stephanie Batiste, Ingrid Banks, English Department, Black Studies Department, Center for Black Studies Research, Associated Student, Black Square. UCSB, March 2009

- Mentor.** Leadership Education and Action Program (LEAP). Mentee. Kristen Skinner. UCSB, October 1-May 31,2009
- Mentor.** Ujima Peer Mentorship Program. Mentees: Nehanda Wells and Tamara Shahar Thomas. UCSB, October 1-May 31,2009
- 2008 **Coordinating Committee.** Black Studies Conference: 1968 A Year of Student Driven Change. Black Studies Department. UCSB November 20-22, 2008
- Editor.** UCSB bLACKbOOK, African diaspora Cultural Resource Center. UCSB, June 15-September 31,2008
- Co Facilitator.** Film Screening with Prof. Mirelle Miller Young, “NO! The Rape Documentary by Aishah Shahidah Simmons . African diasporic Cultural Resource Center, and Multicultural Center UCSB, October 2008
- Black Student Union,** Community Service, Black Studies and Center for Black Studies Liaison and Senior Mentor. UCSB October 1, 2007- June 12, 2010.
- 2007 **Black Student Union.** Freshman Liason. Serve Freshman needs within the Black community. Help with providing information to Freshman. UCSB, Oct-June, 2007
- UCSB Rowing Team.**

## HONORS AND GRANTS

- 2020 **University of California President’s and Chancellors’s Postdoctoral Fellowship for 2020-2021 (Finalist),** UC Santa Barbara
- Yale Institute for Sacred Music Interdisciplinary Fellowship (Decline),** Yale University
- 2019 **Graduate Student Prize for Best Dissertation in Africana Studies (\$500),** UPenn
- Africana Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$33,000),** UPenn
- 2018 **Ford Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship (Honorable Mention)**
- Fontaine Travel Grant (\$500)-** Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. UPenn. July-22-Aug 1, 2018
- Africana Graduate Travel Subvention Fund (\$500).** Havana, Cuba. UPenn. 2018
- 2017 **School of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Travel Grant (\$500)-** Seville, Spain UPenn. 2017
- Africana Graduate Travel Subvention Fund (\$500).** Seville, Spain. UPenn. 2017
- 2016 **Phyllis Rackin Award (\$4,000)** Fellowship will provides up to \$4,000 in research or travel funding to graduate student in the School of Arts and Sciences whose research creates or promotes new scholarship on women, gender, and/or sexuality in the humanities. UPenn. 2016



- Africana Graduate Travel Subvention Fund (\$500).** Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. UPenn. 2016
- School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Travel Grant (\$500).** San Antonio, Texas. UPenn. 2016
- 2015 **Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow – (\$24,000 for three years)**
- Africana Graduate Travel Subvention Fund (\$500).** Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. UPenn. 2015
- School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Travel Grant (\$400).** New Orleans, Louisiana. UPenn. 2015
- 2014 **Robert A. Fox Graduate Fellow.** UPenn. 2014
- Fontaine Travel Grant (\$300)-** Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. UPenn. October 1, 2014
- School of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant (\$500)-** Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. UPenn. 2014
- 2013 **Five Year Benjamin Franklin/Fontaine Fellowship (\$30,000 for five years)** UPenn. (2013-2018)
- Africana Graduate Travel Subvention Fund (\$500).** Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. UPenn. 2013
- 2012 **DeFreitas Award.** Students invested in foreign missionary service. Harvard Divinity School, September, 2012
- 2011 **University Service Award.** In grateful recognition of distinguish service to the University, its students and the community. University of California, Santa Barbara, June, 2011
- Scholar Award.** Lavender (LGBTQI) Graduation. University of California, Santa Barbara, May, 2011.
- Outstanding Service in Black Studies Award.** Recognized by the Black Studies faculty for outstanding service in Black Studies. Black Studies Department University of California, Santa Barbara, May 2011.
- “Professor Clyde Wood’s Award” Asharg Molla/Nena Nubaku Humanitarian Award.** Community Service. Black Studies Department University of California, Santa Barbara,
- 2009-2011 **Ronald E McNair Scholars Post baccalaureate Achievement Program,** University of California, Santa Barbara,
- 2010 **“The Legacy” Rower .** Rowing Team. Honoring those UCSB Men and Women who have pursued excellence in rowing for four years. 2<sup>nd</sup> African American in history of UCSB to receive award. UCSB, Sept 2007- May 2010
- UCSB Rowing Team.** 2<sup>nd</sup> place Regional Goldwater, CA, May 2-4, 2010

**Office of Student Life 2009-2010 Leadership & Activities Award for Senior Excellence in Co-Curricular Activity.** In recognition of outstanding contributions to the quality of campus life and co-curricular activities through sustained participation and leadership.  
University of California, Santa Barbara, 2009-2010

2009 **Building Coalition/Cross Cultural Award.** Lavender Graduation. UCSB, June 7, 2009

**Research Grant,** Black Studies Department for Research in Montreal Canada, Department of Black Studies. University of California Santa Barbara, 2009

**Research Grant,** Center for Black Studies Research, for Research in Montreal Canada, Department of Black Studies University of California Santa Barbara, 2009

**Anita Mackey Award.** Center for Black Studies Research. Awarded each year by the Center for Black Studies Research to graduate and undergraduate students, the Anita Mackey Award recognizes service to the field of Black Studies. University of California Santa Barbara, 2009

2008 **UCSB Rowing Team.** 1<sup>st</sup> Team All American, All Team Region, 3<sup>rd</sup> place National Championship. American Collegiate Rowing Association (ACRA), Oklahoma, May 21-23, 2008

2007 **UCSB Rowing Team,** Hammer Award. Fastest Freshmen May 19, 2007

## LANGUAGE(S)

**Spanish:** Reading Proficient and Beginner Speaker

**Haitian:** Kreyol: Beginning II

**French:** Reading Proficient

## MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

**American Academy of Religion, Member**

**American Society of Church History, Member**

**American Studies Association, Member**

**American Academy of Anthropology, Member**

**Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, Member**

**Caribbean Studies Association, Member**

**Ford Foundation, Member**

**KOSANBA, Member**

**Haitian Studies Association, Member**