**LAURA T. MURPHY**

Loyola University New Orleans

Department of English

6363 St. Charles Ave, Box 50 504.865.2479

New Orleans LA 70118 lmurphy@loyno.edu

**EDUCATION**

**Harvard University** Doctor of Philosophy

African and African American Studies, June 2008

Committee: F. Abiola Irele, Henry Louis Gates Jr., Glenda Rosanna Carpio

**Harvard University** Master of Arts

English and American Literatures, June2008

**Syracuse University** Master of Arts

English and Textual Studies, May 1998

**Louisiana State University** Bachelor of Arts

English, with honors, May 1996

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

***Metaphor and the Slave Trade in West African Literature***

**Ohio University Press, June 2012**

**Winner of the African Literature Association First Book Prize for a Scholarly Monograph**

*Metaphor and the Slave Trade* investigates representations of the trans-Atlantic slave trade in the literature produced in Anglophone West Africa since 1950. My reading of canonical works of West African literature (including Tutuola’s *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts,* Okri’s *The Famished Road,* Achebe’s *Arrow of God*, Armah’s *Fragments*, and Aidoo’s *Our Sister Killjoy*) provides insight into the way African authors explore the legacy of the slave trade in West African memory. My central argument is that even when texts ostensibly depict another historical period or political concern, West African writers repeatedly, but metaphorically, return to images and tropes that reveal the pervasive presence of the slave trade in the imaginary of the region. Critics have not only overlooked these representations of the slave trade, but many, such as Achille Mbembe, have outright denied their existence in the literary culture of the region. My work seeks to identify the modes of memory particular to the African communities affected by the traumatic trade in human lives. In doing so, it expands the largely African American and Afro-British-centered discourse of black Atlantic studies.

***Survivors of Slavery: Modern-Day Slave Narratives***

**Columbia University Press, March 2014**

*Survivors of Slavery* is a collection of first-person accounts of modern day slavery from the voices of slaves and traffickers, stories that testify to the fact that slavery still exists in every part of the world. This collection puts into conversation a wide variety of forms of testimony, including written narratives and transcripts of interviews, but also visa application answers, deposition narratives, courtroom transcripts, speeches before congress, and award reception speeches. Throughout the book, “case studies” present a particular aspect of slavery in more detail, allowing the reader to develop a more complete picture of modern slavery, through the voices of not only those victims who are trafficked but also those of the traffickers themselves. Utilizing scholarly literary approaches in extensive introductions, each of the chapters highlights not only the content of the stories, but also the themes, metaphors, tropes, and silences that emerge in narrating slavery, complicating our understanding of the slave narrative tradition.

**Journal Articles and Book Chapters**

“Blackface Abolition and the New Slave Narrative”

*Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 2:1 (Spring 2015).

“The New Slave Narrative and the Illegibility of Modern Slavery.”

*Slavery and Abolition* 36:1 (Feb. 2015).

“The Reemergence of the Slave Narrative Tradition and the Search for a New Frederick Douglass”

*The Routledge Companion to Literature and Human Rights*. New York: Routledge, forthcoming 2015.

“Narrating ‘White Slavery!’ in *The Wire*: A Generic Genealogy”

*Genre* 47:2 (Summer 2014).

“Obstacles in the Way of Love: The Enslavement of Intimacy in Samuel Crowther and Ama Ata Aidoo.” *Research in African Literatures* 40:4 (Winter 2009). Special Issue on the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

“The Curse of Constant Remembrance: The Belated Trauma of the Slave Trade in Armah’s *Fragments*.” *Studies in the Novel* 40:1 & 2 (Spring/Summer 2008). Special Issue on Postcolonial Literature and Trauma.

“Into the Bush of Ghosts: Spectres of the Slave Trade in West African Fiction.” *Research in African Literatures* 38:4 (November 2007).

“A Death in the Family: Coping with Student Death at School.” *Teaching with Joy: Educational Practices for the 21st Century*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.

**Essays, Reviews, Reports, and Encyclopedia Entries**

“The Mexican 'Germ Invasion.'” *The Guardian*. July 2, 2014.

http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jul/02/border-patrol-diseases-anti-immigration-myth

“Survivors of Slavery Speak.” *Columbia University Press Blog*. April 2, 2014.

http://www.cupblog.org/?p=13021

“Louisiana Human Trafficking Report.” With Brian Ea. Written for the Modern Slavery Research Project at Loyola University New Orleans. March 2014.

Review of Matthew Christensen, *Rebellious Histories: The* Amistad *Slave Revolt and the Cultures of Late Twentieth-Century Black Transnationalism.* *College Literature*. 41:2 (Spring 2014).

“A Life Apart.” Review of Catherine Taylor’s *Apart*. *Los Angeles Review of Books.* August 1, 2013. Online. http://lareviewofbooks.org/review/a-life-apart-catherine-taylors-south-africa

“How Advocates Fighting Human Trafficking Can Overcome Divisions and Build Momentum.” *Scholar Strategy Network Briefs*. June 2013. Online. http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/sites/default/files/

ssn\_basic\_facts\_murphy\_on\_human\_trafficking.pdf

“Shots Not Heard Round the World in NOLA.” *The Root*. May 16, 2013. Online. http://theroot.com/ views/shots-not-heard-round-world-nola.

“Broadview Middle School.” *Slavery and the Modern World: A History of Political, Social, and Economic Oppression*. Ed. Junius P. Rodriguez. ABC-CLIO, 2011.

“The Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Women and Children (1949).” *Slavery and the Modern World: A History of Political, Social, and Economic Oppression*. Ed. Junius P. Rodriguez. ABC-CLIO, 2011.

“The Convention Against the Worst Forms of Child Labor (1999**).”** *Slavery and the Modern World: A History of Political, Social, and Economic Oppression*. Ed. Junius P. Rodriguez. ABC-CLIO, 2011.

“*District 9*: Just Another Hollywood Movie, Except for the Response.” Zeleza Post. October 2009. Online.

“African Literatures at the Millenium.” Review. *Journal of the African Literature Association (JALA)* 3:1 (Winter 2008/Spring 2009).

“Olaudah Equiano.” *Encyclopedia of Blacks in European History*. Greenwood Press, 2008.

Contributor, 17 entries. *African American National Biography*. Ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr, and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

“Generations in Creative Dialogue.” *African Literature Association Bulletin* 11:2 (Winter 2006).

“African Dispatches.” Africana.com. Online. May 2004.

“Monuments to Slavery: Renovating Memory at the Fort of the Metal Cross.” *Queen: A Journal of Rhetoric and Power*. http://www.ars-rhetorica.net. January 2002.

**SELECTED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Keynotes and Invited Academic Lectures**

“Modern Slavery and the New Slave Narrative”

Invited Lecture. University of Las Vegas Nevada. November 2014.

“Survivors of Slavery” book talk

Guest Lecture. Shut Out Trafficking Week. Tulane University. October 2014.

“Women in Slavery: From Harriet Jacobs to Rachel Lloyd”

Guest Lecture. Dr. Mary Niall Mitchell’s Women and Slavery course. UNO. April 2014.

“Human Trafficking in the US”

Invited Lecture. University of Mississippi School of Law. November 2013.

“The New Slave Narrative and Blackface Abolitionism”

Invited Lecture. Centre for Transnational and Diaspora Studies. University of Toronto. October 2013.

“Making Escape Possible for Victims of Human Trafficking”

Invited Panelist. Tulane Human Rights Law Society. New Orleans, LA. October 2013.

Panelist. Human Trafficking Forum. Xavier University. New Orleans, LA. September 2013.

“Corporate Social Responsibility and Human Trafficking”

Invited Lecture. Human Trafficking Awareness Week. Tulane University. New Orleans, LA. April 2013.

“Human Trafficking and Sexual Assualt.”

Panelist. Sexual Assault Awareness Forum. Xavier University. New Orleans, LA. April 2013.

“Human Trafficking and Student Activism”

Invited Lecture. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Tulane University. New Orleans, LA. April 2013.

“On Becoming a Scholar-Activist”

Keynote Lecture. African Literature Association. Charleston, SC. March 2013.

“Modern Slavery 101”

Invited Lecture. Tulane University. New Orleans, LA. December 2012.

“Student Activism and the New Abolitionist Movement”

Invited Lecture. Middlebury College. Middlebury, VT. December 2012.

“The Silence Slavery Keeps: How Survivors of Slavery Remember (and Forget)”

Invited Lecture. College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA. November 2012.

“Slavery in the 21st Century”

Keynote Lecture and Workshop. Chandler-Gilbert Community College. Phoenix, AZ. April 2012.

“Metaphor and the Slave Trade in West African Fiction.”

Invited Panelist. "New Directions in African and African Diaspora Literature and Film” Symposium. Hobart and William Smith Colleges, October 14, 2011.

“In Fear of Albinos With Sacks: Metaphors of the Slave Trade in African Literature.”

Invited Panelist. Unknown Slaveries Workshop. University of Warwick. May 2008.

“Remembering the Slave Trade in West African Fiction.”

Invited Lecture. Boston College. Chestnut Hill, MA. November 2007.

“Remembering the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in Calabar, Nigeria and Elmina, Ghana.”

Guest Lecture. Boston University. Invited by Linda Heywood. April 2007.

**Selected Conference Presentations**

“Will the New Frederick Douglass Please Stand Up?”

African Studies Association. Baltimore, MD. November 2013.

“The Illegibility of Modern Slavery and the Sentimental Reading Lesson”

American Comparative Literature Association Conference. Toronto, ON. April 2013.

“New Books in the Field: *Metaphor and the Slave Trade*”

African Studies Association. Philadelphia, PA. November 2012.

“Freedom and the Modern Day Slave Narrative”

Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking. Lincoln, NE. October 2012.

“Crusade Politics and the Appropriation of Human Rights Discourse”

African Literature Association. Dallas, TX. April 2012.

“Captive Commodities: The Fiction and Reality of Modern Day Slavery in West Africa”

African Studies Association. Washington, DC. November 2011.

“Narrating Slavery in the 21st Century”

African Literature Association. Athens, OH. April 2011.

“The ‘Freedom Narrative’ and the Rise of the 21st Century Slave Narrative.”

African Literature Association. Tucson, AZ. April 2010.

“The Unfortunate Birth of the Modern Day Slave Narrative and the Responsibility of the Archive.”

African Studies Association. New Orleans, LA. November 2009.

“Slaves in the Family: African Domestic Slavery, Labour, and Kinship Past and Present.”

Slavery, Migration, and Contemporary Bondage in Africa. WISE, Hull, England. September 2009.

“Childless Mothers and Impotent Husbands: The Failure of Intimacy in Representations of the Slave Trade.”

Tales of Slavery Conference. University of Toronto. May 2009.

“The Future of the Past: The Slave Trade and the West African Historical Novel.”

African Literature Association. Burlington, VT. April 2009.

“Can the Slave Trade Be Forgotten? West African Literature and the Suffering of Survival.”

African Studies Association. Chicago, IL. November 2008.

“On Amnesia in West African Literature.”

American Comparative Literature Association. Puebla, Mexico. April 2007.

“Who is the Author of this Book: Representation or Exploitation of Sudanese Lost Boys in *What is the What*.”

African Literature Association. Morgantown, WV. March 2007.

“Geographies of Memory: Mapping Slavery’s Recurrence in Okri’s *The Famished Road*.”

African Literature Association. Accra, Ghana. May 2006.

“’I Am But A Griot’: The Filmic Language of Storytelling in *Guimba the Tyrant*.”

Northeast Modern Language Association Conference. Pittsburgh, PA. February 2004.

“Human Resources: Reconstructing the Life of the African Slave Trader in the Diary of Antera Duke.”

American Comparative Literature Association. University of Michigan. March 2004.

“‘All Of It Is Now’: Morrison’s *Beloved* and the Middle Passage.”

National Council for Teachers of English Convention. Baltimore, MD. November 2001.

**Community Outreach Lectures**

“Human Trafficking and Sexual Trauma”

Tulane University School of Social Work. Continuing Education Unit Workshop. September 15, 2014.

“Make Escape Possible: A Training for Social Workers”

Tulane University School of Social Work. April 22, 2014.

“Identifying Youth Victims of Trafficking”

Americorps Teacher Program New Orleans. April 10, 2014.

“Louisiana’s Human Trafficking Problem”

Delgado Community College. April 9, 2014.

“Survivors of Slavery Speak Out”

New Orleans Public Library. March 22, 2014.

“Social Worker Identification of Human Trafficking”

Sexual Assault Awareness/Prevention Training. New Orleans Family Justice Center. March 21, 2014.

“Human Trafficking in New Orleans”

NET Charter High School. New Orleans, LA. November 15, 2013.

“Making Escape Possible in New Orleans”

Human Trafficking Study Commission. Baton Rouge, LA. November 13, 2013.

Louisiana District Attorneys Association. Baton Rouge, LA. November 18, 2013.

“Not My Life” Modern Slavery Panel Discussion.

World Affairs Council of New Orleans. November 3, 2013.

“Community Response to Modern Slavery”

Kiwanis Club. New Orleans, LA. February 27, 2013.

“Modern Slavery and the New Student Abolionists”

Crescent Academy High School. New Orleans, LA. February 20, 2013.

“Modern Slavery 101 for Healthcare Professionals”

Tulane Medical School (Feb 25 2013), LSU Emergency Room Residents (Feb 6 2013), Tulane Nursing (Jan 28 2013).

“Modern Slavery 101”

Bethany United Methodist Church. New Orleans, LA. January 12, 2013.

**Loyola On-Campus Invited Lectures and Presentations**

“The Border Crisis”

Students for Civic Engagement. Loyola University New Orleans. September 2014.

“From PhD to MTV”

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority May Week. Loyola University New Orleans. April 2014.

“Scholars With and For Others: Community-Based Research”

The Center for Engaged Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship. Loyola University. April 2014.

“Modern Slavery and Student Abolitionists”

Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts. Natchitoches, LA. March 2014.

“Survivors of Slavery Book Talk”

Women’s Resource Center Brown Bag Lunch. Loyola University New Orleans. March 2014.

“Africana Studies: In the Academy and Beyond.”

African and African American Studies. Loyola University New Orleans. February 2014.

“Corporate Social Responsibility and Human Trafficking”

Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity. Loyola University New Orleans. April 2013.

“Modern Slavery and the New Student Abolitionists”

Students Advocating for Gender Equality Meeting. Loyola University New Orleans. March 2013.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Loyola University New Orleans. February 2013.

“First in the Pack: Being a First Generation College Student”

First in the Pack program. January 2013.

“Modern Slavery 101”

Guest Lecture for International Human Rights course. Prof. Ken Keuhlman. Feb 2012, Feb 2013.

Guest Lecture for Crisis Intervention course. Prof. Rae Taylor November 2012.

Guest Lecture for Comparative Criminal Justice course. Prof. Enzo Sainato. April 2012.

“First Do No Harm: Good Intentions and Bad Results in Activism”

Roundtable Panel. Annual Peace Conference. Loyola University New Orleans. April 2012.

**Media Appearances**

“Human Trafficking Survivor Works to Rescue Children from Same Fate.” Fox 8 News. October 6, 2014.

http://www.fox8live.com/story/26709499/human-trafficking-survivor-works-to-rescue-children-from-same-fate

“Human Trafficking” *The Jim Engster Show*. WRKF/NPR-affiliate. April 22, 2014.

http://wrkf.org/post/tuesday-human-trafficking

Profiles of *Survivors of Slavery: Modern Day Slave Narratives* on Free the Slaves, mtvU, Columbia University Press, and Community Digital News. March/April 2014.

http://ftsblog.net/tag/laura-murphy/

http://www.againstourwill.org/activity-feed?page=5

http://www.cupblog.org/?p=13101

http://www.cupblog.org/?p=13043

http://www.commdiginews.com/life/survivors-of-slavery-new-book-offers-global-narratives-on-modern-day-slavery-13034/

“Louisiana’s Human Trafficking Reports Increased in 2013, Study Says.” *Times Picayune*. March 25, 2014.

http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2014/03/new\_orleans\_human\_trafficking.html

Guest Panelist on *Melissa Harris-Perry Show* MSNBC. Segment on *12 Years A Slave*. Oct 20, 2013.

http://www.msnbc.com/melissa-harris-perry/watch/everyone-is-born-free-55069763551

Beck, Jessica. “The Pioneers Behind Eliminating Sex Trafficking Nationally and in NOLA.” NolaWoman.com. September 2013. http://nolawoman.com/articles/spotlight/women-in-the-news/269/

“Loyola Professor Studies Modern Day Slavery.” *Notes from New Orleans*. WWNO/NPR. Aug 8, 2013. http://www.wwno.org/post/loyola-professor-studies-modern-day-slavery-new-orleans

“Loyola Professor Discusses Human Trafficking Problem.” Fox 8 News at Noon. Aug 7, 2013.

http://www.fox8live.com/video?clipId=9174585&autostart=true

“FBI Saves Children From Alleged Pimps in Sex Trafficking Sting.” WWL TV. July 30, 2013.

http://www.wwltv.com/news/crime/FBI-Sex-Trafficking-Sting-Saves-Kids--Nabs-Alleged-Pimps-in-New-Orleans-217497001.html

Special Guest on “Health Issues” television show. New Orleans Public Access. Apr 2013.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJS9EIBlJSo&noredirect=1.

Special Guest on “Stop Child Abuse Now” radio show on BlogTalkRadio. Episode 538. Mar 28, 2013.

http://www.blogtalkradio.com/bill-murray/2013/03/28/stop-child-abuse-now-scan.

Sudol, Karen. “Sex Trade Fight Focuses on East Rutherford Ahead of 2014 Super Bowl” NorthJersey.com. February 10, 2013. http://www.northjersey.com/eastrutherford/Sex\_trafficking\_fight\_focuses\_on\_East\_Rutherford\_ahead\_of\_2014\_Super\_Bowl.html?page=all

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Loyola University New Orleans, Assistant Professor**

**Department of English, Fall 2010 - present**

Images of Africa (honors literature/film seminar)

WAL: Global Identities

Writing About Texts

WAL: Postcolonial and Ethnic American Literatures

Literature and (In)Justice

Postcolonial Literatures: From Orientalism to Cosmopolitanism (honors seminar)

African Literature and the Burdens of Memory

Magical Realities, Global Fictions (honors seminar)

Slavery and Abolition in the 21st Century (freshman seminar)

Images of Africa (freshman seminar)

Writing About Literature: Literary Globetrotters

**Ithaca College, Assistant Professor**

**Department of English, Fall 2008 – Spring 2010**

Seminar in World Literature: African Literature and the Burdens of Memory

Introduction to Literature: Traveling Fictions

Black Women Writers

African American Literature Survey

Studies in African American Literature: Slave Narratives, Past and Present

Approaches to Literary Study

**Boston College, Lecturer**

**Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, Fall 2007-Spring 2008**

Images of Africa

Africans in America, Americans in Africa

African Literature and Memory

**Department of English, Spring 2007**

African American Literature

**Harvard University, Teaching Fellow**

**Core Program/Foreign Cultures, Spring 2006, 2007**

The African Experience (with Professor Abiola Irele)

**Department of English, Spring 2006**

Cold War Literature and Culture (with Professor Louis Menand

**Department of African and African American Studies, Fall 2003-2006**

Autobiography and the Literary Imagination (with Professor Jamaica Kincaid

Independent Studies/Tutorials

Representations of Women of African Descent in Television and Film, Fall 2005

African American Autobiography, Fall 2005

Contemporary African and African American Fiction, Spring 2003

**Syracuse University Writing Instructor/Teaching Assistant**

**The Writing Program, Fall 1996-Spring 1998**

Advanced Composition: Writing and Service Learning

Introduction to Composition

**GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS**

First Book Prize, African Literature Association, for *Metaphor and the Slave Trade*, 2014

Humanities and Natural Sciences Service Award, Loyola University, Spring 2014

Bobet Faculty Research Grant, Loyola University, Summer 2014 ($1700)

Faculty Research Grant, Loyola University, Spring 2014 ($3,500)

U.S. Department of Justice Research Grant on Trafficking and Organized Crime (not awarded, $500,000)

Loyola University Collaborative Scholarship Grant, Loyola University, Fall 2013 ($2,200)

Community Engaged Scholarship Grant, Loyola University, Summer/Fall 2013 ($3,000)

Marquette Faculty Fellowship, Loyola University, Summer 2013 ($10,000)

Bobet Fellowship, Loyola University, Summer 2012

Faculty Research Grant, Loyola University, Spring 2012

Faculty Research Grant, Loyola University, Spring 2011

Center for Faculty Research and Development Award, Ithaca College, Spring 2010

Travel Grant to NEH grantwriting workshop for Modern Slavery Digital Archive Project, Fall 2009

Educational Grant Initiative, Ithaca College, Fall 2009

Center for Faculty Research and Development Award, Ithaca College, Fall 2009

Summer Grant for Faculty Research, Ithaca College, Summer 2009

Educational Grant Initiative, Ithaca College, Fall 2008

DuBois-Mandela-Rodney Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2008-2009 (declined)

Aluka Innovative Teaching Award for African Digital Archive Project, Boston College, Fall 2007

Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University, 2007-2008

Derek Bok Award For Teaching Excellence,Harvard University, 2006

Jennifer Oppenheimer African Studies Research Grant,Harvard University/Nigeria 2006

Northeast Modern Language Association Travel Grant,2006

Harvard Fellowship, 2002-2007

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar Fellow, 2002

Gilder-Lehrman Institute for American History Fellow, 2001

# National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Leadership Award, 2001

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute Fellow, 2000

**PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS**

Series Editor, Modern African Writers Series, Ohio University Press, Spring 2013-present

Director, Modern Slavery Research Project, Loyola University, Fall 2013-present

Co-Director, Scholar Strategy Network, New Orleans Chapter, Summer 2013-present

**ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

External Dissertation Reviewer, University of Leeds, Department of English, African literature, Fall 2014

Provost’s Faculty Leadership Committee, Fall 2013-present

Quality Enhancement Program Committee, Fall 2013-present

Jesuit Commons-Higher Education at the Margins Committee, Fall 2013-present

English Department Retention and Recruitment Committee, Fall 2013-present

Director, African and African American Studies, Loyola University, Spring 2013-present

University Conciliation Committee, Loyola University, Spring 2013 – present

Provost’s Student Success Committee on Teaching Effectiveness, Loyola University, Spring 2013

Mentor, First in the Pack, Fall 2012-present

Personnel Committee, Loyola University, Spring 2012-present

Hiring Committee, Loyola University, Spring 2012

University Honors Advisory Board, Fall 2011-present

National Fellowships Advisor, Fall 2011 - present

Awards Committee, African Literature Association, Fall 2011-present

Reviewer, Palgrave Macmillan, Summer 2011

African and African American Studies Program Committee, Loyola University, Fall 2010-present

Faculty Advisor, Free the Slaves Chapter, Loyola University, Fall 2010-present

Executive Council Elected Member,African Literature Association,Fall 2009-Spring 2012

Chair, Travel Awards Committee, African Literature Association, Spring 2011-present

Faculty Advisor, Free the Slaves Chapter, Ithaca College, Fall 2008-Spring 2010

Curriculum Committee, English Department, Ithaca College, Fall 2009-Spring 2010

Diversity Awareness Committee, Ithaca College, Fall 2009-Spring 2010

Speakers Series Committee, CSCRE, Ithaca College, Spring 2009-Spring 2010

Reviewer, Africa Today,Spring 2009

Chair, Graduate Student Caucus,African Literature Association, Spring 2007-Spring 2009

Lead Teaching Fellow,Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University, 2006-2007

Teaching Fellow, African Language Program,Harvard University, Fall 2006-Spring 2007

Conference Organizer, “Senghor: The Ancestor” Symposium, Harvard University, Fall 2006

Reviewer,African Studies Association, Children’s Africana Book Award, Spring 2006

Grant Writer, Title VI Grant Proposal for African Studies Center, Fall 2005

Research Assistant for Abiola Irele, Fall 2002-Spring 2008

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH/NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE**

Founder and Organizer, New Orleans Human Trafficking Working Group, Summer 2012-present

Founder and Director, Survivors of Slavery Speakers Network, Summer 2011-Fall 2014

National College Chapter Coordinator, Free the Slaves, Washington DC, Spring 2011-Fall 2013

Consultant, Challenging Heights, Accra, Ghana, Spring 2011-Spring 2013

Board of Directors, Metro Center for Women and Children, Jefferson LA, Fall 2011-Spring 2013

Organizer, New Orleans Afrikan Film Festival, New Orleans LA, Fall 2010-Summer 2012

Regional Point Person, Free the Slaves, Washington, DC, 2008-2010

Board Member and Intern Coordinator, Nivasa Foundation, Boston MA, 2006-2007

Intern, American Anti-Slavery Group, Boston MA, 2005-2006

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

African Literature Association

African Studies Association

American Comparative Literature Association

Modern Language Association