

ALEXANDRA CENATUS, M.A

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EDUCATION

- M.A. University of Florida, Latin American Studies May 2018
Thesis: *Putting the Spotlight on Haitian Vodou's Social Changes*
Advisor: Dr. Tanya Saunders
Grad. Certificate: Women's Studies
- B.A. University of Florida, Political Science Dec. 2015

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS/EMPLOYMENT

Maryland Humanities (MH), Baltimore, MD Aug. 2022– Present
Director of Programming

- Conceptualize new initiatives and enhance existing ones by creating a culture of learning that fuels staff creativity using brainstorming tools and evaluation instruments to meet annual goals and objectives.
- Work with the Executive Director to develop program strategies and priorities by drafting grant proposals and securing additional funding from donors like the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support the humanities throughout Maryland and expand the reach of MH's programming.
- Coordinate aspects of human resource management, including hiring new employees, managing eight staff members, structuring 1:1 meetings to allow direct reports to discuss professional goals and capacity, and conducting performance reviews.
- Develop relationships with the MH Board by revamping communication materials (MH's programming report and board engagement slide deck), ensuring the board of directors understands and supports MD's programming strategies vision.
- Oversee the development of budgets for programs and other initiatives by utilizing a racial equity (RE) framework to ensure \$1.3 million is utilized effectively while assessing MD's programming data to prioritize needs.
- Facilitated the [*Designing Culturally Inclusive Programming*](#) series to support Maryland Humanities' outreach efforts by educating non-profits and cultural heritage institutions on inclusive programming.

UF Humanities Center, Gainesville, FL Aug. 2019 – Aug. 2022
Assistant Director for Programming and Public Engagement

- Spearheaded *Conversations in the Neighborhood*, a multi-year-long series that connects the University of Florida to audiences across geographies and cultures through curated educational programming with internal and external partners.
- Increased enrollment in the humanities with the *Humanities Engagement Scholars* program by serving as an advisor for underrepresented student groups, organizing curated monthly events to expose students to scholarships, fellowships, and career opportunities and assigning mentors to students based on career interests.
- Coordinated the *Programs in Public Humanities Grants*, which funds innovative projects to make a social impact in the City of Gainesville by cultivating relationships with grant seekers and assisting them in developing their grant proposals.
- Communicated impacts with the Humanities Center Director and Advisory Board to influence policy change through written and oral presentations.

UF George A. Smathers Libraries, Gainesville, FL

Feb. 2019 – Aug. 2020

Assistant Curator of the *Haitian American Dream Timeline*, a project funded by the *UF Mellon Intersections Group on Global Blackness and Latinx Identity*.

- Analyzed multilingual content in French, English, and Haitian Creole to create a historical timeline of Haitian immigrants' stories, which informs a broader audience about the connection between the US migration system and structural racism.

PUBLICATIONS

Web-Based Publications

- Cenatus, A., Megan, D., and Tiffany. E., (2021). The Humanities in and for the Digital Age. *Source*. 3(2), 6-9.
- Cenatus, A., Morenno, I., and Vargas-Betancourt. M., (2021). *The Haitian American Dream Timeline* [Digital Humanities Exhibit]. UF George A. Smathers Libraries with support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Link: <https://exhibits.uflib.ufl.edu/HaitianAmericanDream/>

Other Publications

- Cenatus, A. (2023). *Weave Well to Lead Well: Attracting, Retaining, and Leveraging Refugee and Immigrant Talent for Your Business*. [Toolkit]. Link: <https://www.weavetales.org/business-toolkit-download-pdf>

AWARDS

Institutional

- Recipient of the 2022 David and Wanda Brown Center for Leadership and Service Faculty Advocate of the Year Award, David and Wanda Brown Center for Leadership and Service, 2022-2023.
- Nominated for the 2022 University of Florida Association of Academic Women Award, University of Florida Association for Academic Women, (AAW).
- Nominated for the 2022 DEI Leadership Award, The UF Alumni Association.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

National

- Principal Investigator, 2021 J. M.K. Innovation Prize \$175,000, Funded by the J.M. Kaplan Fund Council, 2021-2022. Not Awarded.
- Sub-contractor, Haitian Vodou Research Grant, \$6000, Funded by the UF-Duke National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) from the University of Florida, 2015 – 2017.

Regional

- Principal Investigator, Community Project Grants, \$5,000, Funded by the Florida Humanities, 2020-2021.

Institutional

- Graduate Travel Grant, \$400, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida, 2018.
- Graduate Travel Grant, \$500, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida, 2017.
- Principal Investigator, Research Grant, \$2,000, Funded by the Boonstra Family Research Fellowship, University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies, 2017.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- Cenatus, A. and Gonzales. L. (2022, March). *Approaches to Community Engagement and Inclusion at and Beyond Academic Institutions* [Keynote speaker]. Illinois State University, Online, Zoom.
- Cenatus, A. (2021, October). *Afro-Latinx Heritage Month: Defining the Afro-Latino Experience and Bringing Communities of Color Together* [Panelist]. Cooperative Economic Empowerment Movement (CEEM), Online, Zoom.
- Cenatus, A. (2021, June). *Haitian Vodou and Haiti's Social Changes* [Speaker]. Pou Yon Lòt Lavi, Online, Radio.
- Cenatus, A. (2021, June). *A Peninsula in Movement: How to study Florida's History of Immigration* [Panelist]. Weave Tales, Online, Zoom.
- Cenatus, A. (2021, April). *Conversations in the Neighborhood: Let's Talk about Food* [Panelist]. Consortium for Humanities Centers and Institutes Gatherings for the Humanities Center Leadership and Staff, Online, Zoom.
- Cenatus, A. (2019, July). *Rethinking Gender Violence in Haiti* [Keynote speaker]. UF/USAID Funded Project Conference, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Conference Participations

- Alkezweeny, J., Cenatus, A., China, C., and Caroline, L. (2023, Oct.). *Beyond Open Doors: Intentional Design for Accessible & Inclusive Public Humanities Programs* [Panelist]. National Humanities Alliance Conference, Indianapolis, USA.
- Cenatus, A., A., Sophia., Anderson, C., Beard, M., and Caudle, K. (2021, September). *Beyond Data and Stories: How Can Evaluation Be a Better Tool?* [Panelist]. National Humanities Conference, Online, Zoom. Cancelled.
- Cenatus, A., A., Sophia., Anderson, C., Beard, M., and Caudle, K. (2020, November). *New Audiences for the Humanities* [Panelist]. National Humanities Conference, Online, Zoom.
- Cenatus, A. (2020, Oct.). *Haitian Crisis: Haitian Vodou and Social Change* [Conference session]. Haitian Studies Association, Online, Zoom.
- Cenatus, A. (2019, Nov.). *A Transnationalism Approach: Understanding Haitian Immigrant Women through the Lens of Haitian Feminism* [Conference session]. Haitian Studies Association, Gainesville, Florida.
- Cenatus, A. (2019, Oct.). *A Transnationalism Approach: Understanding Haitian Immigrant Women through the Lens of Haitian Feminism* [Conference session]. Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, Williamsburg, Virginia.
- Cenatus, A. (2018, June). *Thinking Colorism through Two Deities: Freda and Dantò* [Conference session]. Caribbean Studies Association, Havana, Cuba.
- Cenatus, A. (2018, March). *Putting a Spotlight on Haitian Vodou's Social Changes* [Conference session]. Southwest Council of Latin American Studies, San Antonio, Texas.
- Cenatus, A. (2017, Nov.). *A Tale from the Field: Negotiating my Citizenship and Diasporic Identity as a Haitian Researcher* [Conference session]. Haitian Studies Association, New Orleans, Louisiana.

- Cenatus, A. (2017, Jan.). *Gender Norms and Practices in Haitian Vodou* [Conference session]. University of Florida's Religion Graduate Students Association Conference, Gainesville, Florida.
- Cenatus, A. (2016, April). *Participation Politique des Femmes dans le Vodou* [Conference session]. Conférence Internationale Interdisciplinaire de Recherche sur le Genre, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
- Cenatus, A. (2016, June). *Vodou and Haiti's Gender Construction* [Conference session]. Caribbean Studies Conference, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Campus or Departmental Talks

- Cenatus, A. (2022, January). *Conversations in the Neighborhood: Let's Talk about Music*. University of Florida Association of Black Faculty and Staff (ABFS) [Speaker]. Online, Zoom.
- Cenatus, A. (2020, June). *Cultural Competence Panel: Bridging Language and Cultural Barriers* [Panelist]. UF American Physician Scientist Association (APSA) and UF Health Education Literacy Objective (HELO) event, Online, Zoom.
- Cenatus, A. (2019, Sept.). *We Rise: For them. For her. For you* [Keynote speaker]. Women Student Association Assembly, Gainesville, Florida.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Marjorie K. Rawlings Elementary School, Gainesville, FL Jan. 2019 – May 2019
Fourth Grade Teacher

- Taught a diverse classroom of students by conceptualizing interactive lesson plans, providing individualized and small group instruction, and adapting curriculum.

UF Center for Latin American Studies, Gainesville, FL Jan. 2016 – Dec 2018
Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Research assistant to Professor Benjamin Hebblethwaite.
- HAI 1131: Beginning Haitian Creole 2
- HAI 2200: Intermediate Haitian Creole 2
- Mentored undergraduate and graduate students by providing one-on-one coaching and connecting them to resources to support their professional careers.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. Summers of 2015, 2016, and 2017

Ethnographic Fieldwork, Digital Library of the Caribbean (DLOC)

Project: *Exploring the Role of Haitian Vodou Priestesses in Haitian Vodou*.

- Prepared a budget, developed a tracking system to manage expenses, and submitted financial reports to the University of Florida Division of Finance and Accounting.
- Methods: qualitative (participant-observation, focus groups, structured and unstructured interviews) and quantitative (mapping and visualization) methodologies in Cap Haïtien, Cayes, Jacmel, Port-au-Prince, and Saut D'eau, Haiti.
- Published some structured interviews on the *Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC).com* website.

Liberty in a Soup Documentary May 2014 – June 2016
Assistant Producer

- Project description: The film narrates and documents the filmmaker's journey to Haiti to share a complete understanding of this tradition in the context of the Haitian revolution and its role in the development of modern humanity. The story is also developed through the

multicultural voices of some of the leading thinkers and individuals involved in studying Haiti and Haitian history in general.

- Link: <http://www.libertyinasoup.com/trailer/>

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY

Service to Profession

- Reviewer, 2023 Haitian Studies Association Book Prize.
- Reviewer, *Real-life and fictional chronologies: on building a timeline of René Depestre's Hadriana dans tous mes rêves, Archipelagos*. Valence 2.

Departmental/University Service

- Member, Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere Search Committee, Gainesville, Florida, 2020 – 2022.
- Chair, 2022 Humanities Without Walls Selection Committee, Gainesville, Florida, November.
- Member, 2021 Humanities without Walls Selection Committee, Gainesville, Florida, November 2020.
- Co-convenor, University of Florida Digital Humanities Working Group, Gainesville, Florida, 2020 – 2022.
- Member, Experiential Learning Committee, Gainesville, Florida, August 2020 – 2022.
- Chair, Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere Merit Pay Committee, Gainesville, Florida, May 2020.
- Member, Whiting Public Engagement Committee, Gainesville, Florida, April 2020.
- Member, University of Florida Hispanic Affairs' Latina Empowerment Symposium Organizing Committee, Gainesville, Florida, February 2020 – 2022.
- Member, Intersections Leadership Team, Gainesville, Florida, January – July 2020.
- Member, the University of Florida Center for African Studies Achebe/Baldwin Organizing Committee, Gainesville, Florida, October 2019.
- Member, University of Florida Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee, Gainesville, Florida, October 2019 – Present.
- Session Chair, Haitian Studies Association Conference. Gainesville, Florida, October 2019.
- Member, University of Florida Imaging America Working Group, Gainesville, Florida, September 2019 – 2022.
- Session Chair, Haitian Studies Association Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 2017.
- Co-organizer, Gina Ulysse's Guest Lecture *Beyond Loving Haiti...Our Praxis Matter Now than Ever*. Gainesville, Florida, January 2017.

Extracurricular University Service

- Faculty advisor, Club Creole, Haitian Student Association at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, August 2019 – 2022.

Community Engagement/Outreach

- Member, Maryland 250 Commission, Maryland, 2023-Present
- Board member, [WeaveTales](#), Jacksonville, Florida, 2023- Present.
- Board member, [Washington State Coalition for Language Access \(WASCLA\)](#), Seattle, Washington, 2023- Present.
- Co-Coordinator, *Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) Land Acknowledgements Working Group* – Second Cohort, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Member, Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor Inclusion’s (GINI) Steering Committee, Gainesville, Florida, 2021– 2022.
- Haitian Creole Interpreter, 2021 *Talking COVID: A Survival Guide for People of Color* [A two-day collaborative workshop]. UF Mellon Intersections Group on Global Blackness and Latinx Identity. Online, Zoom.

NON-ACADEMIC WORK

Haitian Creole Language Access Consultant, Baltimore, MD Dec. 2015 – Present
Independent Contractor

- Provide technical support to organizations in fulfilling their language access plan to enhance their community outreach strategies.
- Translate multilingual content to ensure effective communication and deeper engagement with target audiences for clients' campaigns, websites, and applications.

LANGUAGES

- Haitian Creole: Native Language.
- English: Advanced Reading, Speaking, and Writing.
- French: Advanced Reading, Speaking, and Writing.
- Spanish: Conversational.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD).
- Caribbean Studies Association (CSA).
- Haitian Studies Association (HSA).
- National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA).