

# N. FADEKE CASTOR

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## EDUCATION

**University of Chicago**, Department of Anthropology 2009

Doctor of Philosophy, Sociocultural Anthropology

Dissertation: *Invoking the Spirit of Canboulay: Pathways of African Middle Class Cultural Citizenship in Trinidad*

**University of Chicago**, Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences 2000

Master of Arts, Social Sciences

MA thesis: *Orisha Online: Community and Identity in the Black Atlantic*

**Pomona College** 1994

Bachelor of Arts, Political Philosophy

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**Assistant Professor**, Anthropology and Africana Studies, Texas A&M University 2009-present

Religious Studies, Affiliate 2009-present

Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Africana Studies, Texas A&M U. 2007–2009

Mellon Writing in the Disciplines Fellow, African & African-American Studies, Duke U. 2006–2007

Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Affiliate 2006-2007

Gaius Charles Bolin Fellow, Anthropology, Williams College 2005–2006

Lecturer, Graham School, University of Chicago Summer 2002

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

political anthropology, social justice, religion, race & ethnicity, decolonization, performance, transnational feminism, post-colonialism, the black radical tradition, cultural & spiritual citizenship, African & African diaspora religions, Caribbean (Trinidad), West Africa (Nigeria)

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Book**

2017 *Spiritual Citizenship: Transnational Pathways from Black Power to Ifá in Trinidad*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

### **Peer-reviewed Article**

2013 Shifting multicultural citizenship: Trinidad Orisha opens the road. *Cultural Anthropology* 28(3) August: 475-489.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

“Social Justice and Afro-Atlantic Religion”

Article in preparation for submission to *Journal of Africana Religions*.

“Our Collective Ancestors: Spiritual Ethnicity in Ifá Devotion across the Americas” - book chapter in preparation for edited volume, *Embodiment and Relationality in Religions of Africa and its Diasporas*, Yolanda Covington-Ward and Jeanette S. Jouili, editors.

**WORK IN PROGRESS (continued)**

"Carnival's "Creole Bacchanal": Middle Class Jumpin' Up" - article in preparation for submission to *Transforming Anthropology*.

*Black Spirits Matter* - book manuscript on social justice and African diasporic religions.

*Betwixt and Between: Practitioner Scholars in and out of the academy* - edited book volume for Duke University Press on African diasporic practitioner scholars.

**FIELDWORK****Nigeria** (Ilé-Ifè, Oşogbo, Lagos)

impact of diaspora practitioners on traditional Ifá and Orisha shrines Summer 2014, 2013

**Trinidad** (Port of Spain, Santa Cruz)

emergence of Ifá in Trinidad Orisha and spiritual citizenship Summer 2012, 2011, 2010

Trinidad Orisha festivals and spiritual citizenship June 2007, June 2006

Afro-Trinidad cultural citizenship in September 2002 - August 2005

Carnival, Orisha and Emancipation February 2001, August 2000, August 1999

**Venezuela** (Caracas, Maracay)

Orisha in Venezuela September 1999

**FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS - External**

Black Performance Theory Working Group - Fellow, Washington University, St. Louis Spring 2017

Black Performance Theory Working Group - Fellow, New York University Spring 2015

Black Performance Theory Working Group - Fellow, University of Texas, Austin Spring 2013

Ford Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program, Alternate 2011, 2012

Black Performance Theory Working Group - Fellow, U. of California, Santa Barbara Spring 2011

Makeda Thomas/Roots & Wings Movement! Dance & Performance Institute, Session III

Artist in Residence, Port of Spain, Trinidad. Summer 2010

Black Performance Theory Working Group - Fellow, Northwestern University Spring 2007

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship,

African & African-American Studies & Writing in the Disciplines, Duke U. 2006 - 2007

Black Performance Theory Working Group - Fellow, Williams College Spring 2006

Gaius Charles Bolin Fellowship, Williams College 2005 - 2006

Interrogating the African Diaspora Graduate Seminar Fellow,

Florida International University Summer 2004

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (\$21, 554) 2002 - 2003

Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (\$10, 552) 2002 - 2003

Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellowship Program for Minorities, 2000, 2002

Honorable Mention

Foreign Language & Area Studies Grant, U. of Wisconsin-Madison (\$1,800) Summer 2000

Foreign Language Enhancement Program Scholarship, CIC (\$2,000) Summer 2000

**FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS - Internal**

College of Liberal Arts NCFDD Faculty Success Program Support Award (\$2,000) Fall 2016

Office of the Dean of Faculties Support Grant for Faculty Success Program (\$950) Fall 2016

**FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS – Internal (continued)**

Office for Diversity Support Grant for Faculty Success Program (\$500)	Fall 2016
Glasscock Publication Support Grant (\$1,500)	Spring 2016
College of Liberal Arts International Travel Grant (\$1, 500)	Summer 2013 – 2016
Transnational Blackness, Africana Studies, Texas A&M University (\$1,000)	Summer 2013
Research Fellow, Glasscock Center for the Humanities (\$5,000)	2014 – 2015
NSF ADVANCE Scholar, Texas A&M University (\$1,500)	2011 – 13
Faculty Stipendiary Fellow, Glasscock Center for the Humanities, Texas A&M University (\$1,500)	2010-11, 2011-12
Program to Enhance Scholarly and Creative Activities Grant, (\$10,000) Office of the Vice President for Research, Texas A&M University	Spring 2010
Mellon Grant, University Writing Program, Duke University (\$750)	Spring 2007
Franklin Humanities Institute Mellon Dissertation Working Group, Duke U.	2006 – 2007
Tuition Fellowship, Division of Social Sciences, U. of Chicago	2005 – 2006
Lichtstern Student Travel Grant, Anthropology, U. of Chicago (\$500)	Spring 2004-6, Fall 2005
Harrison-Doolittle Fellowship, Office of Graduate Affairs, U. of Chicago	Summer 2004, Fall 2005
Trustees Fellowship, Division of Social Sciences, U. of Chicago	1999 – 2004
African Language Grant, African Studies Committee, U. of Chicago (\$600)	Summer 1999, 2000
Center for Study of Race, Politics & Culture, U. of Chicago (\$2,000)	Summer 1999, 2000
Tinker Grant, Center for Latin American Studies, U. of Chicago (\$1,000)	Summer 1999
Full Tuition Waiver, Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences, U. of Chicago	1998 – 1999

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2017 Black Spirits Matter: African diasporic religions and social justice activism. Paper to be presented at the 116th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C., December.
- 2016 “Be a calabash! Be a vessel of service!” Social Justice and Spiritual Citizenship in Afro-Atlantic Religions. Paper presented at African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association Conference. Harvard University, Boston. April.
- 2014 I am because they are: devotion and intimacy in Trinidad Orisha. Paper presented at African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association Conference. Harvard University, Boston. April.
- 2014 From Feasts to Festivals: Diasporic Divisions in Trinidad Orisha. Paper presented at Africa Conference: African Diasporas: Old and New. University of Texas, Austin, April.
- 2013 “Ifá in the ground:” A weapon against the colonial legacy in Trinidad. Paper presented at 10th Orisaworld Congress. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ilè-Ifé, Nigeria. July.
- 2013 Multi-cultural citizenship in the Postcolony. Paper presented at 10th International Conference of the Collegium for African American Research, Atlanta, March.
- 2013 Orisha in Trinidad: Shifting multi-cultural citizenship. Paper presented at Refashioning Blackness: Contesting Racism in the Afro-Americas, University of Texas, Austin, February.
- 2012 Shifting Multi-Cultural Citizenship: Trinidad Orisha Opens the Road. Chair and co-organizer (with Andrew Apter, UCLA), Panel: Black Cultural Citizenship in Afro-Atlantic Dialogue. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the 111th American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (continued)**

- 2012 An Ancestral Journey to Trinidad Ifá: Ethnographic Positionalities. Paper presented at The Diaspora in All its Splendor and Legacy Meets the Ifá Tradition of Yorubaland, Alasuwada International Ifá Orisa Conference, Santa Cruz, Trinidad, July.
- 2011 Sacred Imaginaries: Cultural Citizenship and Decolonization. Invited Panel: From Southeast Asia to the Caribbean: New Geographies of American Studies. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Baltimore, October.
- 2011 Decolonization, Cultural Citizenship, and Black Liberation in the Caribbean. Paper presented at the African Diaspora Studies Symposium, North Carolina Central Univ., Durham, March.
- 2009 Trinidad Ifá: Performing African Identity in Trinidad Orisha. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the 108th American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December.
- 2008 Spirits Travel: Celebrating Blackness Online and Across the Diaspora. Paper presented at the African and Afro-Caribbean Performance Conference, Univ. of California, Berkeley, September.
- 2008 Diasporic Consumptions of Blackness: a roundtable discussion. Paper presented at the At the Spiritual Crossroads, Association of Cultural Studies, Kingston, Jamaica, July.
- 2007 Festive Spirits: Orisha Networks Moving through Latin America and the Caribbean. Invited Session, Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the 106th American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., November.
- 2007 Play Yuhself: Emancipation Commemorations in Post-Colonial Trinidad. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of the World African Diaspora, Fourth Biennial Conference, Barbados, October.
- 2006 Orisha Arrive: African Religions and National Culture. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the 105th American Anthropological Association, San Jose, November.
- 2006 Fete Encounters: Social Distinctions and Jumpin' Up. Co-chair, Panel: Modern Caribbean subjectivities: Deconstructing local nationalisms. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the 31st Annual Caribbean Studies Association, Port of Spain, Trinidad, June.

**INVITED TALKS**

- 2017 Our Collective Ancestors: Spiritual Ethnicity in Ifá Devotion across the Americas. Paper presented at Diverse Spiritualities: Embodiment and Relationality in Religions of Africa and its Diasporas Symposium, University of Pittsburgh, April.
- 2017 Carnival Arts and the Trini Diaspora. Panel participant at the National Museum of Trinidad and Tobago, Port of Spain, Trinidad, February.
- 2016 Social Justice and Spiritual Citizenship in Afro-Atlantic Religions. Paper presented at Philosophical Society of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad, June.
- 2016 Culture and Healing. The Oòni of Ifè Òjájá II Symposium: Culture, Healing and Development. Roundtable discussion at Howard University, Washington D.C., June.
- 2015 Black Spirits Matter: Spiritual Citizenship as Spiritual Praxis in Trinidad Orisha/Ifá. Political Anthropology in the Caribbean Workshop. University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad, June.

**INVITED TALKS (continued)**

- 2015 Chair, Panel: Rhythmic Resonances and the Politics of Performance. African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association Conference. Harvard University, Boston, April.
- 2015 Black Cultural Citizenship & Festive Encounters. Paper presented at Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Sciences, Graduate Research Seminar, Texas A&M University, College Station, March.
- 2015 Cultural Citizenship in Trinidad's Carnival: 'Creole Bacchanal' and the Middle Class Jumpin' Up. Paper presented at Faculty Colloquium Series, Glasscock Center for the Humanities, Texas A&M University, College Station, March.
- 2013 Locating Ifá: Diasporic Groundings in Nigeria. Paper presented at Department of Anthropology Brown Bag Lecture Series, Texas A&M University, College Station, November.
- 2013 Meeting Ifá at the source in Ilé-Ifè, Nigeria, Notes from the Diaspora. Paper presented at Conversations on Transnational Blackness lecture series. Africana Studies Program, Texas A&M University, College Station, October.
- 2012 Reflections on Black Power and Sacred Imaginaries. Paper presented at the Faculty Colloquium, Glasscock Center for the Humanities, Texas A&M University, College Station, April.
- 2011 Festive Spirits: Centering Orisha in Trinidad and Venezuela. Paper presented at the African Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, January.
- 2010 Fete Nation. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the 109th American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November.
- 2009 The Ganges and the Nile: Rituals Across Difference in Trinidad. Paper presented at the Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences, University of Chicago, November.
- 2009 Festival Spirits: Orisha networks moving through Latin American and the Caribbean. Paper presented at the Africana Studies Symposium, Texas A&M University, College Station, March.
- 2007 Where is the Global in "Globalization and Race"? Collaborative Presentation with Livermon, Xavier. Black Performance Theory Symposium, Department of Performance Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston, April.

**PERFORMANCES**

- 2017 In the Wake of the Waters. Collaborative Performance developed and performed at Black Matters: Black Performance Theory Working Group, Washington University, St. Louis, April.
- 2015 Black Performance Theory. How Can We Work it Out?: Black Performance between Death and Life. Collaborative Performance with Dr. Nadine George-Graves (University of California, San Diego), Dr. Hershini Bhana Young (University at Buffalo, SUNY). Black Performance Theory Working Group, New York University, Tisch School, May.
- 2013 Oshun Laughs and Weeps. Collaborative Performance with Dr. Matt Richardson (University of Texas, Austin), Dr. Lyndon Gill (University of Texas, Austin). Black Performance Theory Working Group, University of Texas, Austin, April.

**PERFORMANCES (continued)**

- 2011 Da Bubblenut in Da Bashment, Da Breath, Da Basement: Spheric Positions of and/from the Bottom. Collaborative Performance with Dr. Jeffrey McCune (University of Maryland, College Park), Venus Opal Reese (University of Texas at Dallas). Black Performance Theory Working Group, Hemispheric South/s Research Initiative, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara, May.
- 2006 Carnaval Consternation. Collaborative Performance with Scott, Anna Beatrice. Black Performance Theory Working Group, Performance Studies Program, Williams College, April.

**TEACHING INTERESTS**

African diasporic religions, African Diaspora, black feminist theory, transnational feminism, Caribbean feminism, intersectional approaches to social identities, citizenship, transnationalism and globalization, postcolonialism, social theory, theories of the global South, ethnographic methods, cultural studies, festival and ritual, cultural anthropology, popular culture

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE*****Texas A&M University (2007-present)***

Undergraduate:

Caribbean Cultures: Festivals and Religion  
 Global Africana Popular Culture  
 Afro-Atlantic Religions  
 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology  
 Introduction to Africana Studies  
 Global Circuits, Local Cultures: Caribbean Modernities  
 Africana Studies Gateway: Issues in Africana Studies  
 Africana Studies Gateway: Cultural Politics in the African Diaspora

Graduate:

Cultural Method and Theory  
 Caribbean Modernities: Global Soundscapes, Local Cultures

Directed Studies:

Explorations in History & Ethnography of East Africa

***Duke University (2006-7)***

Cultural Politics in the Caribbean  
 Caribbean Modernities: Global Soundscapes, Local Cultures  
 Afro-Atlantic Religions: Santería, Candomblé, Trinidad Orisha and Vodou

***Williams College (2005-6)***

Cultural Politics in the Caribbean

***University of Chicago (Summer 2002)***

Afro-Caribbean Religions

**GRADUATE STUDENTS****Texas A&M University**

Walter Edward Hart, Department of Sociology Member, Ph.D. Committee	2015 – present
Mayra Valle, Department of Performance Studies Member, M.A. Committee	M.A. 2016
Myeshia Babers, Department of Anthropology Chair, M.A. Committee	M.A. 2014

**GRADUATE STUDENTS (continued)****University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus**

Oluwakemi Somorin, Dept. of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies, 2015  
 Outside Reader, M.A. Thesis: "Bringing Out Your Osun: Osun in the Discourse of Female Beauty  
 Among Orisa Devotees"

Rhoda Bharath, Dept. of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies, 2014  
 Examiner, Ph.D. Oral Exams: "Shaping Citizenships: An Exploration of Cultural Citizenship in  
 two Ethnic Minorities in Trinidad and Tobago."

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

**Spanish** - Beginning conversational skills and intermediate reading ability

**Yorùbá** - Beginning conversational skills and reading ability

**ACADEMIC SERVICE****National**

African & Diasporic Religious Studies Association - Advisory Board Member 2015 – present  
 Fulbright-Hays DDRA – Africa Panel – Reviewer 2017  
*Public Culture* – Manuscript Reviewer 2017  
*American Ethnologist* – Manuscript Reviewer 2016

**Texas A&M University**

Climate and Inclusion Committee – Member, Department of Anthropology 2014 – present  
 Curriculum Committee – Member, Africana Studies 2014 – present  
 Diversity Committee – Member, Department of Anthropology 2013  
 Job Search Survival Workshop – Panelist, Department of Anthropology November 2013  
 Assessment Committee – Member, Department of Anthropology 2011 – 2012, 2012 – 2013  
 Recruitment Committee – Member, Africana Studies Fall 2012  
 Jr. Faculty Colloquium – Organizer, Africana Studies 2011 – 2012  
 Africana Studies Working Group, Glasscock Center for the Humanities,  
 Co-convener, 2010 – 2011; Member, 2009 – 2011  
 Curriculum Committee – Member, Africana Studies 2009 – 2010  
 Events Committee – Member, Africana Studies 2010  
 Diversity Committee – Member, Department of Anthropology 2009 – 2010  
 Dean’s Diversity Committee – Member, College of Liberal Arts 2009 – 2010  
 Race and Ethnic Studies Institute, Affiliated Faculty 2007 – present

**Duke University**

Council on Latin American Studies - Member 2006 – 2007

**University of Chicago**

Minority Graduate Student Association (MGSA),  
 Secretary 2000 – 2001  
 Mentor, MGSA Mentorship Program 2001– 2002  
 Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture,  
 Member of the Technology Committee 1999 – 2001  
 African Studies Workshop - Member 1999 – 2002  
 Caribbean Studies Workshop - Founding member 2000 – 2002

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & DEVELOPMENT****Texas A&M University**

- College of Liberal Arts, Professional Development Seminar    Spring 2016, 2013, Fall 2013, 2010  
 Virtual Ethnography: Exploring Religion in Digital Worlds Workshop,                                  October 2013  
     led by Dr. Gregory Grieve, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, UNC Greensboro  
 IT Faculty Seminar – Flipping Your Course    April 2013  
 ADVANCE Scholar Symposium    October 2012  
 Africana Studies Tutorial on Afro-Brazilian History,    Spring 2010  
     led by Dr. Kim Butler, Associate Professor of Africana Studies, Rutgers  
 Africana Studies Tutorial on the Atlantic Slave Trade,    Fall 2009  
     led by Dr. Larry Yarak, Associate Professor of History, Texas A&M  
 Africana Studies Teaching and Curriculum Development Retreat    Spring 2009

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- American Anthropological Association,
- American Ethnological Society
- Association of Black Anthropologists
- Society for the Anthropology of Religion
- Society for Cultural Anthropology
- Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology
- American Studies Association
- Caribbean Studies Association
- Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
- African & Diasporic Religious Studies Association - Advisory Board Member