

L. KAIFA ROLAND

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<https://www.KaifaRoland.com>

Education

Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology, Duke University, 2004

M.A. in African Studies, Howard University, 1994

B.A. in Third World Studies (Africa/Latin America), Oberlin College, 1991

Research and Teaching Interests

Anthropology and Race

Comparative of Caribbean Cultures

Cuban Culture and Nationalism

Intersectionality

Race, Gender, and Entrepreneurship

Academic Positions

Clemson University, *Director, Global Black Studies Program* (formerly Pan-African Studies), August 2021–June 2025 and *Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies (Anthropology)*. Successfully tripled the undergraduate major by raising the program's profile, collaborating on interdisciplinary faculty hires, and introducing students to people and places in ways that made them want to learn more. Courses taught: Black Women and the Pursuit of Happiness; Introduction to Global Black (Pan-African) Studies; Senior Seminar

University of Colorado at Boulder, *Chair, Women and Gender Studies*, July 2020–July 2021. *Associate Professor of Anthropology*, 2006–2021. Courses taught: Advanced Seminar in Cultural Anthropology (graduate seminar); Anthropology and the Next Generation of Star Trek; Anthropology and Race (graduate seminar); Anthropology of Tourism; Bridging 'Race:' Culturally and Biologically (De)Constructed (graduate bridging seminar co-instructor with Robin Bernstein); Brown Studies: A Toolkit for and about the Multiracial; The Caribbean in Post-Colonial Perspective (including honors section); Core Seminar in Cultural Anthropology (graduate seminar); Cuban Culture: Race, Gender, and Power; Ethnography and the Ethnographic (graduate seminar); First Year Global Experience (Leeds School of Business – Cuba); Global Seminar (study abroad): Race, Gender, and Tourism in Cuba; Popular Culture(s); Zora Neale Hurston

Kenyon College, *Visiting Professor in Anthropology*, 2004–2006. Courses taught: Cuban Culture: Race, Gender, and Power; Zora Neale Hurston, Anthropologist; Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Kenyon College, *Visiting Instructor in Anthropology/Dissertation Fellow*, 2003–2004. Courses taught: Contemporary Culture in Cuba and the Caribbean, Anthropology of Tourism

Duke University, *Instructor*, Spring 2003 and Fall 1999. Courses taught:
Contemporary Culture in Cuba and the Caribbean, University Writing Program

Leadership Experience and Training

Undergraduate Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Studies Department, August 2025 – present: Represent the department on necessary and/or required college or university curriculum committees and other functions such as career fairs or events; schedule and facilitate regular departmental curriculum committee meetings; coordinate the scheduling of curricular sub-committees; assist with developing new curricular proposals for majors, minors, certificates, or courses and/or for revising standing degree programs and degree requirements; ensure compliance with college and university policies where applicable; coordinate assessment for undergraduate programs; review requests for transfer or course substitution credits; review or coordinate revisions of the undergraduate catalog specific to the department's degree programs; work with chair and program coordinator with scheduling as needed; coordinate and/or collaborate on activities to foster community among undergraduate students and faculty; serve as advocate of undergraduate students, individually and collectively, within the program, assuring fairness and equity; resolve student issues or complaints or work with chair to do the same; serve on department's advisory committee.

Director, Global Black Studies, July 2021–June 2025: Supervisor to 1 administrative staff, 1 lecturer, 1 graduate assistant or work study student. Responsible for course curriculum, budget management, and advising all undergraduate majors. Coordinate with Advisory/Steering Committee. Maintained regular communications with Interdisciplinary Program leaders, Dean of College of Arts and Humanities (CAH), and CAH department chairs, including bi-annual newsletter. Served on joint-hire search committees. Wrote grant applications to support long-term program development. Programming for study abroad opportunities.

President's Leadership Institute (Clemson University, AY23–24)

Mid-career Faculty Coaching (Clemson University via Academic Impressions/Coach Ava Thompson Greenwell, Spring 2024)

Chair, Women and Gender Studies, July 2020–June 2021: Supervisor to 11 faculty (including 3 junior faculty), 2 administrative staff, and 6 adjunct/lecturers. Responsible for course curriculum and scheduling, salary merit allocations, coordination and communications between senior administration and department, budget management, and strategic hiring

Academic Leadership Institute (CU Boulder)

- New Leaders Orientation, August 13-14, 2020
- Courageous Conversations and Cultural Collisions: Ways for Academic Leaders to Stand Against Racism and Create Systemic Change (Donna Mejia), August 18, 2020
- Why and How Leaders Can Create More Inclusive Units (Stefanie Johnson), August 18, 2020
- Getting You Prepared Workshop: Comprehensive Review, Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure (Michelle Moses), September 17, 2020
- Comprehensive Review Nitty Gritty Workshop, Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure (Michelle Moses), September 24, 2020
- Crucial Accountability Workshop (Alyssa Willet and Suzanne Soled), January 11-13, 2021
- Innovate Hour: Social Intelligence (Lauren Harris), March 10, 2021
- Getting You Prepared Workshop: The Complex World of University and Academic Budgets (Carla Ho-a and Ann Schmiesing), April 2021

Research and Innovation/RIO Program Faculty Fellow (CU Boulder), 2018–2019, additional monthly workshops 2020–2021

Publications

Books

2011. *Cuban Color in Tourism, and La Lucha*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2026. Roland, L. K. "Another Four Women: AfroCubana Entrepreneurs as Womanist Praxis." *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 31, no. 1:1–12.

2022. "P Equals Pass: Reflections of a Perfectionist on Surviving the Professoriate" *Journal of Colorism Studies*, 4(1):1–9. Special issue: Mastered and Phdished: Reflections of Women of Color in Higher Education.

2020. "Black Hair Everywhere!" *Journal of Anthropological and Archaeological Sciences* 1(4): 94–97.

2017. "How Bodies Matter: Yesterday's America Today." *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 7(1): 441–447 (Post-Election Colloquium).

2013. "T/Racing Belonging Through Cuban Tourism." *Cultural Anthropology*. 28(3):395–418.

2010. "Tourism and the Commodification of *Cubanidad*." *Tourist Studies*.

10(1):3–18

2006. “Tourism and the *Negrificación* of Cuban Identity.” *Transforming Anthropology*. 14(2):151–162.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

2023. “T/Racing Belonging Through Cuban Tourism” in *Insights on Latin America and the Caribbean: An Ethnographic Collection*. Melanie A. Medeiros and Jennifer R. Guzmán, eds. University of Toronto Press.

Accepted (April 23, 2022). “Critical Times, Critical Measures: Black Lives, Black Deaths, and the Specter of Hegemony” in *Surpassing Survival: Black Bodies on the Frontlines of Anti-Racism*. Victor Garcia, ed.

2014. “Between Belonging and the F/Act of Niggerisation.” In *Trayvon Martin, Race, and “American Justice:” Writing Wrong*. K.J Fasching-Varner, A. Dixon, R. Reynolds, K. Albert, eds. Rotterdam, The Netherlands: Sense Publishers.

Invited Articles in Edited Volumes, Blogs and Journals

2023. “Dear Reluctant Reviewer 2” In “Yours Sincerely an Uncertain Anthropologist,” edited by Paige Edmiston and Alexandra Dantzer, *American Ethnologist* website, September 27 2023, <https://americanethnologist.org/online-content/collections/yours-sincerely-an-uncertain-anthropologist/your-sincerely-r...ctant-reviewer-2/>.

2015. “I Will Not Call Her Name: An Ethno-Poem on Racial and Gendered Violence.” *Savage Minds: Notes and Queries in Anthropology* (blog).

2015. “Moving Beyond Microaggressions: In Hale and Beyond.” *Hale Herald* Vol 23(16: December 8).

2014. “The Future at Last: Unraveling the Embargo on Cuba.” *Savage Minds: Notes and Queries in Anthropology* (blog).

2008. “After Fidel, Much the Same.” Round-table commentary for *Transforming Anthropology* 16(1):72–73).

2002. “Yolanda T. Moses: 1996-1997” in *Celebrating a Century of the American Anthropological Association: Presidential Portraits*, eds., Regna Darnell and Frederic W. Gleach. American Anthropological Association, Lincoln, NE, University of Nebraska Press.

Book Reviews (Published)

2025. Identity, Commodification and Revolution. Tourism and the Transformation of Society, Politics and Space in Cuba. (Völkening). *Anthropos*

(June 2025).

2020. Sounds of Vacation: Political Economies of Caribbean Tourism. *Journal of Anthropological Research* (Winter 2020).

2017. Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture. *New West India Guide*.

2016. Black Writing, Culture, and the State in Latin America. *Journal of Latin American Geographers*.

2014. The Disappearing Mestizo: Configuring Difference in the Colonial New Kingdom of Granada. *Journal of Latin American Geographers*.

2014. Sexual Revolutions in Cuba: Passion, Politics, and Memory. *Journal of Latin American Studies* (May 2014).

2012. Take Me to My Paradise: Tourism and Nationalism in the British Virgin Islands. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, Vol. 17(2).

Works in Progress

In progress: *Erasing America: Colorblindness and the Hemispheric Hegemony of White Supremacy*

In progress: *Black OurStory: Lessons towards Detraumatized Futures*

Awards and Fellowships (last 10 years)

GBS Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (Fellow Paulette Ramsay), Spring 2024

Graduate School Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award, (CU Boulder), 2020

CU Senior Scholar Nominee, Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program, 2020

Research and Innovation/RIO Program Faculty Fellow (CU Boulder), 2018–2019

Leadership Education for Advancement and Promotion/LEAP-Sponsored

Associate Professor Growth Grant (CU Boulder), 2018–2019

Center to Advance Research in the Social Sciences Award, (CU) 2010/2014

Research Conducted

Ethnographic Research Project: Afro-Cubana *Casa* Entrepreneurs (2015–2019)

Doctoral Dissertation: “*El Color No Importa?* Tourism and Race in Contemporary Cuba”

Master’s Thesis: “Manifestations of African Consciousness in Brazil: The Evolution of the *Movimento Negro Unificado*”

Grants Submitted

Co-Principal Investigator (with George Palacios/Spanish Languages). Increase & Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students (IDEAS). “Global Black Studies Abroad” \$35,000 (submitted March 2024)

Principal Investigator. Mellon Foundation Higher Learning. “EmpowerED for Justice.” \$500,000 (submitted February 2024)

Scholarly Conferences and Presentations (last 10 years)

Papers Presented at Conferences

“Critical Race Theory: What It Is, and What It Ain’t” Creating Habits and Norms Guiding Ethical Decisions (CHANGE). Clemson University. March 31, 2022.

“Race Is, Race Ain’t: On Bodies and Belonging” Embodiment and Race II Conference, Clemson University. November 4, 2021.

“Diversity & Inclusion Research & Praxis in a Color-Blind Context,” Globalizing Diversity and Inclusion Research: Designing a Transnational Approach to Promoting Educational Access and Equity for Racial and Minoritized Communities around the World. The Expertise Centre for Diversity Policy (ECHO) International Summit, The Hague, the Netherlands. January 16-21, 2020.

“Touring Cuba in Black: Winning Women in Cuban Touristic Entrepreneurship” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC. December 1, 2017.

“21st Century Resistance, Protest, and Ethnography in the African Diaspora” Panel Discussant, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC. November 30, 2017.

“Beyond #Resist” Center to Advance Research in the Social Sciences (CARTSS), #Protest Forum. Boulder, Colorado. November 1, 2017.

“Identity Crisis” International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Washington, DC. June 1, 2013.

Invited Presentations and Colloquia (last 10 years)

“Un/Disciplining the Anthropologist: Professional and Research Pathways,”
Cultural Anthropology Department, Duke University. Duke Centennial
Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series (Duke 100). October 28, 2024.

Panelist, “Black Studies and K-12 Education,” International African American
Museum, Charleston, SC. April 18, 2024

Faculty Grow Panelist. Office of Faculty ADVANCEment, Clemson University.
April 9, 2024.

“Findings from Fieldwork: AfroCubana Tourism Entrepreneurs.” College of Arts
and Humanities Brown-Bag Research Lunch, Clemson University. April 4, 2024.

“Ethnography in the Interim: The Making of *Minding Her Business: AfroCubana
Tourism Entrepreneurs*.” Anthropology Department, University of Colorado–
Boulder. September 29, 2023.

“[Bringing Cultural Talks to the Table: Black Studies and Experiences in Cuba](https://www.drpatanders.com/),”
This Prof Life: Women of Color in Higher Education (podcast interviewee)
<https://www.drpatanders.com/>. July 18, 2023.

“Critical Race Theory vs Replacement Theory: When Praxis is Deadly”
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Diversity Seminar. Clemson
University. May 26, 2022.

“Critical Race Theory: What It Is, and What It Ain’t.” Clemson University
Student Senate. April 4, 2022.

“Perceptions of Infrastructural Needs in the Global Black World” Class Talk:
Clemson Engineering for Developing Countries. October 29, 2021.

“My Path to the Professoriate (and Beyond),” Faculty Network Colloquium Talk,
Miramontes Arts and Sciences Program (MASP), University of Colorado-
Boulder. March 31, 2021.

“What I Learned from the Toughest Conversations I’ve Had in my Career,”
Grounded Knowledge Panelist. Center for Teaching and Learning. November 18,
2020 (with pre-GKP sessions on October 28, November 4, and 11).

“Thriving in Community: Identities on Campus,” Panelist, Thriving at CU: A
New Faculty Series. Zoom online event, October 22, 2020.

“Black and Indian and Biracial Woman: A VP Forum,” Organizer and Moderator,
Women and Gender Studies. Zoom online event, October 21, 2020. Accessible at:
<https://www.colorado.edu/wgst/VP-Forum>.

“Cuba Becomes Her,” Research & Innovation Office Community Ted-style Talk. Dairy Arts Center, Boulder, Colorado. October 15, 2019. Accessible at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vk_ICRZeK6s.

“Intersectionality and Nationalism: The Impact of Colonialism in the Caribbean on the Lived Experiences of Black Women at Home and Abroad,” Panelist, Internationalization Summit, University of Denver, April 11, 2019.

“Minding Her Own Business: AfroCubana Entrepreneurial Experiences,” Symposium Presenter and Co-organizer: Race, Gender, and Revolution: Examining Rebellion and Rebelliousness in Cuba and Its Diaspora, University of Colorado-Boulder. September 21, 2018.

“Navigating Racialized Space: Notes on Bodies and Borders,” Panel Discussant, Borders Conference, University of Colorado-Boulder, September 30, 2017.

“Shades of Belonging in Cuban Tourism,” Guest Lecture, Introduction to Culture and Society (Instructor: Dr. Mary Slade). California State University-San Bernardino. May 16, 2016.

“The More Things Change... Touristic Nostalgia in Tomorrow’s Cuba,” California State University–San Bernardino. May 16, 2016.

“The More Things Change... Touristic Nostalgia in Tomorrow’s Cuba,” Cuba in Transition Symposium. Colorado State University, Ft. Collins. April 15, 2016.

“Ethics and Ethnography: Power to the People” Panel Discussant, Ethnographic Turn Conference, University of Colorado-Boulder, October 1, 2016.

“Thinking Through Difference: From Theory to Practice” Workshop Panelist (with Dr. Bianca Williams), University of Colorado-Boulder, Anthropology Department, February 26, 2016.

Career Service (last 10 years)

Clemson University

Undergraduate Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Studies Department, AY 2025 – present

Director, Global Black Studies AY 2021 – 2025

Chair, Faculty Research Development Program (FRDP) Review Committee, College of Arts and Humanities, AY24 – present

Ex-Officio Member, Commission on the Black Experience, AY21 – present

- **Co-organizer**: Black & Latinx Faculty Writing Retreat Spring 2023 – present

Advisory Committee, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Summer 2024 – present

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Summer 2024 – present
Search Committee Member for Chair, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Diversity Advocate, 2024
Chair, Curriculum Committee, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Spring 2022 – present
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Humanities, AY 2023 – present
Graduate Curriculum Committee, AY 2023 – present
Global Engagement Committee, College of Arts and Humanities, AY 2022 – present
Academic Analytics Review Committee, Spring 2024
Member, Diversity and Inclusion Council, AY21 – 2023
Chair, Interdisciplinary Studies Ad-hoc Working Group, Dec. 2022–May 2023
Joint-hire Search Committee Member, English, Diversity Advocate, 2022
Joint-hire Search Committee Member, History, Diversity Advocate, 2022
Joint-hire Search Committee Member, Performing Arts, Diversity Advocate, 2022

Women and Gender Studies, University of Colorado Boulder
Department Chair (AY 2020 – 2021)

Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder
Executive Committee (Fall 2019 – Spring 2020)
Space Committee (Fall 2019 – Spring 2020)
Salary Committee (Fall 2016 – Spring 2019)
Climate Committee (Fall 2017 – Fall 2018)
Diversity Committee (Spring 2016)
Inclusive Excellence Committee (Spring 2016)
Curriculum Committee (Fall 2012 – Fall 2015; Fall 2018 – Spring 2019)
Departmental Program Review Committee (Fall 2012)

College of Arts & Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder
Chair, Department of Women & Gender Studies (Summer 2020 – Summer 2021)
Eaton Travel Sabbaticals Committee (Fall 2015 – Spring 2017)
Internal Review Committee/Ethnic Studies Department (Fall 2012 – Spring 2013)

University of Colorado
Faculty Council Committee for Racial and Ethnic Equity, 2019–2020
Chancellor’s International Education & Research Review Committee, 2018–2020

Scholarly and Professional Societies

P.J. Patterson Institute for Africa–Caribbean Advocacy, 2024–present
Caribbean Studies Association, Executive Committee Member, 2022–2024

Association of Black Anthropologists Planning Committee Representative,
Ethnographic Futures, Joint Spring Conference (with the American Ethnological
Society and Association of Latina and Latino Anthropologists), St. Louis,
Missouri, March 2019

American Anthropological Association Site Planning Committee, Denver,
Colorado, November 2016

Community and Civic Engagement

Convener, Organization of Africana Scholars in South Carolina (OASIS),
monthly meetings and annual symposium. Fall 2023 – Fall 2025.

Libations Ceremonialist. Ancestral Tribute/African American Burial Grounds.
Clemson University and Shrine of the Black Madonna. Abbeville and Clemson,
SC. June 20–21, 2024.

“Black Studies and K-12 Education.” International African American Museum.
Charleston, SC. April 18, 2024.

“Sankofa: From Black History to Black Futures.” Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
Black History Celebration. Belton, SC. February 2023.

“To Be Young, Gifted, and Black.” T.L. Hanna High School Black Student Union
Induction Ceremony. Anderson, SC. January 2023.

Faculty Advisor, Clemson University, National Association for the Advancement
of Colored People (NAACP). Spring 2022 – present.

Advisory Board Member, “This is (Not) Who We Are” (documentary film).
Landlocked films. July 2020–July 2021.

Faculty interview, “Women’s Basketball 1-on-1 2020 Virtual Event,” November
12, 2020; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV3KsqfXpso&feature=youtu.be>
(see 1:22:43-1:27:45).

Faculty Panelist: “Transitioning to CU-Boulder: An Online Panel for Black High
School Students Interested in Attending CU-Boulder on Navigating the Academy
While Black.” BLACC (Building Leadership Amongst Communities of Color).
October 6, 2020.

“Trump Reverses Obama’s Cuba Policy.” KGNU Morning Magazine news radio
interview. June 2019.

“Local Impacts of New Restrictions on Cuba Travel.” Noticiero Telemundo
Denver Interview. June 2019.

Additional Service

Board of Trustees: University Press of Colorado/Utah State University Press
(2019–2021)

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Awards for Faculty Review
Panel, Washington, DC. July 2019.

Grant Reviewer: Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation
Completion Fellowship (January 2018, January 2023, January 2024, January
2025). Social Science Research Council (January 2013)

Manuscript Reviewer: Rutgers University Press (book: July 2018), American
Anthropologist (article: November 2013 and March 2018), Cultural Anthropology
(article: September 2018), American Ethnologist (article: December 2012 and
December 2013), Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (June
2016), Anthropology Quarterly (May 2019), SUNY OER Services (July 2019),
Oxford University Press (book: December 2023), SUNY (article: February 2024),
Anthropology and Education Quarterly (article: March 2025)

Languages

Spanish (fluent)

French (reading comprehension)

Portuguese (reading comprehension)