**DR. OKEZI T. OTOVO**

**Associate Professor**

**Department of History and Program in African and African Diaspora Studies**

**Florida International University**

**EDUCATION**

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| Doctor of Philosophy, Georgetown University, History, graduated with distinction. 2009. |
| Master of Arts, Georgetown University, Latin American Studies, graduated with distinction. 2002. |
| Bachelor of Arts, Carnegie Mellon University, History, graduated with honors. 1998. |

**FULL-TIME ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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| Florida International University, Associate Professor of History and African and African Diaspora Studies, Aug 2017-present. |
| Florida International University, Assistant Professor of History and African and African Diaspora Studies, Aug 2012- Aug 2017. |
| University of Vermont, Assistant Professor of History, Aug 2009-May 2012. |

**PUBLICATIONS IN DISCIPLINE**

**Book**

*Progressive Mothers/ Better Babies: Race, Public Health, and the State in Brazil, 1850-1945* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2016).

**Articles**

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| “Marrying ‘Well’: Debating Consanguinity, Matrimonial Law, and Brazilian Legal Medicine, 1890-1930” *Law and History Review,* Volume 33 no. 3 (2015): 703-743. |
| “The Gender of Social Welfare: Maternalism and Paternalism in Bahia’s Estado Novo,” *Revista da Associação Brasileira de Pesquisadores(as) Negros(as)*, special edition on *Raça, Ciência e Gênero*, Volume 6 no. 14 (2014): 110-128. [Online] http://www.abpn.org.br/Revista/ |
| “From *Mãe Preta* to *Mãe Desamparada*: Maternity and Public Health in Post-Abolition Bahia,” *Luso-Brazilian Review*, Volume 48 no. 2 (2011): 164-191. |

**Chapters in Books**

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| “Medicalized Motherhood as Race and Place: Bahia 1930s-1940s” in Scott Ickes and Bernd Reiter, *The Making of Brazil’s Black Mecca: Bahia Reconsidered*. Michigan State University Press, 2018. |
| “Embaixadores da academia: puericultura, congressos da criança e a repercussão multinacional da medicina brasileira” in Gisele Sanglard, *Amamentação e politicas para à infância no Brasil: a atuação de Fernandes Figueira, 1902-1928.* Rio de Janeiro: FIOCRUZ, 2016. |
| “Rescuing the Sacred Mission of Motherhood: The Campaign for Healthy Babies and Educated Mothers in Brazil” in *Documenting Latin America, Volume II: Gender, Race, and Nation*. Edited by Erin O’Connor and Leo Garofalo. Boston: Prentice Hall, 2010. |

**Other Publications**

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| Roundtable contributor, “História, historiadores e a pandemia de COVID-19.” *Topoi* (Rio de Janeiro) 22 (48) Sep-Dec 2021. |

**BOOK REVIEWS AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES**

Review of *Médicos intérpretes do Brasil*. By Gilberto Hochman and Nísia Trindade Lima. Journal *of Latin American Studies*, Volume 49, Issue 4, November 2017, pp. 952-954.

Review of *Slave Emancipation and Transformations in Brazilian Political Citizenship*. By Celso Castilho. *American Historical Review*, Volume 122, Issue 4, 1 October 2017, Pages 1281–1282.

Review of *Plastic Bodies: Sex Hormones and Menstrual Suppression in Brazil*. By Emilia Sanabria. *Canadian Journal of Latin American Studies*, Volume 42 no. 1 (2017): 113-115.

“Historicizing Gender, Medicine, and Biopolitics,” Review of *Reproducing the British Caribbean: Sex, Gender, and Population Politics after Slavery* by Juanita De Barros; *Gender, State, and Medicine in Highland Ecuador: Modernizing Women, Modernizing the State, 1895-1950* by A. Kim Clark; and *Policing Egyptian Women: Sex, Law, and Medicine in Khedival Egypt* by Liat Kozma. Published in *Journal of Women’s History*, Volume 28 no. 2 (Summer 2016): 149-155.

Review of *A History of Family Planning in Twentieth-Century Peru*. By Raúl Necochea Lopez. Published in *Medical History* Volume 60 no. 3 (July 2016): 427-429.

“Rival Visions and Regional Change,” Review of *The Vigorous Core of our Nationality: Race and Regional Identity in Northeastern Brazil*. By Stanley E. Blake. Published in *A Contracorriente* [Online] Volume 9 no. 1. (2011): 456-463. http://acontracorriente.chass.ncsu.edu

“Women’s Suffrage: The Female Vote in Latin America” in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World*. Edited by Peter N. Stearns. Oxford University Press, 2008.

Okezi T. Otovo and Roger Cunniff, “Pernambuco” and “Recife” in *Encyclopedia of Latin America History and Culture*. Edited by Jay Kinsbruner. Detroit, Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2008.

**RECENT PAPERS AND LECTURES**

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| “Maternity and Social Medicine: Complexities of Race, Servitude, and Family Welfare in Brazil's Early 20th Century;” Davidson College. October 2018. *Invited lecture.* |
| “Black Maternity as Political Risk: Abolition, Reproduction, and Republicanism Compounded” Watson Institute Brazil Initiative; Brown University. December 2017. *Invited lecture.* |
| “Serving the Nation and Securing the Race: Mothers of Color, Household Labor, and *Trabalhista* Politics.” March 2016. Brazilian Studies Association Congress. Providence, RI. |
| “What Remains: Embodied Politics, Historical Memory, and the Return of Presidential Corpses (Brazil 1976-2013).” November 2015. FIU African and African Diaspora Studies, Works-in-Progress Series. *Invited presentation.* |
| “Black Maternity as Political Risk: Abolition, Reproduction, and Republicanism Compounded.” September 2015. International Seminar, “Mothering Slaves: Comparative Perspectives on Motherhood, Childlessness and the Care of Children in Atlantic Slave Societies,” University of São Paulo. *Invited Participant.* |
| “*Pela Humanização do Parto*: A Historical Look at Race, Childbirth, and Black Female Citizenship.” May 2015. Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico. |
| “March 31-April 1, 1964: The First 48 Hours of a Revolutionary, Democratic, Dictatorship.” March 2014. Panel Presentation, “Rethinking the Brazilian Military *Golpe*: 50 Years Later” FIU Latin American and Caribbean Center and Center for the Humanities in an Urban Environment. *Invited lecture.* |
| “Temporality in Historical Method.” February 2014. Florida Undergraduate Research Conference. FIU Honors College. *Invited lecture.* |

**FUNDED RESEARCH and PUBLIC HISTORY PROJECTS**

Principal Investigator, “The Black Mothers Care Plan: Reducing Racial Bias and Supporting Maternal and Infant Health,” The Children’s Trust, Early Childhood Community Research Demonstration Projects; 2021-2026*.*

Principal Investigator, “Collections Assessment, Black History Consultation, and Exhibition Curation,” Blanche Ely House Museum, City of Pompano Beach, Summer 2021.

Principal Investigator, “Perspectives on Black Motherhood and Health” Florida Humanities, Humanities Center Grant, Summer-Fall 2021.

Co-Principal Investigator, Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab/ Provost’s Research Grant "From Moments to Movements: Story-Telling as Epistemology in Black Maternal Health," 2020-2021.

Individual Research, “Disease at the Margins: A Bodily History of Brazil’s Twentieth Century,” University of Florida Libraries, Latin American and Caribbean Collection, Summer 2017.

Individual Research, “Disease at the Margins: A Bodily History of Brazil’s Twentieth Century,” FIU Green School of International and Public Affairs, Morris and Anita Broad Research Fellowship Award, Summer 2017.

Individual Research, “Archival Research in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,” FIU Green School of International and Public Affairs, Morris and Anita Broad Research Fellowship Award and Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center Fellowship, Summer 2013.

**SELECTED PROFESSIONAL HONORS, PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS**

Provost Award, Outstanding Graduate Program Director, 2021.

Selected participant, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center: Humanities and Area Studies Research Faculty Development Program, Summer 2021.

Collective for the History and Culture of the Region of the Americas (CHACRA), Edwin Lieuwen Award for Teaching Excellence; Rocky Mountain Conference on Latin American Studies, 2021.

Selected participant, President’s Leadership Program, 2021.

Selected participant, American Historical Association Career Diversity Faculty Workshop Series, 2021.

Nominated for Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP) Teaching Award for Junior Faculty, 2016.

Selected participant. New York University; Faculty Network Series, Summer Seminar on “Afro-Latino History and Culture,” Summer 2011.

Inductee; Pi Gamma Mu, International Honor Society in the Social Sciences. University of Vermont, 2010.

Awardee in National Competition; Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2008-2009.

**DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

**Service to the Department and Program**

Graduate Program Director, History Department 2017-2022.

Search Committee Chair, Africanist Historian, 2021-2022.

Graduate Committee, History Department 2014-2015.

Undergraduate Committee, History Department 2012-2014.

Search Committee Chair, Latin Americanist Historian, 2017.

Search Committee, Latin Americanist Historian, 2016.

Search Committee Chair, Visiting Assistant Professor—Modern Latin America, 2015.

Search Committee, Senior Latin Americanist Historian, 2012.

Affiliate to the Search Committee, Africanist Historian, 2012.

Steering Committee, African and African Diaspora Studies Program, 2012-present

Graduate Committee, African and African Diaspora Studies Program, 2017-present

Undergraduate Committee, African and African Diaspora Studies Program, 2014-2017

MA Online Curriculum Development Committee, African and African Diaspora Studies Program, 2015-2017

**Service to the Green School of International and Public Affairs**

Search Committee Member, Director Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, 2021-22

Advisory Board, Brazilian Studies Program of Excellence Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, 2019-present.

Three-Minute Thesis SIPA Judging Panel, 2019.

FLAS Selection Committee, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, 2019.

Building Planning Committee, SIPA II, 2017-2018.

Faculty Advisory Board, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, 2017-2019.

Director of Academic Programs, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, 2015-2017.

SIPA Curriculum Committee Member, 2016-2017.

Brazil Studies Program Planning Committee, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center 2013-2014.

**Service to the University**

Mentor, Mellon Hispanic-Serving Institutions Pathways to the Professoriate Program, 2016-2017.

**OFFICES HELD IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

Executive Committee Member, Brazilian Studies Association, 2022-2026

Peer Review Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, Faculty Fellowships, 2021.

Chair, Warren Dean Memorial Prize Committee, Conference on Latin American History, 2019.

Chair, Brazil Section, Conference on Latin American History, 2018-2019

Secretary, Brazil Section, Conference on Latin American History, 2017-2018

Health and Society Track Chair, Health/Science/Technology Section, Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference, Lima 2016.

Committee member, Scobie Award, Conference on Latin American History, 2016

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICE**

**Recent Conference Panels Organized and Chaired**

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| *Co-Organizer and Moderator.* “Reclaiming Black Maternal Health: A Critical Conversation on Affirming Black Women’s Lives.” April 2021. |
| *Organizer.* “Understudied Geographies in Brazilian History: A Methodological Conversation,”Conference on Latin American History. January 2020. |
| *Chair.* “Family Matters: Intimacy, Affect, and Political Life in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries,” American Historical Association. January 2019. |
| *Co-Organizer.* “The Multi-dimensionality of Afro-Latin American Antiracist Activism in the 21st Century.” AADS Symposium on Blackness in Latin America. March 2017. |
| *Discussant.* “Sexuality and Gender.” Department of History Graduate Student Conference. March 2017. |
| *Organizer and Chair.* "Reproducing Politics, Gendering Health, and Situating Maternity as Practice." March 2016. Brazilian Studies Association Congress. |
| *Moderator.* “Tropical Wellbeing: Perspectives on Public Health in Brazilian History.” March 2016. Brazilian Studies Association Congress. |
| *Discussant.* “Issues of Identity in the Black Atlantic,” March 2015. FIU Department of History Annual Graduate Student Conference, The Old World and the New: Journeys in Atlantic History. |
| *Co-Chair and Panel Organizer.* “Making Race in the Americas, Creating Scholarship at FIU: An Interdisciplinary Conversation on New Graduate Research.” February 2015. FIU Cuban Research Institute International Conference, “‘More than White, More than Mulato, More than Black:’ Racial Politics in Cuba and the Americas” |

**Community Engagement: Public Presentations (Selected)**

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| “Story Circle on Black Maternal Health in South Florida” May 2021. |
| “Progressive Mothers, Better Babies.” October 2016. Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL. |
| Featured Presentation, Department of History Graduate Student Association Faculty Speaker Series, October 2016. |
| “Confronting Challenges: Public Health in a Global Perspective,” LACC and Miami Dade County Public Schools Workshop “Global Issues and Digital Media: Integrating Latin American and Caribbean Themes into the Curriculum. August 2016. |
| “Progressive Mothers, Better Babies.” July 2016. Beyu Be Connected Author Series, Durham, NC. *Invited speaker.* |
| “Healthy Women, Healthy Communities, Healthy Planet.” March 2016. Community Conversation Series, Ecohumanities for Communities in Conflict: Fragile Habit, Conversations for Miami’s Future. *Invited roundtable guest.* |
| “Haiti and the Reverberation of Freedom.” May 2015. HistoryMiami, Museum Forum Series. *Invited roundtable guest.* |

**Other Research Experience**

Featured Author, New Books Network Podcast, July 2019. Interviewed by Patrícia Martins Marcos, <https://newbooksnetwork.com/okezi-otovo-progressive-mothers-better-babies-race-public-health-and-the-state-in-brazil-1850-1945-u-texas-press-2016/?fbclid=IwAR2dwBgGrftkWTnjjN7-AlQj5s_7UIVEZ26XjJVnpJb9WUr8s78pYdK2R_Q>

Featured Author, Society for the History of Childhood and Youth, September 2018. Interviewed by Bianca Premo. <https://www.shcy.org/features/books/progressive-mothers-better-babies-race-public-health-and-the-state-in-brazil-1850-1945/?fbclid=IwAR1pFDpRPc8p1lT0-2doQgjVJgjKouUrheZ_ZN6KDwLhYI3wgShxvWO82bU>

Interviewed for Dr. Ibram Kendi, “New Works in African American History and African Diaspora Studies” on African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS) Blog, <http://www.aaihs.org/progressive-mothers-better-babies-a-new-book-on-race-and-public-health-in-brazil/> 2016.

Interviewed for Autumn A. Arnett, “Color Struck,” *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. September 24, 2015.

Researcher and translator (Spanish and Portuguese to English), *Major Problems in Atlantic History: Documents and Essays.* Edited by Alison F. Games and Adam Rothman. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2008.

**Professional Memberships:**

African American Intellectual History Society

American Historical Association

Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora

Brazilian Studies Association

Conference on Latin American History

Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine, History of Science, Technology and Medicine in Latin America Working Group

Latin American Studies Association

Research Group, História da assistência à saúde; Fundação Oswaldo Cruz

Society of Senior Ford Fellows

US Network for Democracy in Brazil, Afro-Brazilian Rights Working Group: Sub-committee on COVID and Public Health