

NESSETTE FALU

2107 Wallace Avenue, #3C
Bronx, NY 10462
646-352-2187
nefalu@gmail.com

Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas
and the Caribbean, The Graduate Center, CUNY
365 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY 10016
nfalu@gc.cuny.edu

AREAS OF RESEARCH

black lesbians/queer, ethical subjects, ethics, wellbeing, bioenergetics, and fugitivity; gynecology and healthcare reform; race, gender, class, and sexuality; visuals and film; Candomblé religious identities

Salvador-Bahia, Brazil

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

8/8/17- Assistant Professor. Department of Anthropology. University of Central Florida
2016-2017 Postdoctoral Fellow. Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean, CUNY Graduate Center
2016 Adjunct Professor. Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Fordham University
2015-2016 Visiting Scholar. Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program and Africana Studies Program, Lehigh University
2014-2015 Adjunct Professor. Department of Anthropology, Rutgers, State University of New Jersey
2014 Adjunct Lecturer. Women's and Gender Studies Department, New Jersey City University
2014-2015 Visiting Scholar. Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, Lehigh University
2013-2014 Sarah Pettit Doctoral Fellow, LGBT Studies, Yale University
2012-2013 Visiting Doctoral Researcher. ISC/MUSA-UFBA (*Instituto Saude Colectivo/Saude da Mulher, Universidade Federal da Bahia*)

ACADEMIC TRAINING

Ph.D. Socio-cultural Anthropology, Rice University (2010-2015)
Conferred May 2015. "*Lésbicas Negras'* Ethics and The Scales of Racialized Sexual Recognitions in Gynecology and Public Discourses in Salvador-Bahia"
Graduate Certificate, Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Rice University
Religious Studies Department, African American Religion, Rice University (2008-2010)
M.Div. New York Theological Seminary (2008)
B.S. State University of New York at Downstate, Physician Assistant Studies (2001)
B.A. Fordham University, Economics (1993)

Workshop Teaching Fundamentals in the Social Sciences. Yale University (2013-2014)

MEDICAL PROFESSION

2014-Present Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, New York
Hematology Oncology Physician Assistant
2009-2012 St. Hope Foundation, Houston, Texas
HIV/AIDS Specialist/Physician Assistant
2007-2008 Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, New York
Internal Medicine Physician Assistant
2002-2006 New York-Presbyterian Cornell Medical Center, New York
Internal Medicine & Neurosurgery Physician Assistant

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

2013-2014	Sarah Pettit Doctoral Fellowship \$20,000. LGBT Studies, Yale University
2012	Dissertation Fieldwork Award \$28,000. Ruth Landes Research Memorial Fund
2012	Research Award \$500, Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality, Rice
2012	Dissertation Fieldwork Grant \$3000. Social Sciences Research Institute, Rice University
2008	President's Award, New York Theological Seminary
2007	Travel grant to Salvador-Bahia, Brazil, Center of World Christianity, NYTS \$1000
2006	American Academy of Religion Grant, Northeast Region \$2000 for an academic-community project on LGBT homeless youth.
2001	Professional Recognition Award, State University of New York, Downstate

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

2017, In-progress	<i>Social Clinic: Bioenergetics and Ethical Recognitions among Lesbicas Negras in Brazilian Gynecology</i> Manuscript solicited by Duke University Press for review.
-------------------	--

Book Chapters and Entries

2017, In-progress	“Ain't I Too A <i>Mulher?</i> : Black Lesbian Masculinities and Gynecology in Brazil,” In <i>Black LGBT Health Across the Globe: A Regional Perspectives</i> . Eds. Lourdes D. Follins and Jonathan M. Lassiter. Lexington Books. fall 2017-winter 2018.
2017	Short entry on Planned Parenthood for high school/college book titled: <i>Women's Rights: Reflections in Popular Culture</i> . Ed. Ann. M. Savage. Greenwood Press. 2017.
2013	“Invisible Hands: An Epistemology of Black Religious Thought and Black Lesbian Sexual Desire that Disrupts Crystallized Culture” in <i>Ain't I a Womanist Too?: In: Third Wave Womanist Religious Thought</i> , Monica A. Coleman ed. (Fortress Press)

Journal Articles

<i>Work-in-progress</i>	“Ethical Subjects: The Demands of Proximity and Ethical Refashioning of Sexuality and Race in Gynecology in Brazil”
<i>In-preparation</i>	“Lesbian Virgin Aversions and Gynecology as Social Context in Brazil”
<i>In-preparation</i>	“Framing Windows: Architectures of a Complex Ethnography of Race, Sexuality, and Medicine”

Book Review

2017	“Queer Caribbean Speaks: Interviews with Writers, Artists, and Activists” by Kofi Omoniyi Sylvanus Campbell. <i>New West Indian Guide</i> (January 2017).
------	---

Public Articles

- 2016 “Gynecology Talk: Race-Sexuality-Class Privilege and Reproductive Encounters”
Council on Anthropology and Reproduction Newsletter, Fall 2016.
<http://car.medanthro.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/CAR-Fall-2016-Newsletter-corrected.pdf>
- 2016 “Silenced Prejudices and the Gynecological Encounter,” *Anthropology News*.
June 29, 2016.
<http://www.anthropology-news.org/index.php/2016/06/29/silenced-prejudices-and-the-gynecological-encounter/>

LECTURES AND ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENTS

- 2017 Colloquium Speaker, Department of Anthropology, Graduate Center, CUNY
“Ethical Recognitions: Resisting Sexual and Racial Prejudice in Brazilian
Gynecology”
- 2016 Conference Final Reflections Panelist. *Feminism Beyond the Secular Emerging
Epistemologies and Politics in the 21st Century*. Lehigh University
- 2015 Moderator of film screening (*The Aggressives*). Rice University
- 2014 Public Lecture. Lehigh University, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program
- 2014 Sarah Pettit Fellowship Public Lecture. Yale University, LGBT Studies
- 2014 Classroom discussion. “Latin American/Latin@ Crossings: LGBTQ Latin@ Lives
Within and Across Borders,” Sarah Lawrence College
- 2013 Classroom lecture. “Research Skills for Gender, Race, and Sexuality Issues,”
Universidade Federal da Bahia

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL ORGANIZATION

- 2017 “Etico-Politico: Black Lesbian Activism and Ethical Recognitions in Brazil,” Berkshire Conference
on the History of Women, Genders and Sexuality. Participant on an organized panel.
Hofstra University, NY.
- 2017 IRADAC Fellows Symposium titled: “Narrative in Practice: Opacity, Dissonance, Encounter,
Underground, and Erasure.” Graduate Center, CUNY. Co-organizer.
- 2017 “Ethical Encounters: The Disjunctures of Narrativizing Masculinities, Race, and ‘Best Place’ in
Brazilian Gynecology,” IRADAC Fellows Symposium. Graduate Center, CUNY. Presenter.
- 2017 “Etico-Politico: Reform to Black Lesbian Ethical Life in Brazilian Gynecology,” Society for
Applied Anthropology, Santa Fe. Organizer and Panelist.
- 2016 “Aesthetics and The Ethical Subject: An Interactive Roundtable.” Chair.
American Anthropological Association meeting, Minneapolis
- 2016 “The Biopolitics of Gendered ‘Blackness’: Transnational Perspectives on Women, Race, and
Health.” Chair. American Anthropological Association meeting, Minneapolis
- 2016 “Good Intentions, Chronic Neglect: Decolonizing Healthcare Reform and Access for Black
Women in Brazil.” Roundtable Participant. National Women's Studies Association. Montréal
- 2016 “Race-Reproductivities: The R-R Politics of Evidence, Accident, and Discovery.” Roundtable.
Organizer and Participant. Executive Program Committee and Session. American Anthropological
Association meeting, Minneapolis
- 2016 “R-R of Feminist Biopolitics: Race-Reproductivities and Decolonial Apertures.” Roundtable.
National Women's Studies Association. Montréal
- 2015 “Queer-ness of Virginity and the Vaginal Speculum: Lésbicas Negras’ Ethico-Political
Negotiations in Brazilian Gynecology,” American Anthropological Association meeting, Denver
(Invited Session)

- 2015 Chair of Roundtable titled “Safety is an Illusion: Violence, Trauma, and Pedagogy.” American Anthropological Association meeting, Denver
- 2015 “*A Dor da Cor: Diasporic Interpretations of Prejudice, Gynecology, and Well-Being among Black Lesbians in Salvador-Bahia*,” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora meeting, Charleston
- 2015 “Queer Lives Matter Too: An Anthropology of Images on Sexual Health, Social Well-Being, and Freedom.” Society for the Anthropology of North America meeting, New York City
- 2015 Participant. “Queering Virginité: *Lésbicas Negras*’ Ethico-Political Negotiations of ‘De-sexualization’ in Brazilian Gynecology,” Queering Anthropology Conference, Yale University
- 2014 “*Seu Preconceito!*”: The Prevalence of Prejudice and Its Impact upon *Lésbicas Negras*, Brazilian Gynecology, and Public Discourses.” American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C.
- 2014 African Diaspora Religions and Indigenous Theory. Roundtable Participant. American Academy of Religion meeting, San Diego
- 2013 “Foucault’s Practices of Freedom, Transnational Biopower, and the Interdisciplinarity of Anthropology of Ethics.” Organizer. American Anthropological Association meeting, Chicago
- 2013 Moderator Panel. National Women’s Studies Association meeting, Cincinnati
- 2013 “Not Born but Constructed a Womanist: *Lésbicas Negras* Travel from Candomble to Gynecology,” National Women’s Studies Association meeting, Cincinnati
- 2013 “*Pare de Preconceito!: The Prevalence of Prejudice in Brazil and Impact Upon Racialized Sexual Subjectivities of Lésbicas Negras*,” Yale University, Bouchet Seminar Series
- 2013 “*A invisibilidade torna-se visível: A marginalização Racial e Sexual de Lésbicas Negras na atenção ginecológica em Salvador*,” ISC/MUSA-UFBA, Salvador-Bahia
- 2013 “*Práticas Gineco-Éticas Ambíguas: Políticas Públicas, Éticas, Vulnerabilidades e Liberdade para Lésbicas Negras em Salvador*,” ISC/MUSA-UFBA, Salvador-Bahia
- 2013 “Not Born but Constructed a Womanist: *Lésbicas Negras* Traveling from Candomble into Gynecology,” III *Seminário Enlacando Sexualidades*, Salvador-Bahia
- 2012 Chair and organizer. “Ambiguous Belonging(s): Feminist Inquiries into Displaced Subjectivities, Bodies, Social Networks, and Social Change.” National Women’s Studies Association meeting, Oakland
- 2012 “*“Meu Energia Sexual”*: Therapeutic Ethics and Lesbian Subjectivities Contesting Brazilian Gynecological Biopolitics,’ National Women’s Studies Association meeting, Oakland
- 2012 “*“Que Bonito!”*: The Transposition of U.S. Queer of Color Photographic Calendars and Affect Among *Lésbicas Negras* In Salvador-Bahia,” American Anthropological Association meeting, San Francisco
- 2012 “*“Meu Energia Sexual”*: Lesbian Subjectivities and Brazilian Gynecology,’ ABEAH Conference, Salvador-Bahia
- 2011 “Crossing State Borders and Boundaries: Dipping and Dabbing of Black Lesbian Subjectivities and Processes of Liminality,” Rice University, Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality
- 2011 “Rethinking Anthropological Methodology and Theory: Queering Theory and Practice in the HIV/AIDS Clinical Setting” Yale University, Eighth-Annual Yale Bouchet Conference on Diversity in Graduate Education (POSTER)
- 2010 “Black Religious Identities of Invisible Hands: Epistemologies of Desire and Religion in “Crystallized Culture,” American Academy of Religion, Montreal
- 2010 Participant. “Invisible Hands: An Epistemology of Black Religious Thought and Black Lesbian Sexual Desire that Disrupts Crystallized Culture,” Ain’t I a Womanist Too?: Third Wave Womanist Religious Thought Conference, Claremont Theological School
- 2009 “Black Queer Women in Cinema: A Search for Ultimate Meaning,” Rice University, Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality
- 2006 “Human Suffering, HIV/AIDS and Black Theology for the Twenty-First Century,” American Academy of Religion meeting, Washington, D.C.

TEACHING

2017, Spring	Department of Anthropology and IRADAC, Graduate Center, CUNY Anthropology of Ethics. Anth70800. Graduate level course.
2016, Spring	Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Fordham University Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, 1100, R2, class size 35
2014-2015	Department of Anthropology, Rutgers, State University of New Jersey Body Politics, 070:372, class size 29 Medical Anthropology, 070:307, size 29 Sexuality and Eroticism in Global Perspectives, 070:222, size 15
2014	Women's and Gender Studies Department, New Jersey City University Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies. WGST 103, size 29 Race, Class and Gender Activism; WGST 108, size 28
2012	"Research Approaches toward Gender, Race, and Sexuality Issues," Classroom lecture to undergraduates in Social Work at the <i>Universidade Federal da Bahia</i>
2011	Teaching Assistant. Intro to Socio-cultural Anthropology, Rice University
2002-2007	Neurosurgery lecturer. Physician Assistant Program, SUNY Downstate

PUBLIC SERVICE

2016-present	Medical Education Reform Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Health and Medicine. Albert Einstein Medical School. Bronx, NY.
--------------	---

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

American Anthropological Association

2012-2015	Member of the Program Committee, Association for Black Anthropologists
-----------	--

Lehigh University

2016	Sisters in Conference. Workshop for College Women: <i>Freeing Ourselves</i> .
2015	Reading Group- <i>Queering the Body: Unraveling Race, Gender, and Sexuality</i> Workshop- <i>Ethnographic Encounters: Customizing your Research for Fieldwork</i>
2014-2015	Mentor to Students – SPECTRUM, LGBTQ student organization Organizer and Facilitator. <i>Open Table: Queer Writing</i> for Undergraduates

Yale University

2013-2014	Mentor to Students – Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity Program Mentor to Queer Students of Color Students of PRISM
-----------	---

Rice University

2011-2012	Graduate Fellow. Program on the Study of Ethnicity, Race and Culture
2008-2012	Co-organizer. Graduate Student Symposiums, Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality
2008-2010	H.E.R.E. Project, Religious Studies Department
2010	Principal student organizer. Religious Studies Department Conference

FILM DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

“Untitled *Lésbicas Negras* in Salvador”

Executive Producer and Writer: Nesselte Falu

Logline: This documentary explores the lives of three black lesbians (*lésbicas negras*) in Salvador-Bahia, Brazil and their individualized circumstances and opinions toward the “*preconceito*” (prejudice and pre-ideas) that silences and negates respect and visibility toward their sexuality in gynecological medical and surgical care. The film exposes how they draw upon their already existing marginal Afro-religious experiences to confront the intersections of race, gender, class, and sexuality and the social and medical implications of *preconceito*. Production: June-July 2013; Post-Production: through 2018

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Race and Reproductivities Working Group

American Anthropological Association

Association for Queer Anthropology

Association of Black Anthropologists

National Women’s Studies Association

Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora

American Academy of Physician Assistants

LANGUAGES: Portuguese and Spanish