

SANDRA L. DIXON

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Education: 1986 Ph.D., Brown University. Dissertation: “*Racial Identity And Literary Image: The Characterization of Afro-Hispanics And Whites in Selected Novels of Venezuela and Brazil*”

Director: José Amor y Vázquez. The portrayals of blacks, mulattos, and whites in the novels of Rómulo Gallegos, Juan Pablo Sojo, José Lins do Rêgo, and Afonso Henriques de Lima Barreto. Novelistic presentation of racial identity is also contrasted with social reality between 1920 and 1938.

1978 M.A., University of Pennsylvania.

The written examination targets the history of the Spanish language as well as all genres and periods of Peninsular and Spanish American literature.

1977 B.A., University of Pennsylvania. Major: Spanish

1976, 1980 Centro de Estudios Hispánicos en Madrid (under the auspices of Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania)

Awards / Honors

- 2016 Certificate of completion of course entitled LGBTQ on Campus for Faculty and Staff
- 2016 LGBTQ Pathways to Inclusiveness Grant
- 2014-2018 ACTFL OPI Tester of Spanish with Limited Certification
- 2010 Nominated for Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award
- 2005 West Virginia Foreign Language Teachers’ Association Outstanding Teacher of the Year (at the University level)
- 2001 Martin Luther King, Jr. Achievement Award

2000 Barbara Alvis International Service Award for Outstanding Service to the International Community in Morgantown

1997 Summer Research Fellowship in Latin American Studies (University of Pittsburgh)

F.A.C.D.I.S. Latin America/Caribbean Scholar-Diplomat Program

Summers

2010 Reader for ETS Advanced Placement Spanish Examination-Speaking (Cincinnati, Ohio)

2008 N.E.H. Summer Institute on The Literature of Equatorial Guinea: A Pedagogical Perspective (Howard University)

1992, '91 Governor's Honors Academy

1991 Multidisciplinary Studies Grant

1989 WVU Research Grant

1988 N.E.H. Seminar on Dada and Surrealism entitled "Surrealism Revisited" (Hofstra University)

1986 Summer Research Fellowship in Latin American Studies (University of Pittsburgh)

1986 N.E.H. Summer Institute on Brazil (University of New Mexico, Latin American Institute)

1983 Dorothy Compton Fellowship (Brown University)

1980-83 Teaching Assistantship (Brown)

1979-80 Kenyon Fellowship (Brown)

1980 Scholarship to Centro de Estudios Hispánicos (Bryn Mawr)

1978-7 University Fellowship (Brown)

Scholarly Publications

Cultural Dynamics of Globalization and African Literature. Eds. Sandra Dixon and Janice Spleth. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2016.

Notes and Study Guide for “*Pai Contra Mãe*” in *Missa do Galo e Outros Contos, Vol. 1 Machado de Assis* (83-95). Astoria, NY: Atlântico Books, 2009.

Film review of “The Agronomist” in the FACDIS Conference Program, Nov. 2-4, 2005 (13-14).

“Africa vista desde fuera y desde dentro: la poesía afroespañola de las Antillas y de Guinea Ecuatorial” in *Textura: Revista de Letras e História* (No. 8, April – October, 2003, 6-9).

Book review in *Hispania* (86: 1, Mar., 2003, 62-63) of Carmen Chaves-Tesser’s *Las máscaras de la apertura: Un contexto literario*.

“Bitter Harvest: Violent Oppression in *Cacau* and *Terras do sem fim*” in *Jorge Amado: New Critical Essays*. Eds. Earl Fitz, K. Brower, E. Martínez-Vidal. New York: Garland Publishing, 2001.

“The Little White Girl” (translation) in *Ancestral House: The Black Short Story in the Americas and Europe*. Ed. Charles H. Rowell. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1995.

“Identifying the Self: Recent Studies in Afro-Hispanic and Lusophone Literature” (review essay). *Latin American Research Review* (25:2, Summer, 1990, 260-266).

“The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: The Characterizations of the **Afro-colombianas** in *Chambacú: corral de negros*.” *Proceedings of The Image of the Afro-Hispanic Woman in Latin American Literature and Culture* (Vol. 3, 110-117). Magnolia, Arkansas: Southern Arkansas University, 1991.

Profiled in *A Colônia Brazilianista—História Oral de Vida Acadêmica* by José Carlos Sebe Bom Meihy (439-444). São Paulo: Editora Nova Stella, 1990.

“Creator and Critic: The Narrator’s Role in Clarice Lispector’s *A Hora da Estrela*.” *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference* (6-12). Knoxville, Tennessee: University of Tennessee, 1989

Other Publications

“Business, Sports, and Spanish” in the WVU Department of Foreign Languages’
Newsletter. 2005 (3).

“And What About Service?” in *West Virginia University Alumni Magazine*, Fall 2001
(47-48).

“Report on the *IV Seminario acerca de la calidad de la educación: intercambio de experiencias de profesionales cubanos y norteamericanos*” in *The West Virginia FACDIS Newsletter*, Vol XVII, No.4 (April 1997).

Presentations

- 2014 Invited guest on WVU’s radio station U92 on “*Música brasileira*”
- Invited speaker for CHISPA Planning Session (Spanish Immersion
Festival) – Summer Institute 2015 - Martinsburg, WV
- “Languages of the World: Portuguese” – Osher Lifelong Learning
Institute at West Virginia University
- 2012 Invited guest on the Brazilian radio show *Cantinho*
Brasileiro No Radio – Carnegie Mellon University - Pittsburgh, PA
- “‘What’s Going On? Promoting Cultural Awareness Through Current
Events in the L2 Classroom’” at the WVLFTA F 2012 Conference,
Fairmont State University, Fairmont, WV
- 2010 “‘Adjá-Adjá y Compañero en una jornada ordinaria’: la representación del
ciudadano como pícaro en Guinea Ecuatorial” at the II Congreso
Internacional Estudios Literarios Hispanoaffricanos – Madrid, Spain
- 2009 “Dark Voices: Phases and Facets of Afro-Brazilian Poetry” – West Virginia
University Brazilian Student Association Lecture Series, West Virginia
University
- “Communication Through Culture: Foreign Language Immersion” at the
SCOLT/FLAG/SEALLT Conference – Atlanta, Georgia
- 2007 “Religious Syncretism: African Religions and Catholicism” – for the Center
for Black Culture Series on Afro-Brazilian Culture, West Virginia University
- “‘The Foreign Language Immersion Experience: Communication Through
Culture at the High School and Middle School Levels’” at the WVFLTA
Fall Conference – Parkersburg, WV

- 2006 “Reflections on the Hispanic Immigrant Experience” – for WVU Extension course – Martinsburg, WV
- “*Literatura e Identidade Hispanoamericana*” at ULBRA, Canoas, Brasil
- 2005 “Brazil” – for the Global Education Task Force, WVU Extension, West Virginia University
- “Brazilian Film and Social Commentary”-for the *Mesa Redonda*: Iberoamerican Discussion Series, West Virginia University
- 2004 “Mothers of the Revolution: the Maternal Figure in *El tiempo de las mariposas*” at the 29th Annual Colloquium on Literature and Film, West Virginia University
- “Hispanic Cultures and People in West Virginia: Innovative Advocacy and Education” at the WVFLTA Fall Conference – Morgantown, WV
- 2003 “The Image of Miscegenation in Hispanic American Literature” at the II Seminário Internacional de Língua e Literatura – ULBRA, Canoas, Brazil
- “But You’ll Understand More Than You Think: Teaching Reading Strategies to Foreign Language Learners” (Workshop) – ULBRA, Canoas, Brazil
- “Hispanics in the United States” – for WVU Summer Extension Course – Community Technical College, Martinsburg, WV
- 2002 Africa vista desde fuera y desde dentro: la poesía de las Antillas y de Guinea Ecuatorial” at the 27th Colloquium on Literature and Film, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV.
- “Instruction and Commitment: Including Afro-Hispanic Literature in the Graduate Curriculum—The Case of West Virginia University” at the IX Seminario Científico Acerca de la Calidad de la Educación: Intercambio *Entre Profesionales Cubanos y Norteamericanos*, Matanzas, Cuba
- 2001 “C.H.I.S.P.A.: Creating Cultural Sparks Through the Language Immersion Camp Experience” at the *VII Seminario*, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba
- “Juan Pablo Sojo: Preservationist of African Traditions in Venezuela” at the African Literature Association, Richmond, Virginia
- “Afro-Hispanic Literature / Literatura Afrohispana, análisis e intercambio” at CEMANAHUAC, Comunidad Educativa, Cuernavaca, Mexico

- 1999 “Keeping C.H.I.S.P.A. Alive: Connecting the Spanish Immersion Camp Experience to the West Virginia High School Classroom” at the WVFLTA Annual Conference, Charleston, WV
- 1998 “Issues of Social Justice Through Literature” at the 1998 Latin America Studies Congress for the session “Perspectives on Cuba: Conscience, Courage, and Commitment to Social Justice,” Chicago, Illinois
- “Reading Another World: The Benefits of the ‘Literature in Translation’ Course” at the *V Seminario*, Cienfuegos, Cuba
- 1997 “Visiones de Cuba: la enseñanza de la literatura cubana desde la perspectiva afrocéntrica” at the *IV Seminario*, Manzanillo, Cuba
- 1995 “Las tres Juanas: la locura como rebeldía en *Del amor y otros demonios*” at the 16th Annual Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Cincinnati
- 1993 “*Changó, el gran putas*: An Afrocentric Perspective of the American Experience” at the International Research Conference on Afro-Hispanic Literature and Criticism, University of Missouri-Columbia
- 1992 “Diplomat Abroad, Activist at Home” as part of the James Weldon Johnson Series, West Virginia University
- 1991 “You, Me, We: Defining the Self in Helena Parente Cunha’s *Mulher no Espelho* at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, Georgia
- “De conflicto a conciliación: el mestizaje en *Nochebuena negra* de Juan Pablo Sojo” at the Latin American Studies Association Congress, Washington, DC
- 1990 “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: the Characterizations of the *Afro-colombianas* in *Chambacú: corral de negros*” at the Hispanic Languages and Literatures Conference, Loyola-Marymount University, Los Angeles, Calif.
- “Sexuality Within a ‘Racial Democracy’: The *Mulatas* of Jorge Amado’s *Tenda dos Milagres*” at the Louisiana Conference on Hispanic Languages
- 1987 “Two Native Sons: African Identity in the Poetry of Aimé Césaire and Nicolás Guillén” at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky
- 1988 “Creator and Critic: the Role of the Narrator in *A Hora da Estrela* by

Clarice Lispector” at the M.I.F.L.C., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee

“Truth and Fabrication in *O Lustre* by Clarice Lispector” at the Southeast Conference on Foreign Languages and Literatures, Rollins College, Orlando, Florida

Presentation of Syllabus Project on Brazilian culture and civilization in a workshop on “Including Brazil in a Latin American Studies Curriculum” at the Latin American Studies Association Congress, New Orleans, La.

“Two Views of *Mestizaje*: Rómulo Gallegos and Juan Pablo Sojo” at K.F.L.C., University of Kentucky

1986 “The Femininity of *Sab* by Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda” at the Pennsylvania Foreign Language Conference. Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

“Beyond the Stereotype: the Characterization of the *Mulata* in *Clara dos Anjos*” at the S.C.F.L.L., Rollins College

“The Alienated Rebel: the Afro-Hispanic Revolutionary in the Novels of Rómulo Gallegos” at the West Virginia University Colloquium on Literature and Film

Teaching Experience

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

2009-2016 Coordinator of Basic (Brazilian) Portuguese Program

1985-Present Elementary, Intermediate, Advanced Spanish
Peninsular Literature (1800-Present), Spanish American Literature, Spanish Culture. Capstone course; Foreign Literature in Translation-
Brazilian Literature in Translation, Spanish Literature in Translation, Brazilian Women Writers, Elementary and Intermediate Portuguese; Afro-Hispanic Literature, Latin American Women Writers, Latin American Novel and Short Story, 20th-21st-Century Latin American Literature (graduate courses)

2009 “How to Study a Foreign Language” Workshop for the WVU Center for Black Culture and Research’s STARS (Students Reaching for and Achieving Success) Program

2005-2007 Director, WVU Summer Study Abroad Program in Brazil –

ULBRA

- 2003, 2004 Director, WVU Summer Study Abroad Program in Matanzas, Cuba
- 2000-Present Academic Coordinator – C.H.I.S.P.A. (Spanish-language immersion project)
- 1998-2000 Academic Coordinator – C.H.I.S.P.A. (Spanish-language immersion week-long summer camp)
- 1998, 2000 Director, WVU Summer Study Abroad Program in Cuernavaca, Mexico
- 1994-1995 Course Coordinator – Elementary Spanish

Summers

- 1986, '88, '90-'94 English as a Foreign Language
- 1995, 1996 Business English for (Colombian) Executives
- 1998, 2000, 2002 Instructor for C.H.I.S.P.A. (advanced and intermediate classes)

Courses Designed

“Writing in the Hispanic World” – An undergraduate course in which students enhance their skills in reading, writing, and comprehension through expository and literary readings as well as other cultural texts. Evaluation methods: regular writing assignments, quizzes, examinations.

“Issues in the Hispanic World” – An undergraduate capstone course that is divided into modules the “*La tierra y el pueblo*,” “*Literatura y sociedad*,” “*La ecología*,” “*La expresión artística*,” “*Temas contemporáneos*.” Current topics specific to Spain, Spanish America, and Ecuatorial Guinea are examined through the reading and discussion of Carlos Fuentes’s *El espejo enterrado*, selected articles, and news items from countries of the students’ choice. Evaluation methods: presentations, short essays on each module, research paper, and portfolio.

“Hispanic Presence in the World” – An undergraduate capstone course that is divided into the modules “*La hispanidad*,” “*Las influencias hispanas*,” “*El mundo hispano actual*,” “*Hispanos eminentes*,” and “*Investigaciones*.” Topics related to identity and the contributions of Hispanic cultures to the world are examined through the reading and discussion of *El espejo enterrado*, selected articles, and news items from countries of the students’ choice. Evaluation methods: presentations, short essays on each module, research paper, and portfolio.

“Brazilian Literature in Translation” – An undergraduate course that gives students an overview of the literature within an historical context, encompassing the colonial period

to the present. Readings: prose works from the 19th and 20th centuries, with special emphasis on the novel. Evaluation methods: class discussions, student presentations, midterm paper, final examination. A writing course was designed to include the same subject matter using these evaluative methods: short papers, a take-home examination, a final paper, and a final examination. Revisions are encouraged for the short papers and a draft version of the final research paper is required.

“Brazilian Culture and Civilization” (offered at undergraduate and graduate levels). Brazilian history and national identity are examined through various readings, including a course text. Selected readings by Brazilians (in translation) and non-Brazilians representing a variety of perspectives on the land and its diverse population are assigned and discussed. Evaluation methods: midterm, oral presentations, and final research paper.

“Caribbean Literature” – (offered at undergraduate and graduate levels). The literature of Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic are examined with particular emphasis on the African presence in these countries. Evaluation methods: presentations, commentaries on peers’ presentations, final research paper.

“Afro-Hispanic Literature” – A graduate level course in which the works of writers of African descent from the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, Colombia, Venezuela, and Central America are read and analyzed within the context of negritude. Through class discussions and group in-class projects students examine the authors’ constructions of personal, racial, and national identities. Evaluation methods: presentations and peer commentaries, final research paper.

“Spanish American Literature in Translation” – This undergraduate course presents students with a variety of twentieth-century literature in translation by Spanish American poets, novelists, and playwrights. The characteristics of major literary trends are discussed and course texts are read within the contexts of these trends. Evaluation methods: short oral reports, short reaction papers, tests, final research paper on a novel of each student’s choice.

“Early Spanish American Literature” – An undergraduate course in which students read selected indigenous works (translated to Spanish), selections by authors documenting the arrival of Europeans, texts from the colonial period through independence. Evaluation methods: oral presentation, peer commentary, quizzes, final examination.

“Readings in Spanish”- In this undergraduate course students learn reading strategies that they will need to read and comprehend real-life texts and the literary selections that they will encounter in the upper-level courses of the Spanish major program. Evaluation methods: examinations, journal, homework assignments.

“Portuguese” (Elementary, Intermediate) – In this four-semester course sequence the basic grammatical structures of the language are taught through the use of textbook lessons, authentic texts, and audio-visual programs. In the first two semesters the objectives are: to develop basic speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills;

and to become familiar with the cultures of Lusophone countries. During the last two semesters, in addition to the aforementioned objectives, the students are encouraged to improve the four skills through conversation, reading culture-based materials, and writing compositions. Evaluation methods: periodic written examinations, occasional quizzes, presentations, and oral proficiency interviews.

Committees and Boards

2016 – 2017

Undergraduate Committee; Honors and Awards Committee; Latin American Studies Faculty Associate; WVU Center for Women's and Gender Studies Faculty Associate

2015 – 2016

Department Faculty Evaluation and Undergraduate Committees; Latin American Studies Faculty Associate; WVU Center for Women's and Gender Studies Faculty Associate

2014 – 2015

Department Undergraduate and Honors and Awards Committees; Latin American Studies Faculty Associate; WVU Center for Women's and Gender Studies Faculty Associate

2013 -2014

Department Advising and Undergraduate (Chair) Committees; Brazil Festival Organizational Committee

2012 – 2013

Department Undergraduate and Advising Committee; WVU Center for Women's and Gender Studies Faculty Associate and member of Center's Scholarship and Awards Committee

2011 - 2012

Department Advising and Faculty Evaluation Committees; WVU Cultural Attaché Latin American Subcommittee; Women's Studies Faculty Associate

2010

Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Dean Search Committee

2009

Department of Foreign Languages' Undergraduate and Search Committees, Promotion and Tenure Revisions Task Force; Women's Studies Faculty Associate

2008-2009

Department of Foreign Languages' Undergraduate, Honors and Awards, Search Committees, Faculty Evaluation Committee; Africana Studies Faculty Associate

2007 – 2008

Department of Foreign Languages' Undergraduate, Honors and Awards, Search Committees; Africana Studies Faculty Associate

2006 - 2007

Department of Foreign Languages' Faculty Evaluation, Curriculum and Assessment, Undergraduate, Honors and Awards, Search Committees

2005 - 2007

WVU Faculty Senate

2004

WVU Faculty Senate; member of Faculty Senate Committee on Committees

2003 - 2005

Women's Studies Faculty Associate; Scholarship and Awards Committee, Mossburg Grant Selection Committee; Africana Studies Faculty Associate

2004-2005

WVU Faculty Senate; Committee on Committees

2000-2002

WVU Faculty Senate; Senate Faculty Welfare Committee

2002

Women's Studies Faculty Associate; Programming and Scholarship and Awards Committees

Africana Studies Faculty Associate

Department of Foreign Languages Committees: Curriculum, Colloquium, Search Committee

2001

Department of Foreign Languages Standing Committees: Study Abroad, Student Recruitment and Publicity, Honors and Awards, Faculty Evaluation

1999-2000

Dept. of Foreign Languages Standing Committees: Student Recruitment and Publicity, Study Abroad, Tuition Waiver

1997-98

Dept. of Foreign Languages Standing Committees: Student Recruitment and Publicity, Chair; Faculty Evaluation Honors and Awards

Africana Studies Associate

Women's Studies Faculty Associate; Dickinson Planning Committee (for 1998 Dickinson Symposium-Center for Women's Studies)

1996-97

WVU Multicultural Committee

Dept. of Foreign Languages' Standing Committees: Student Recruitment and Publicity, Chair; Graduate Student Admissions and Assistantships; Study Abroad; Tuition Waiver Center for Women's Studies Faculty Associate Committee for Center-Funded Grants; CWS Selection Committee for Scholarships and Awards
Center for Black Culture and Research Faculty Associate

1994-95 Department of Foreign Languages Search Committee

1991-92

Faculty Committee of WVU Center for Black Culture and Research

Dept. of Foreign Languages Search Committee

Planning Committee for the JoAnne and Charles Dickinson Symposium in Women's Studies

1990

University Faculty Senate Instruction Committee

Executive Committee of WVU Center for Black Culture

State Board of Directors, Partners of the Americas

1988

Women's Studies Curriculum Committee

1987-89

Academic Advisory Board for WVU Center for Black Culture

1987

University Senate Curriculum Committee

Offices Held

2014 – Present

Vice-President, Council of International Programs Board of Directors

2009

WVFLTA Representative at SCOLT Leadership meeting (SCOLT SCOLT/FLAG/SEALLT Conference – Atlanta, Georgia)

2008-2009

Co-editor, 2007 African Literature Association Annual

2007

Co-convener of the African Literature Association Conference

2004-2006

Vice-President, Council of International Programs Board of Directors

2003 - 2004

President, C.I.P. Board of Directors (member since 1993)

2001-2002

Vice-President, C.I.P. Board of Directors

1998-Present

Faculty Advisor to Spanish Honorary, Sigma Delta Pi and WVU Brazilian Association

1996

Guest Editor of 1996 issue of JALAS&L: "Race and Gender in Latin America and Iberophone Africa"; Section: Portuguese America (Arts / Literature)

1992-1993

Chair, Portuguese-Brazilian Session (S.A.M.L.A.)

Languages

Spanish – near native fluency

Portuguese – excellent reading knowledge, high level of fluency

French – good reading knowledge

German, Catalan – fair reading knowledge

Professional Associations

American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, member

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, member

West Virginia Foreign Language Teachers' Association, Executive Committee (1988, 2005-2006, 2007-2008)

WVFLTA, member

Travel Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Spain

References Available upon request

