

**RENEE ALEXANDER CRAFT**

Department of Communication Studies  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
E-mail: renee\_alexander@unc.edu

308 Bingham Hall/ CB# 3285  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599  
phone: (919) 962-4957

404 Summer Breeze Dr.  
Durham, NC 27704  
phone: (919) 381-1205

**EDUCATION:**

- Ph.D. Northwestern University (June 2005)  
Department of Performance Studies  
Dissertation: "Art as Survival: The Congo Tradition of Portobelo, Panama"  
Adviser: Dwight Conquergood (deceased)  
Adviser: E. Patrick Johnson
- M.A. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (June 1999)  
Department of Communication Studies  
Thesis: "Adrian Piper: *Being* black, *Performing* blackness"
- B.A. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (May 1995)  
Department of English

**AWARDS AND HONORS:**

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity<br>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill                    | 2005-2007     |
| Fulbright Grant<br>Panama   | 2002-2003     |
| Northwestern University Graduate Research Grant<br>US National Archives and Library of Congress<br>Washington, DC     | 2002          |
| Latin American/Caribbean Studies Summer Research Grant  | 2001          |
| University Fellowship   | 2000-2004     |
| Ahijada Fellowship<br>Spelman College Summer Art Colony   | 2000 and 2001 |
| Order of the Golden Fleece<br>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's oldest and most prestigious honor society | 1995          |
| Francis Phillips Travel Scholarship<br>South Africa and Zimbabwe  | 1995          |
| North Carolina Fellow<br>Selective four-year leadership development program   | 1992-2005     |

**TEACHING/ RESEACH EXPERIENCE:**

Instructor, Department of Communication Studies University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Spring 2006
Graduate Research Assistant, Department of African American Studies Northwestern University	2004-2005
Instructor, Department of Performance Studies Northwestern University	Fall 2002
Teaching Assistant, Department of Performance Studies Northwestern University	Spring 2001
Senior Research Fellow, Institute of African American Research University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	1998-1999
Instructor, Department of Communication Studies University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Fall 1998
Teaching Assistant, Department of Communication Studies University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Spring 1998

**COURSES:**

## Introductory Undergraduate Courses:

## The Analysis and Performance of Literature

Core course required of all Performance Studies majors. Also fulfilled a general studies requirement

Developed course syllabus

Taught class of 19 freshmen and sophomores using a common curriculum

Developed and implemented lectures and workshops to meet course objectives

## Introduction to the Performance of Literature

Core course required of all Performance Studies majors

Developed course syllabus

Taught class consisting of 17 students using a common curriculum

Developed and implemented lectures and workshops to meet course objectives

## Upper-Division Undergraduate Courses:

## Performance of African-American Literature

Junior/senior course

Developed course syllabus

Taught class of 30 juniors and seniors

Developed and implemented lectures and workshops to meet course objectives

## Performance of Black Literature

Junior/senior course

Served as a Teaching Assistant for 25 students

Implemented workshops and discussions to complement lectures by primary instructor

**DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE:**

Fundraising Development/Program Director Taller Portobelo: Crossroads of the Arts, Sciences and Humanities in the Americas Portobelo, Panama/Atlanta, Georgia	Fall 2005-
Development Consultant, Chicago State University	Jan-Sept. 2000
Development/Community Outreach Officer, Carolina Union Performing Arts Series, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	1996-1998

**CONFERENCE PLANNING EXPERIENCE:**

“Black Diaspora Performance: A global circuitry of creativity, communication, and citizenship” Institute of Diaspora Studies, Northwestern University Co-organized two-day symposium blurring the boundaries between conventional and artistic analysis and expression focused on contemporary issues of the Black Diaspora, as well as the variegated citizenry who conceptualize and experience their diasporic affiliations and citizenship in everyday life	Fall 2005
“Crossing Disciplines: Race and the Next Millennium” Institute of African American Studies Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Coordinated three-day conference focused on interdisciplinary black Diaspora research by emerging scholars.	Spring 1999

**RELEVANT UNIVERSITY SERVICE:**

Recruitment, Office of Minority Affairs Northwestern University	Fall 2004
African American Alumni Advisory Board, Carolina First Campaign University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Spring 2004
Graduate Student Representative, Department of Performance Studies Northwestern University	2001-2002
Advisory Board, Spelman College Portobelo, Panama Summer Art Colony Spelman College	Fall 2002-
Board of Artistic Directors, Wordshed production company Department of Communication Studies University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	1998-1999
Advisory Board, Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	1992-1995
Editorial Board Chair, sauti mpya African American Literary Magazine University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	1992-1994
Founder & Editor, sauti mpya, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	1992-1994

**PUBLICATIONS:**

Alexander, Renee Jacqueline. Akoma, Afena & Aya. Charlotte, NC: Invictus Publishing, 2003.

**NON-ACADEMIC WRITING:**

Alexander, Renee Jacqueline. "Writing Down the Bones." Independent Weekly. 14-20 April 2004: 24-31.

**JURIED CONFERENCE PAPERS:**

"Expressing black subjectivities: Mapping the politics of nation, culture and ethnic identity in Afro-diasporic performance practices," Performance Studies International Conference, London, England June 15-18, 2006

"Between the Devil and the Deep Blues Sea: Twentieth Century Panamanian "Blackness," Identity and Belonging," Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico March 15-19, 2006

"Mi Mundo/ My World: Creating Visual Discourses across Diaspora," Association of Black Anthropologist Conference, Panama City, Panama, June 17, 2002

"La historia de los Congos de Portobelo: Translating History Through the Body," Performance Studies International Conference, Mainz, Germany, March 31, 2001

"The Performance of Blackness in Shakespeare's Othello," African Heritage Studies Association Thirtieth Annual Conference, New Orleans, March 26, 1998

**PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE, LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS:**

"When the Devil Rides the Bus: Spring 2006  
Toward a Black Diaspora Circum-Local Paradigm"

Institute of African American Research

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Wrote and presented 60-minute seminar as part of the Institute's "Race-ing Research/Researching Race" series

"¡Los gringos vienen!"/ "The gringos are coming!": Fall 2005

Female Respectability and the politics of Congo tourist presentations in Portobelo, Panama"

Institute of Diaspora Studies

Northwestern University

Wrote and presented 20-minute presentation as a comparative analysis of female Congo identity performance for predominately local audiences and predominately tourist audiences.

"Blackness in 20th Century Panamanian Nationalism," Summer 2004

The Center for Global Culture and Communication Summer Institute

Northwestern University

Created and lead 40-minute presentation/discussion on the section of my dissertation project which places Congo culture within the context of race and nationalism

"Solar Reiki"

English Department Spring 2004

University of Panama

Panama City, Panama

Wrote and conducted 45-minute bilingual presentation/discussion of six poems. (Three performed in English/three in Spanish)

- “Akoma, Afena, & Aya” Fall 2003  
 Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History  
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC  
 Wrote, directed and participated in 45-minute ensemble performance of my debut poetry collection
- “Poetry in Collaboration” Spring 2003  
 English Department  
 Spelman College  
 Atlanta, GA  
 Conducted 90-minute workshop/presentation with ten creative writing students focused on creating poetry in conversation with the visual and performing arts
- “The Art of Survival: The Congo Tradition of Portobelo, Panama” Spring 2003  
 Honors Program  
 Spelman College  
 Atlanta, GA  
 Created and lead 60-minute presentation/discussion of my dissertation project focused on identity politics and ethnographic research
- “Bailando Congo: A Critical Ethnography” Summer 2003  
 Fulbright Conference of Scholars in the Central American Region  
 San Jose, Costa Rica  
 Created and lead 45-minute presentation/discussion on ethnographic research being advanced by 2003 Fulbright
- “El Museo Congo” Summer 2003  
 San Jeronimo Fort  
 Portobelo, Panama  
 Created and implemented performative museum of Congo culture in collaboration with seven local Congo visual artists and three artists from the United States, including myself
- “Ferias de Portobelo XXI: An Evening of Bilingual and Bicultural Poetry” Summer 2003  
 Spelman College Summer Art Colony  
 Casa Góngora  
 Panama City, Panama  
 Wrote and performed two original poems as part of a collaboration between five US and four Panamanian poets. Each poem was presented in both English and Spanish
- “Mojonga: A Performative Altar to Former Congo Queens” Summer 2003  
 Taller Portobelo, Portobelo, Panama in conjunction with Spelman College  
 Created and implemented an installation altar as part of my ethnographic process
- “Dancing with the devil at the crossroads: La historia de los Congos de Portobelo” Spring 2002  
 Department of Performance Studies  
 Northwestern University  
 Evanston, IL  
 Wrote and directed 60-minute ensemble performance based on my dissertation research
- “Making the Sign of the Cross” Taller Portobelo Summer 2001  
 Portobelo, Panama in conjunction with Spelman College  
 Created and implemented an interactive performance installation project and altar as part of my ethnographic process
- “Letters to My Father”

- Department of Performance Studies  
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL  
Served as supervising director for 50-minute ensemble performance
- Spring 2001
- “La historia de los Congos de Portobelo:  
Translating History Through the Body”  
Department of Performance Studies  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, IL  
Wrote, directed and performed one-person 30-minute recital performance based on  
dissertation research
- Spring 2001
- “Fragile Union” Department of Communication Studies”  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Co-adapted, directed and performed 40-minute script based on the work of writer, activist,  
and teacher Joan Nestle
- Fall 1999
- “Adrian Piper: Being Black/Performing Blackness”  
Department of Communication Studies  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Adapted, directed and participated in a 45-minute ensemble performance based on the work  
of artist and scholar Adrian Piper
- Fall 1998
- “Adrian Piper: Being Black/Performing Blackness”  
Tin Can: A festival of one-person performances  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Adapted, directed and performed one-person performance based on the work of artist and  
scholar Adrian Piper
- Summer 1998

**REFEREES:**

E. Patrick Johnson  
Director of Graduate Studies  
Department of Performance Studies  
African American Studies  
Northwestern University  
1920 Campus Drive  
Evanston, IL 60208  
email: [e-johnson10@northwestern.edu](mailto:e-johnson10@northwestern.edu)  
phone: (847) 467-2756  
fax: (847) 467-2389

D. Soyini Madison  
Department of Communication Studies  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
308 Bingham Hall/ CB# 3285  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599  
email: [dmadison@email.unc.edu](mailto:dmadison@email.unc.edu)  
phone: (919) 962-4944

Arturo Lindsay  
Spelman College  
350 Spelman Lane S.W.  
Box 296  
Atlanta, GA 30314 – 4399  
email: [alindsay@spelman.edu](mailto:alindsay@spelman.edu)  
phone: (404) 270-5452

Michael Hanchard  
Director  
Institute for Diaspora Studies  
Department of Political Science  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, IL 60208  
email: [mgh223@northwestern.edu](mailto:mgh223@northwestern.edu)  
phone: (847) 491 4848  
fax: (847) 491-8985

Margaret Thompson Drewal  
Chair  
Department of Performance Studies  
Northwestern University  
1920 Campus Drive  
Evanston, IL 60208  
email: [mtd859@northwestern.edu](mailto:mtd859@northwestern.edu)  
phone: (847) 491-3275  
fax: (847) 467-2389

Mary Weismantel  
Director  
Program of Latin American and  
Caribbean Studies  
Department of Anthropology  
1810 Hinman Ave.  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, IL 60208  
email: [mjweis@northwestern.edu](mailto:mjweis@northwestern.edu)  
phone: (847) 491-4822  
fax: (847) 467-1778