

Uchenna Pamela Vasser, Ph.D.

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<u>Expertise</u>	Specialist in Afro-Latin/Latin American Cultures and Literatures; Spanish Language Instruction; Generalist in Latin American and Peninsular Literatures; ESL Certified.
<u>Degrees</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD – Romance Languages – Spanish, May 2002, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dissertation Title: “Nationalism and the African Worldview in <i>Changó, el gran putas</i>.” • MA – Romance Languages and Literatures, March 1988, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. • BA – Psychology Major, Spanish Minor, July 1983, Schiller International University, Madrid Campus, Spain. • CERTIFICATE – La Universidad Comillas de Madrid (Centro Darek-Nyumba), Spain, April 1981.
<u>Certificates</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPI/SOPI Certificate in Assessment Training Online, Center for Applied Linguistics, 2011. • Curso para Profesionales del Español de la Escuela de Verano de Madrid, 2004. • Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies, 2002. • ESL Certification, 1996. • Diploma, Curso de Lengua y Cultura Española, 1981.
<u>Languages</u>	<p>Spanish Native fluency Certificate – Centro Darek-Nyumba Minor – Schiller International University MA, – The Ohio State University PhD, - UNC-Chapel Hill</p> <p>Portuguese Working Knowledge PhD, -UNC-Chapel Hill</p>
<u>Current Positions:</u> <u>Academic</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate Professor of Spanish • Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Studies Program • Lecturer, Department of Occupational Therapy • Advisor, Spanish Language Program
<u>Courses routinely taught</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary Spanish I; Elementary Spanish II • Intermediate Spanish I; Intermediate Spanish II • Advanced Spanish Conversation • Advanced Spanish Composition • Hispanic Civilization • Cultures of the Spanish-speaking World (Online) • Basic Spanish for the Health Care (Online)
<u>Committees</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Advisor, Study Abroad Programs in Cadiz and Seville Spain, 2011 - present. • Advisor, The Spanish Language Club –<i>Los carneros hispánicos</i>. • Supervising Faculty/Resident Instructor Spanish Language Immersion Program (Study Abroad in Querétaro, Mexico), 2006 - present. • Member, Academic Assessment Committee, 2008 – present. • Member, International Programs Committee, 2008 – present. • Member, General Education Task Force, 2009 to present. • Advisor/Coordinator for Uruguay, University of North Carolina Exchange Program (UNCEP), 2006 - present.
<u>Research Interests</u>	<p>My research interests in recent years, while still firmly anchored in Afro-Hispanic studies, intimate three main approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A focus on the historical and cultural linkages between Africa and the African Diaspora in the Americas. Specifically, this brand of scholarship contrasts content and aesthetics in works by Afro-Hispanics writing from within West Africa and the Americas, and their English-speaking counterparts in West Africa. One of my conference presentations for instance, hinged upon a New Historicist approach to draw comparisons between the aesthetics of Colombia’s Manuel Zapata Olivella and the Nigerian Ben Okri to uncover how both writers appropriate commonalities of history and culture to discern a counter discourse of the African/African Diasporan milieu. • The second approach is the result of my participation in the NEH Institute in Ireland in 2008. My presentation in Cartagena, Colombia also in 2008 titled “Anima Mundi: Myths and Cultural Nationalism in W.B. Yeats’ the Cuchulain Plays and M. Zapata Olivella’s <i>Changó, el gran putas</i>.” looked at the appropriation of mythology by these writers to forge a discourse on cultural nationalism.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultimately, my research has focused on gender issues and the Afro-Hispanic writer. In particular, I have studied the representation of women in the works of the Afro-Colombian Manuel Zapata Olivella resulting to-date, in several conference presentations, and an article.
<u>Publications</u>	<p>“Lo africano en la identidad nacional cubana: Sab de Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda.” International Interdisciplinary Journal of Humanities and Arts/Chinua Achebe Annual Lectures, 2012.</p> <p>“Taking It Global,” collaboration with Dr. S. L. Montgomery. Published in the Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council (JNCHC), 2011.</p> <p>“The Double Bind: Women and the Environment in <i>Chambacú, Black Slum</i> and <i>A Saint is Born in Chimá</i> by Manuel Zapata Olivella.” Submitted to the Journal of the African Literature Association (JALA).</p> <p>Contributing author, FINAL REPORT “<i>W.B. Yeats: A Reassessment</i>” An NEH Institute for College and University Teachers Galway, Dublin, Sligo, Ireland July-August 2008. http://www.yeatssociety.com</p> <p><i>Nationalism and the African Worldview: Changó, el gran putas</i> by Manuel Zapata Olivella. Diss. UNC-Chapel Hill, 2002. Ann Arbor: ProQuest/UMI, 2002. (Publication No. 3047086)</p>
<u>Conference Presentations</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Esteban Montejo is no Abakuá: Biography, Orality, and the Nigerian Hinterland in the (Re)Construction of a Cuban National Identity”, ICCL, Havana, Cuba, November 2011. “The Nigerian Hinterland, Abakuá Society, and the Construction of Cuba’s National Identity: A Rereading of <i>Biography of a Runaway Slave</i> by Miguel Barnet”, CLA, Spartanburg, SC, April, 2011. The Double Bind: Women and the Environment in <i>Chambacú, Black Slum</i> and <i>A Saint is Born in Chimá</i> by Manuel Zapata Olivella, ALA, Tucson, AZ, 2009. “Anima Mundi: Manuel Zapata Olivella, William Butler Yeats, and Ben Okri”, ALARA, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, South America, 2008. “Championing an Integrative Nationhood: Manuel Zapata Olivella and the Black Perspective”, CLA, Charleston, South Carolina, 2008. “Migrant Deities: A Comparative Reading of José Antonio Ramos’ <i>Caniquí</i> and Ben Okri’s <i>Astonishing the Gods</i>”, CLA, Miami, Florida, 2007. “Life Cycles: The Transmigration of Cultural Forms and Practice,” 5th Latin American Literatures and Cultures Conference, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 2006. “Life Cycles and Magic Realism in Okri’s <i>The Famished Road</i> and Zapata Olivella’s <i>Changó, el gran putas</i>”, CLA, Athens, Georgia, 2005.
<u>Grants/Awards</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEH Yeatsian Institute, Ireland, 2008. NEH Summer Institute, Peru, 2008. NYU Faculty Resource Seminar “Global Mythologies”, 2005. UNCF/MELLON Faculty Seminar, Goree Institute, Dakar, Senegal, 2004. AECI: BECAS/MAE Para Profesores Extranjeros de Español, June-August, 2004. Dillard University – UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROJECT “Making Foreign Language Education Work at Dillard University: Creating and Integrative-Cultural Module for Spanish Instruction at Dillard University”, Fall 2002. NEH Summer Institute on Teaching the African Diaspora: An Afro-Romance Approach, July, 2001. The University of North Carolina’s Board of Governor’s Faculty Doctoral Study Assignment Program Award, 1998 to 1999.
<u>Membership in Professional Organizations</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asociación de literatura femenina hispánica, ALFH Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference, MIFLC College Language Association, CLA African Literature Association, ALA Afro-Latin/American Research Association, ALARA Foreign Language Association of North Carolina, FLANC Consortium in Latin American Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University
<u>International Experience</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educated in the United Kingdom, Spain, and the USA. Teach and reside in Querétaro, Mexico most summers (since 2006). Traveled to Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Morocco, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Portugal, Puerto Rico, The Republic of Ireland,

	Senegal, Spain, and the United Kingdom (England, Scotland & Wales.)
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