

**Adriana Chira**  
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**EDUCATION**

- 2016 Ph.D. Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History, University of Michigan  
2008 M.A. Sociocultural Anthropology, Cornell University  
2005 B.A. Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge University (King's College)  
\*First Class and Doncaster Prize in History and Social and Political Sciences

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- 2016 – present Assistant Professor, Department of History, Emory University  
\*with affiliations in African Studies and in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

**BOOKS**

- 2022 **Patchwork Freedoms: Law, Slavery, and Race beyond Cuba's Plantations.** Cambridge University Press, The Afro-Latin America Series.

**PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES**

- Forthcoming "Race, Coloniality, and the Writing of Black and Indigenous Histories," *The Latin American Research Review* (review essay)
- 2021 "Freedom with Local Bonds: Custom and Manumission in the Age of Emancipation," *The American Historical Review* 126.3 (September), 949-977.
- 2021 "Ampliando los significados de sevicia: Los reclamos de protección corporal de los esclavos en la Cuba del siglo XIX," *Páginas: Revista Digital de la Escuela de Historia de la Universidad de Rosario* (Argentina) no. 33 (Sept./Oct.):  
<https://revistapaginas.unr.edu.ar/index.php/RevPaginas/article/view/546> [11,272 words]
- 2021 "Manumission, Custom, and the Laws of Slavery and Freedom in Latin America," *History Compass* (February) [5,962 words]
- 2019 "Atlantic Creoles," *Oxford Bibliography of Latin American Studies*, ed. Ben Vinson (New York: Oxford University Press) [11,900 words]
- 2018 "Affective Debts: Manumission by Grace and the Making of Gradual Emancipation Laws in Cuba, 1817-1868," *Law and History Review* 36.1 (winter), 1-33.  
\*Winner. Vanderwood Prize for best article on Latin American history published in a journal other than the Hispanic American Historical Review and The Americas in 2018. Conference on Latin American History (CLAH).

\*Winner. Best article on the nineteenth century published in 2018. Latin American Studies Association. Nineteenth Century Section.

\*Honorable Mention. Nupur Chaudhuri Prize for Best First Article in all fields of history published in 2017 and 2018. Coordinating Council for Women in History (affiliate of the AHA).

## BOOK REVIEWS

- 2021 *Becoming Free, Becoming Black: Race, Freedom, and Law in Cuba, Virginia, and Louisiana*, by Alejandro de la Fuente and Ariela Gross (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020), *ReVista*, *Harvard Review of Latin America*. Available at : <https://revista.drclas.harvard.edu/becoming-free-becoming-black/>
- 2021 *Revolutionary Masculinity and Racial Inequality: Gendering War and Politics in Cuba*, by Bonnie A. Lucero (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2018), *Hispanic American Historical Review* 101.2, 328-329.
- 2019 *Race and Nation in the Age of Emancipations*, by Whitney Nell Stewart and John Garrison Marks, eds. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2018) *Black Perspectives*, blog published by The African American Intellectual History Society. Available at: <https://www.aaihs.org/liberalism-emancipation-and-the-atlantic-world/>
- 2018 *Rethinking Slave Rebellion in Cuba: La Escalera and the Insurgencias of 1841-1844*, by Aisha K. Finch (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015), *Hispanic American Historical Review* 98.3, 526-528.
- 2016 *Conspirações da raça de cor: Escravidão, liberdade e tensões raciais em Santiago de Cuba (1864-1881)*, by Iacy Maia Mata (UNICAMP, 2015), *Revista Brasileira de Historia* 36.73, 267-270.
- 2016 *Le Code Noir: Idées reçues sur un texte symbolique*, by Jean-Fraçois Niort (Paris: Editions Cavalier Bleu, 2015), *Comparative Legal History* 2.4, 251-254.
- 2016 *Freedom's Mirror: Cuba and Haiti in the Age of Revolution*, by Ada Ferrer (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), *The New West Indian Guide* 90,3-4.
- 2016 *Conceiving Freedom: Women of Color, Gender, and the Abolition of Slavery in Havana and Rio de Janeiro*, by Camilla Cowling (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013), *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 35.2, 240-241.
- 2016 *Slavery and Antislavery in Spain's Atlantic Empire*, by Josep Maria Fradera and Christopher Schmidt-Nowara, eds. (London: Berghahn Books, 2012), *The Historian* 78.3, 520-522.
- 2014 *The Great African Slave Revolt of 1825: Cuba and the Fight for Freedom in Matanzas*, by Manuel Barcia (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2012), *The New West Indian Guide* 88, 85-229.
- 2013 *Voices of the Enslaved in Nineteenth-Century Cuba*, by Gloria García (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011), *The New West Indian Guide* 87.3-4, 383-385.

## OTHER WRITINGS (NOT PEER-REVIEWED)

- 2018 "A Forgotten Colony: Equatorial Guinea and Spain," *EuropeNow*, issue 15 (interdisciplinary journal published by the Council for European Studies at Columbia University). [4,639 words] Available at: <https://www.europenowjournal.org/2018/02/28/a-forgotten-colony-equatorial-guinea-and-spain/>

### **RESEARCH AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS (EXTERNAL)**

- 2022 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend
- 2022-3 Weatherhead Initiative in Global History Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2017-8 Agrarian Studies Fellowship, Yale University
- 2017-8 Mark Claster Mamolen fellowship at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Studies, Harvard University (declined)
- 2017 Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University (fall) (declined)
- 2016 Lydia Cabrera Award for original research on pre-1868 Cuban History, Conference on Latin American History (affiliate of the American Historical Association)
- 2012-3 Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2013 Public History Institute fellow, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University (July)
- 2012 Casa de Velázquez (École des hautes études hispaniques et ibériques) research award, Madrid (September)
- 2011 Scobie Award for Preliminary Dissertation Research, awarded by the Conference on Latin American History (affiliate of the American Historical Association) (Summer)

### **RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS (INTERNAL)**

- 2022 University Research Council/Halle Institute fellowship, Emory University
- 2017 University Research Council fellowship, Emory University (declined)
- 2018 Scholarly Writing and Publishing Grant from the Center for Faculty Development and Excellence
- 2015-6 Rackham School of Graduate Studies, Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2014-5 Alfredo Gutiérrez Dissertation Award, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center, University of Michigan
- 2013 Rackham School of Graduate Studies, John d'Arms Research Award, University of Michigan (summer)
- 2012 Rackham School of Graduate Studies, International Research Award, University of Michigan
- 2011 International Institute Individual Fellowship, University of Michigan (Summer 2011)
- 2010-1 FLAS-Portuguese, Academic Year Award, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center, University of Michigan

### **OTHER**

- 2002-5 University of Cambridge Overseas Trust Fellowship; undergraduate tuition
- 2000-1 Open Society (Soros) Foundation fellow in the U.K.

### **TEACHING RECOGNITIONS**

2020 and 2021 Phi Beta Kappa mentions as a faculty member who “has encouraged and helped students to excel and who exemplified intellectual rigor and enthusiasm for scholarly pursuits.”

### **INVITED TALKS, WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIA**

- 2022 “Patchwork Freedoms: Law, Slavery, and Race beyond Cuba’s Plantations,” Cambridge

- University Press webinar, April 18.
- 2022 “Patchwork Freedoms: Law, Slavery, and Race beyond Cuba’s Plantations,” Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lecture, Bonn Center for Slavery and Dependency Studies, May 9.
- 2021 “‘The Just Price’: The Meaning of Value in Markets in People in Nineteenth-Century Cuba,” The Max Plank Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, October 7.
- 2021 “Freedom with Local Bonds: Custom and Manumission in the Age of Emancipation,” Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Notre Dame University, April 7.
- 2021 “Freedom with Local Bonds: Afro-Descendant Cubans, Law, and Racial Identity, 1791-1868,” Harvard University, March 24.
- 2020 “Penal Colonies, Plantations, and the Re-making of the Spanish Empire, 1850s-1920s,” Wesleyan University, April 3. [cancelled Covid 19]
- 2020 “The Right to Freedom as the Right to State Protection: Children’s Rights to Restitution, Colonial Law, and Emancipation in Cuba, 1803-1868,” workshop at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, May 27. [cancelled Covid 19]
- 2020 “Black Local Governance on a Sugar Island: El Cobre during the Nineteenth Century,” part of “Cuban Slavery and the Atlantic World” conference, Yale University, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, November 6-7.
- 2019 “Becoming Free of Color: Afro-descendant Cubans and Racial Identity, 1791-1868,” Webb Lecture Series, University of Texas, Arlington, March 29-30.
- 2018 “‘Racial Confraternity’ Reconsidered: Becoming Free of Color in Cuba, 1803-1868,” Dirty History Seminar, History Department, University of Georgia, August 24, 2018.
- 2018 “Affective Debts: Manumission by Grace and the Making of Gradual Emancipation Laws in Cuba, 1817-1868,” Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition Brown Bag Series, Yale University, April 23.
- 2018 “Familias esclavas, derechos consuetudinarios y el comercio de esclavos transatlántico en una zona fronteriza del Caribe: Santiago de Cuba, 1820-1868,” at conference titled Las redes transnacionales del comercio ilegal de esclavos en el siglo XIX, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, May 21-23.
- 2018 “Silencing Race: Spatial Markings and Popular Race-Making in Eastern Cuba, 1820s-1860s,” Agrarian Studies Colloquium, Yale University, April 20.
- 2018 “From Promise to Contract: Freedom Suits in Santiago de Cuba, 1820s-1860s,” The Colonial and Postcolonial Studies Workshop, Emory University, November 15.
- 2018 “Becoming Free of Color: Slavery, Popular Racial Thought, and ‘Racial Confraternity’ in Eastern Cuba, 1803-1868,” Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies, Yale University, March 5.

- 2017 “Spain in West Africa after the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, 1860s-1890s,” Comparative Abolition in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans workshop, University of Leeds, September 22-23.
- 2016 “Uneasy Intimacies: Race, Family, and Property in Santiago de Cuba, 1803-1868, Mark Claster Mamolen Doctoral Dissertation Workshop, Harvard University, May.
- 2015 “‘Una libertad llena de trabas [A Freedom with Further Bonds]:’ Free People of Color, Property, and Social Networks in Santiago de Cuba, 1845-1865,” presented at conference held at Lancaster University, U.K., August 25-28.
- 2015 “Social Hierarchy and Color Status in Santiago de Cuba, 1845-1865,” Black Atlantic Symposium, History Department, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, October 2-3.
- 2014 “Between una vida vagabunda and Whitening: Strategies of Consolidating Freedom among People of Color in Santiago de Cuba after the Haitian Revolution, 1814-1846,” presented at conference titled Statuts, “races” et couleur dans l’Atlantique de l’Antiquité à nos jours: Les libres de couleur dans l’espace atlantique, Université de Nantes, February 13-14.
- 2013 “Entre memoria y actualidad: Haití como símbolo y presencia política en Oriente, 1817-1880,” presented at the workshop Cuba y la plantación esclavista: El territorio y el paisaje social, organized by the Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre, Havana and the Universitat Jaume I (Spain), Havana, November 9-10.
- 2011 “Visiones vernáculas del abolicionismo inglés en Cuba,” Hacer hablar los documentos workshop, Instituto de Cultura Juan Marinello, Havana, March 2.

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND ROUNDTABLES (FROM ABSTRACTS)

- 2022 “Expanding the Meanings of *Sevicia*: Enslaved People’s Claims to Bodily Protection in Santiago de Cuba (1810-1870),” Law and Society Association Meeting, Lisbon, July 13-16.
- 2022 Roundtable participant, “Blackness in Early Latin American Archives,” The American Historical Association Meeting, New Orleans, January 7.
- 2021 Roundtable participant, “Comparative Approaches to the Law of Slavery and Freedom,” The American Society for Legal History Meeting, New Orleans, November 6.
- 2021 “Protective States: *Restitutio ad Integrum* in Nineteenth-Century Cuba and Fernando Po, Seminar in Chronological Age,” The American Historical Association Meeting, Virtual Seminar, January 4.
- 2020 “From Plantations to Penal Colonies and Camps: Militarism in Cuba and West Africa, 1840s-1890s,” The Latin American Studies Association Meeting, Guadalajara, Mexico, May 13-16. [cancelled Covid 19]
- 2020 “The Commons, Casuistry, and the ‘Common Good’: Afro-descendants and Ownership by Possession in Eastern Cuba, 1815-1868,” The American Historical Association Meeting, New York City, January 3-6.
- 2019 Roundtable participant, Colonial Studies Committee Meeting: Historical Fact Formation and the Colonial Archives of Indigenous and Afro-descendant People, The American Historical Association Meeting, Chicago, January 3-6.
- 2019 “Affective Debts: Manumission by Grace and the Making of Gradual Emancipation Laws in Cuba, 1817-1868,” The American Historical Association Meeting, Chicago, January 3-6.

- 2018 “Wealth, Social Dependence, and Color Status in Santiago de Cuba, 1803-1868,” The Latin American Studies Association Meeting, Barcelona, May 23-26.
- 2018 “Racial Confraternity” Reconsidered: Becoming Free of Color in Cuba, 1803-1868, the Tepaske Seminar in Colonial Latin American History, Emory University, April 15.
- 2018 “The Study of Slavery and the Posthuman Turn,” Ecological Archives, a roundtable, Emory University, March 23.
- 2018 “Spain in West Africa after the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, 1860s-1890s,” The American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC, January 4-7.
- 2017 “The Bonds of Family: Family, Inequality, and the Making of the Free Population of Color in Santiago de Cuba, 1840s-1860s,” The Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders, and Sexualities, June 1-4.
- 2017 “Becoming Free of Color: Gender, Social Dependency, and Racial Taxonomies in Santiago de Cuba, 1840s-1860s,” The Latin American Studies Association Meeting, Lima, April 29-May 1.
- 2017 Roundtable participant, “Race and Free People of Color in Santiago de Cuba, 1820-1860,” for the Caribbean Studies Committee Roundtable, The American Historical Association Meeting, Denver, January 4-7, 2017.
- 2016 “The Politics of Owning: Family, Property, and Slave Ownership among Women of Color in Santiago de Cuba, 1828-1868,” The American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, January 7-10.
- 2015 “To Hold ‘as if Free’: Family, Property, and Slavery in Santiago de Cuba, 1820-1846,” The Latin American Studies Association Meeting, San Juan, May 28.
- 2015 “‘She still sold me like an animal’: Family and Property in Santiago de Cuba, 1803-1868,” Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan, February.
- 2013 “Race and Property: New Orleans Afro-Creoles and the Political Imaginary of a Revolutionary Caribbean, 1840-1890,” The Gulf South History and Humanities Conference, Pensacola, October 10-12.

#### **PANEL COMMENTARIES**

- 2018 Panel respondent, “Escravidão, direito e política no Brasil do século XIX,” The Latin American Studies Association Meetings, Barcelona, May 23-26.
- 2017 Panel respondent, “Slavery, Race, and Nation,” The Latin American Studies Association Meeting, Lima, April 29-May 1.
- 2017 Panel respondent, “Manifesting Emancipation: Land and Landlessness in the Late Nineteenth-Century Caribbean,” The North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting, Denver, November 3-5.

#### **PANELS ORGANIZED**

- 2022 “Blackness in Early Latin American Archives,” co-organizer, The American Historical Association Meeting, New Orleans, January 6-9.
- 2021 “Freedom before the Age of Revolution,” Colonial Studies Committee roundtable organizer, The American Historical Association Meeting, Seattle, January 7-10.

- 2020 “Enclosure Movements of the 19th Century: Views from the ‘Global South,’” two-part panel, panel organizer, American Historical Association Meeting, New York City, January 3-6.
- 2018 “The Lived Material (part I): Property, Race, and Social Dependency in Iberian Slave Societies,” panel co-organizer, Latin American Studies Association Meeting, Barcelona, May 23-26.
- 2017 “Popular Ideologies of Race in the Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Caribbean,” Caribbean Studies Roundtable, organizer, American Historical Association Meeting, Denver, January 5-8.
- 2016 “Caribbean Borderlands during the Long Nineteenth Century: Geographic Mobility, Social Experiments, and Radicalism on the Fringes of Empire and Nation-States,” roundtable organizer, American Historical Association Meeting, Atlanta, January 7-10.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### *Undergraduate*

HIST/LACS 190: Radicals and Revolutions: The Caribbean World (Fall 2018/Fall 2019/Spring 2021/  
Fall 2021)

HIST/AFS/LACS 285: Globalization: The Atlantic World (Fall 2016)

HIST/AFS/LACS 285W: Globalization: Digital Research (Spring 2019)

HIST/LACS 285: Cuba: Revolutionary Island (Fall 2021)

HIST 385 and AFS/ANT/LACS 389: Human Trafficking in World History (Spring 2017/Fall 2018/  
Spring 2021/ Spring 2022)

HIST 385/AFS 389: Social Justice and Property (Fall 2019) [co-taught]

HIST/LACS 489RW: Cuba in World History (Spring 2017/Spring 2019)

HIST/LACS 489RW: Law and Empire in the Atlantic World (Spring 2020)

### *Graduate*

HIST/ANT 585: Anthropology and History: Research Methods (Spring 2022)

HIST 790B: The Professionalization Seminar (Spring 2020)

## **OTHER TEACHING AND MENTORING**

### *Graduate*

Doctoral dissertation committee member: Alex Cors (2020-), Madelyn Stone (2020-)

Graduate exams committee member: Hannah Abrahamson (fall 2018), Alex Cors (fall 2018), Shari Wejsa (fall 2018), Ursula Rall (fall 2022), Alejandro Guardado (fall 2022)

Graduate prospectus defense committee member: Jennifer Morgan (spring 2017), Alex Cors (spring 2019), Madelyn Stone (spring 2019)

### *Undergraduate*

Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellow Mentor:

2020-2022 Channelle Russell, English and History

2019-2021 Nayive Gaytán, History

Senior honors thesis advisor:

2019-2020 Drew Bryant, History: “The Prohibition of Wartime Sexual Violence: International Activism, 1990-2000”

2019-2019 Naomie Gutekunst, African Studies: “The Power of Rwandan Women: A Look at the Role of Women in Society from the Nyiginya Kingdom to Today”

Senior honors thesis reader:

2022 Dessy-Liza Epie, Philosophy: “The Cycle of Anti-Blackness: Digital Activism, Grammar, and (At)tending to Blackness”

2022 Channelle Russell, English and History: “Sorting Shadows: Sound, Silence, and Gender in the Aftermath of Jamaican Slavery”

2021 Lara Gemar, Political Science: “Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: An Evaluation of the Impacts of Social Media Platforms on Trafficker Groomer Practices in the United States”

2020 Diego Romero, History: “Feathered Empire: Avian Value in Culture and Economics Before and After the Conquest”

2020 Adama Kamara, Anthropology: “The Politics of Empowerment and Black Female Sexuality: Perceptions through the Lens of Atlanta’s Counter-Trafficking Networks”

2020 Kate Sandlin, History: “Living in Peril: Witchcraft Suppression in the Northern Province, South Africa in the Twentieth Century”

2019 Christina Morgan, History: “The Rise of the Messiah: The American Government’s Surveillance of SNCC Leaders, 1960-1972”

2016-7 Glory James, Sociology: “Does the Audience Matter? A Critical Analysis of Black Female Bodies in the Media.”

Research Partners Program

2017-2018 Drew Bryant, History: Research poster titled: “Analyzing Factors Behind Changing Ideologies of Childhood in Nineteenth-Century Britain. As Examined Through Social Activism and Propaganda Pieces for Child Labor and Juvenile Delinquency Reform”

Summer Opportunity for Academic Research (SOAR):

2019 Cassie Harding, History (Davidson College) (summer): Black Governance and Land Claims in Jamaica, Colombia, and Brazil

**EVENTS ORGANIZED**

2020 Sovereignty, Law, and Emancipation in the South Atlantic, 1850-1900, partially sponsored by the American Society for Legal History, Spring (at Emory).

2019 Archival Lives: Violence and the Sources of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database, December (at Emory).

### **SERVICE TO PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- 2022 Program Chair, Southern Historical Association—Latin American and Caribbean Section, Baltimore meetings
- 2022 Program committee member, American Society for Legal History, Chicago meetings
- 2020-1 Conference on Latin American History, Secretary and Chair—Colonial Section
- 2020 LASA-Siglo XIX article prize juror

### **MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER**

Cambridge University Press (2), Harvard University Press, University of Alabama Press, Routledge Press (chapter in edited volume); *The William and Mary Quarterly*; *Comparative Studies in Society and History*; *Atlantic Studies*; *Revista Entremons: Universitat Pompeu Fabra* *Journal of World History*; *Journal of Slavery and Data Preservation*.

### **FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION REVIEWER**

- 2022 Social Science Research Council—International Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2021 Social Science Research Council—International Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2021 University Research Council, Emory University, ad hoc reviewer

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

#### **EMORY COLLEGE**

- 2023-24 Senate committee member. Curriculum, Assessment, and Educational Policy (elected)
- 2022-3 Mellon-Sawyer Seminar working group member, Emory University: “Visions of Slavery: Histories, Memories, and Mobilizations of Unfreedom in the Black Atlantic”
- 2022 Member, The Woodruff Scholar Selection Committee
- 2021 Member, The Dean's Achievement Scholar Selection Committee
- 2019-20 Member, Humanities Division, Undergraduate Admissions
- 2019 Member, The Dean's Achievement Scholar Selection Committee
- 2018-9 Quality Enhancement Plan (Emory University)—participant and presenter

#### **LANEY GRADUATE SCHOOL**

- 2019-21 Member, The Laney Graduate School Fulbright Committee
- 2019-21 Member, The Woodruff Graduate Fellowship Selection
- 2019 Summer Opportunity for Academic Research advisor

#### **DEPARTMENT**

- 2018-9 Member, History Department Graduate Committee, including graduate admissions