

ELISABETH RIOS-BROOKS | *she/ella/they/elle*

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EDUCATION

University of Cambridge | Clare College
Master of Philosophy in Public Policy

November 2023 - Present

University of Florida (UF) | Honors Program

August 2020

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology & International Studies, Africa, *summa cum laude* | GPA: 3.97/4.00

WORK EXPERIENCE

Eviction Prevention Community Engagement Specialist

May 2022-July 2023

Oregon Housing & Community Services | *Portland, Oregon, USA*

- Engaged 30+ culturally specific community partners/stakeholders using tailored bilingual presentations, trauma-informed approaches, and culturally competent strategies
- Communicated with 4 vendors to procure translations and interpretation services for internal managers to meet language access project requirements
- Oversaw and amended proposals to procure necessary and equitable language access resources quickly while meeting budgetary and quality standards
- Facilitated the monthly statewide [Oregon Unhoused Response and Recovery meeting on COVID-19 and homelessness](#) for 400+ stakeholders and partners to deliver statewide policy updates and provide a platform for shared discussion and connection
- Organized and facilitated the "Internal Community Engagement Group" to implement internal policies on best practices around equitable trauma-informed and non-extractive community engagement

Bilingual Communications & Graphic Design Coordinator

January 2021-May 2022

Oregon Housing & Community Services | *Portland, Oregon, USA*

- Created unique graphic design packages for 2 new programs with an accelerated timeline of 3 months, including logos, letterheads, 35+ page applications, application guides, and 20+ social media posts
- Designed and updated WordPress websites for 2+ external programs, including the [Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) and the [Oregon Homeowner Assistance Program](#); this included identifying UX issues and proposing design recommendations
- Developed policy around branding and marketing materials by creating and sustaining a brand guide for internal and external communications
- Coordinated marketing efforts across the agency to encourage community participation and feedback through social media, newsletters, press releases
- Implemented processes and designed training for staff to use cutting-edge communications tools for graphic design, social media scheduling, posting, and monitoring, newsletter creation, and more

Digital Organizing Fellow & Freelancer

October 2020-January 2021

Social Movement Technologies | *Remote*

- Created original curriculum on increasing youth turnout & engagement using Instagram
- Partnered with organizations to provide digital organizing support of their social media by creating original content and increasing Instagram & Twitter followings quickly
- Taught and facilitated digital organizing trainings to organizations nationally and internationally
- Enrolled in the year-long Digital Training Certificate Program to hone digital organizing skills

Achebe | Baldwin @ 40: Event Project Coordinator

August 2020-October 2020

Center for African Studies, UF | *Remote*

- Organized, planned, and executed the virtual "Achebe | Baldwin @ 40: Interrogate & Commemorate" conference through Acelevents virtual platform
- Corresponded with 20+ UF organizations, departments, and community partners to secure sponsorships
- Designed a detailed social media strategy to promote the event through 3-5 social media posts a week using Canva & Adobe Suite including interactive posts using Audiogram
- Organized and scheduled original content across social media platforms using Latergram
- Designed a "[living archive](#)" webpage using WordPress to archive content from the conference

Legislative Assistant

June 2020-August 2020

NAACP Washington Bureau | *Washington, DC*

- Planned, researched, and proposed a set of policy solutions on how [COVID-19 has further widened the health gap](#)
- Attended meetings and hearings on the Hill virtually, followed up with written briefs as instructed by Director
- Collaborated with staff for mailings, telephone, and office coverage as well as other office duties as assigned

African American History Archive & Social Media Coordinator

August 2017-August 2020

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program | *Gainesville, FL*

- Created 3-5 original social media posts a week, to increase social media presence and promote the Archive
- Constructed and designed logos and promotional materials for 20+ projects that included brochures, [booklets](#), and zines utilizing Canva and Adobe InDesign & Illustrator
- Collaborated with 20+ departments at UF and the wider Gainesville community to support major events, conferences, and symposiums that sustained and expanded the Archive
- Produced media material for all major events including graphics for t-shirts, pens, totes alongside press kits to grow attendance and to retain potential donors and sponsors

Research and Interpretive Strategies Intern

January 2020-May 2020

Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art | *Gainesville, FL*

- Conceptualized and co-designed 3 Gallery Guides connecting *Peace, Power and Prestige: Metal Arts in Africa* exhibition with art in other galleries to help visitors make tangible connections with real world problems
- Amended and transcribed gallery guide content into 3 social media posts and website material for Marketing/PR purposes and to expand museum attendance with a focus on minority communities
- Produced 2 Animoto videos highlighting objects in the exhibition for virtual visitors during COVID-19
- Earned the Criser Internship award of \$2,500 for exceptional students to develop my internship project

Ronald E. McNair Scholar

University of Florida | *Gainesville, FL*

March 2018-May 2020

- Authored original study titled: Challenging Persisting Narratives: The Role of Oral History in Decolonizing Museums with McNair funding (\$2,800)
- Conducted oral history interviews with 5 Bissau-Guinean women in Portuguese to understand their perspective on the “Moranças: Traditional Habitats of Guinea-Bissau” museum exhibition at the National Museum of Natural History and Culture in Lisbon, Portugal
- Designed a [zine](#) titled *Using Oral History to Decolonize Museums* to distill the learnings from the project into an accessible format

Reubin Askew Scholar

March 2018-May 2020

University of Florida | *Gainesville, FL*

- Enrolled in courses pertaining to public policy, partook in intensive leadership training, and worked with Professor Rosana Resende to create a research project on civic engagement in the Latinx community at UF
- Conducted a thematic analysis that revealed a pattern of historical and cultural erasure of this community by UF
- Applied for and obtained Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval to conduct research
- Advertised to and collected data on demographically scarce participants and sample size
- Received \$3,000 to investigate how UF racially and ethnically categorizes Afro-Latinx community students and designed [an infographic](#) housed in the UF Institutional Repository using Canva

Diversity & Inclusion Intern

August 2019-December 2019

National Museum of Natural History and Science | *Lisbon, Portugal*

- Executed oral history project *Voices of Guinea-Bissau* based on *Moranças: Traditional Living Habitats of Guinea-Bissau* exhibit to highlight the narratives and stories of 5 Bissau-Guinean immigrant women
- Authored an essay and designed a pamphlet on the *Voices of Guinea-Bissau* oral history project (in [English](#) and [Portuguese](#)) to be included in an upcoming publication titled *MORANÇAS – Habitats Tradicionais da Guiné Bissau* describing the process and implementation of the project
- Held a public lecture in Portuguese at the University of Lisbon’s National Museum of Natural History and Science detailing the oral history project

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Dream Defenders

February 2020-December 2021

Digital Community Organizer | *Gainesville, FL*

- Partnered with immigrant-led organization Madres Sin Fronteras on mutual aid projects that assessed the needs of undocumented families and raised \$20,000 to provide immediate rental, utility, and Wi-Fi relief
- Created 5+ call-to-action graphics in both [English and Spanish](#) to mobilize support for local issues, undocumented families, protests, and more as part of the communications committee
- Increased Instagram following from 800 to 3,416+ followers through customized mass media strategies

Vice-President & Showcase Director

January 2017- May 2019

The African Student Union (ASU) | *Gainesville, FL*

- Collaborated with 4+ organizations to discuss issues affecting the Afro-descendent community (racism, colorism, LGBTQIA+ issues, and more) to cultivate connections with other Afro-centered organizations on campus
- Executed *ASU Showcase*: an event celebrating Africa's 54 countries for 400+ people with a \$6,000 budget
- Directed and oversaw 7 committees totaling 35 people to plan *ASU Showcase*

Ambassador to the Center of African Studies (CAS)

February 2018-May 2018

UF Center of African Studies | *Gainesville, FL*

- Served as an official student representative and liaison for the Center for African Studies to connect the center to undergraduate students
- Managed 3+ in-class visits, 3+ information sessions, and social media management to support CAS events to engage and retain new students interested in African Studies
- Held office hours 2 times a week at CAS to support undergraduates interested in African Studies

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Study Abroad in Portugal Network

August 2019-December 2019

Luso-American Development Foundation | *Lisbon, Portugal*

- Enrolled and took classes in Portuguese at the University of Lisbon \ in the Department of African Studies and the Department of Linguistics
- Traveled through Portugal and the Azores to gain a deeper understanding of Portuguese culture
- Interned at the National Museum of Natural History and Science as the Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives Intern

UF in Bahia – Race, Inequality, & Power

Summer 2018

University of Florida | *Bahia, Brazil*

- Collaborated with local organizations focused on grassroots mobilization and community revitalization while learning Portuguese and taking culturally immersive classes
- Examined grassroots organizing efforts from a transnational perspective with a focus on the intersection between race, cultural appropriation, and urbanization in Brazil
- Interned at the Steve Biko Institute as a translator and interpreter for multiple English to Portuguese and Portuguese to English lectures

UF in Rio – Language & Culture,

Summer 2017

University of Florida | *Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

- Received the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship to support involvement in a linguistically and cultural intensive study program in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (\$7,479)
- Developed high linguistic and cultural competency through a rigorous 6-week program at the Binational Center for Language Instruction (IBEU) by taking Portuguese language and Brazilian culture classes
- Engaged with cultural and artistic domains of Rio de Janeiro through immersive cultural excursions

Belize Valley Archeological Reconnaissance Project

Summer 2017

Northern Arizona University | *Cayo District, Belize*

- Conducted archaeological research on Maya culture concerned with settlement analysis and understanding prehistoric socio-political landscape of the Belize River Valley
- Trained in surveying, excavation methods, and laboratory techniques
- Excavated monumental architecture, processed excavated cultural remains, completed ceramic analysis and attended bi-weekly lectures and tours of major archaeological sites in western Belize

AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS

Finbarr-Livesey Dept. of Politics and Int. Studies at the University of Cambridge Scholarship (£20,000)

August 2023

Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society Fellowship (\$8,500)

August 2023

Outstanding Leader Award

July 2020

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| Dean's Medal for Excellence in the Liberal Arts | July 2020 |
| CLAS Dean's Scholarship (\$2,000) | July 2020 |
| Brendan O'Sullivan Award for Academic Excellence (\$1,000) | July 2020 |
| David Colburn Student Scholarship (\$750) | July 2020 |
| President's Honor Roll | Spring '17, Fall '17, Spring '18, Fall '18, Spring '20 |
| College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Student Excellence Award | March 2020 |
| Outstanding Four-Year Scholar Award | March 2020 |
| Criser Internship Award (\$2,500) | January 2020 |
| Washington-Lee High School Education Foundation Scholarship (\$1,000) | Fall '16, '17, '18, '19 |
| Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society | February 2019 |
| Anderson Scholar (High Distinction) | May 2018 |
| UF Honors Wentworth Travel Scholarship (\$500) | December '17, November '18 |
| Wentworth Study Abroad Honors Scholarship (\$1,500) | Summer 2018 |
| Lambda Alpha National Collegiate Honor Society for Anthropology Majors | October 2017 |
| Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (\$7,479) | Summer 2017 |
| UF Latin American Studies Scholar (\$500) | Summer 2017 |
| DC Gator Club Hometown Scholarship (\$2,000) | October 2016 |
| Cameron and Virginia Dye Scholarship (\$6,000) | September 2016 |

SKILLS

Spanish (Native), Portuguese (Bilingual fluency), Italian (Beginner)
 Skilled in Canva & Adobe Suite
 Experienced in web development through WordPress and Wix
 Proficient in MiniVAN canvassing application
 Experienced in ThruText and ThruTalk peer to peer texting/phone banking digital tools
 Trained in the Action Network online organizing platform
 Proficient in MailChimp, Constant Contact, and Emma marketing automation platform
 Skilled in iMovie & Animoto video production softwares
 Competent in using Anchor and Adobe Audition podcasting software
 Adept in creating engaging videos with audio using Audiogram software
 Trained in Tweepi social media management tool
 Knowledgeable in Hootsuite & Latergram social media management services
 Knowledgeable in Accelevents virtual event platform
 Experienced in Slack, Signal, and Jitsi encrypted communication platforms
 Certified in Salesforce Customer Relationship Management Service
 Familiar with "The Museum Systems" from Gallery Systems software

PRESENTATIONS

- Rios-Brooks, E. (October 2020). *Decolonizing Museums: An Oral History Approach*. Online presentation at the Oral History Association Virtual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, USA.
- Rios-Brooks, E., Chun, G., Sanchez, O., et al. (April 2020). *Best Oral History Practices: Tips & Tricks for Transcription*. Online lecture at an Oral History Research Seminar at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL, USA.
- Rios-Brooks, E. (April, 2020). *Challenging Persisting Narratives: The Role of Oral History in Decolonizing Museums*. Online Poster and presentation session at the University of Florida Undergraduate Research Symposium Gainesville, FL, USA.
- Rios-Brooks, E. (February, 2020). *Challenging Persisting Narratives: The Role of Oral History in Decolonizing Museums*. Poster session at the Museums Challenge Symposium for Transformative Practice in Gainesville, FL, USA.
- Rios-Brooks, E. (December, 2019). *Vozes da Guiné-Bissau* [Voices of Guinea-Bissau]. Presentation at the University of Lisbon's National Museum of Natural History and Science in Lisbon, Portugal.
- Rios-Brooks, E. (December, 2019). *Estás Ready?: Uncovering Afro-Latinx identities*. Poster session at the Anthropology

Fall Research Exhibition at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Rios-Brooks, E. (July, 2019). *Estás Ready?: Uncovering Afro-Latinx identities*. Presentation at the 2019 National McNair Conference at the University of California, Los Angeles, USA.

Rios-Brooks, E. (April, 2019). *Estás Ready?: Uncovering Afro-Latinx identities through language*. Poster session at the University of Florida Undergraduate Research Symposium Gainesville, FL, USA.

Rios-Brooks, E. (February, 2019). *Estás Ready?: Uncovering Afro-Latinx identities through language*. Poster session at the Florida Undergraduate Research Conference at the University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL, USA.

Rios-Brooks, E., & Hall, H. (October, 2018). *A Socio-Linguistic Analysis of African-American Vernacular English at UF*. Poster session at the McNair Scholars Open House at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL, USA.

Rios-Brooks, E., & Hall, H. (October, 2018). *Voices from the March*. Presented video recording of play at Concordia University at the annual Oral History Association Conference, Montreal, Canada.

Rios-Brooks, E. (April, 2018). *A Socio-Linguistic Analysis of African-American Vernacular English at UF*. Poster session at the University of Florida Undergraduate Research Symposium Gainesville, FL, USA.

Rios-Brooks, E., Brown, Z., Hall, H., et al. (April, 2018). *Voices from the March*. Performed play at California State University, Fullerton at the annual Southwestern Oral History Association Conference, Fullerton, CA, USA.

Rios-Brooks, E., Brown, Z., Hall, H., et al. (January, 2018). *Voices from the March*. Performed play at the University of Florida Social Justice Summit, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Rios-Brooks, E., Brown, Z., Hall, H., et al. (November, 2017). *Voices from the March*. Performed play at the “Becoming a Woman in the Age of Enlightenment” Exhibit at the University of Florida Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art in Gainesville, FL, USA.

PUBLICATIONS

Rios-Brooks, E. (2020, May). *Using Oral History to Decolonize Museums: A Zine*. Issuu Publishing Site. https://issuu.com/elisabeth-rios/docs/using_oral_history_to_decolonize_museums__22

Rios-Brooks, E. (2020, May). *Achebe | Baldwin: A Zine*. Issuu Publishing Site. <https://issuu.com/elisabeth-rios/docs/organized>

Rios-Brooks, E. (April 2020). *Blood Type: Red Lips & Big Hoops*. Latinx Diaspora of the Americas Blog. <https://ldapsite.wordpress.com/2020/04/20/blood-type-red-lips-big-hoops/>

Rios-Brooks, E. (March 2020). Tuareg Metal Arts and Artists: Negotiating Class, Gender, and Spiritual Power In S. Cooksey (Ed.), *Peace, Power and Prestige: Metal Arts in Africa* (pp. 121-127). Gainesville, Florida: University Press of Florida.

Rios-Brooks, E. (March 2020). Walking with Pride: Igbo Women’s Anklets In S. Cooksey (Ed.), *Peace, Power and Prestige: Metal Arts in Africa* (pp. 198-199). Gainesville, Florida: University Press of Florida.

Rios-Brooks, E. (2018, February). *Keep Listening to Voices from the Women’s March*. Gainesville Sun Opinion-Editorial. <https://www.gainesville.com/opinion/20180223/elisabeth-rios-brooks-keep-listening-to-voices-from-womens-march>

Rios-Brooks, E. (upcoming publication 2024). *Voices of Guinea-Bissau - An Oral History Project* In B. Serrazina (Ed.), *MORANÇAS – Habitats Tradicionais da Guiné Bissau*. Lisbon, Portugal: Imprensa da Universidade de Lisboa.