

Ana Lucia Araujo, Ph.D., FRHistS is a professor in the Department of History, where she has taught since 2008.

A social and cultural historian, her transnational and comparative research explores the history and the memory of the Atlantic slave trade and slavery and their present social and cultural legacies. She was trained in Brazil, Canada, and France with a Ph.D. in History and Social and Historical Anthropology (2007), a Ph.D. in Art History (2004), an M.A. in History (1998), and a B.A. in Visual Arts (1995).

Her past and present research interests include reparations for slavery, as well as public memory, heritage, visual culture, and the material culture of slavery. She wrote and extensively published on these themes in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish. She also lectures and presents her work in these languages in the United States and other countries including Brazil, Argentina, England, France, South Africa, the Republic of Benin, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Portugal, and the Netherlands. Her work has been translated into German, Chinese, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, Norwegian, French, and Dutch.

Professor Araujo received the [2025 John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship](#). Other fellowships and grants include the inaugural [American Council of Learned Societies HBCU Fellowship](#) (2024), a Senior Scholar Grant from [Getty Research Institute](#) (2023); a residential fellowship from the [Institute of Advanced Study](#) (funding provided by the [Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation](#)) in 2022, and the Franklin Research Grant from the [American Philosophical Society](#) in 2021-22. She also received the [Heinz Heinen Fellowship](#) residential fellowship at the [Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies](#), Bonn, Germany, in 2025. In the Spring 2026 she will be a [Florence Gould Foundation Fellow](#) in residence the [Clark Art Institute](#) (Williamstown, MA).

Her research was also supported by various other agencies in Brazil and Canada, including the Fonds de recherche Société et Culture (Canada), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada), Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES, Brazil), and the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq, Brazil).

In 2023, [Carnegie Corporation New York](#) named Professor Araujo [“Great Immigrant, Great American,”](#) an annual list honoring the contribution of naturalized citizens to democracy and America.

Professor Araujo's book, [*Humans in Shackles: An Atlantic History of Slavery in the Americas*](#) (University of Chicago Press, 2024) was a [2025 finalist of the Museum of African American History Stone Book Award](#). A hemispheric and narrative history of slavery in the Americas, *Humans in Shackles* places Brazil (the country that imported the largest number of enslaved Africans in the Americas), the African continent, resistance, and enslaved women at the center of this painful history.

Professor Araujo also published several other books, including [*The Gift: How Objects of Prestige Shaped the Atlantic Slave Trade and Colonialism*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2024) and [*Reparations for Slavery and the Slave Trade: A Transnational and Comparative*](#)

[History](#) (Bloomsbury, 2023). This book, whose [first edition was published in 2017](#), is the first monograph to present a transnational narrative history of the demands of financial, material, and symbolic reparations for slavery and the Atlantic slave trade, and was published in French in 2025, as [Réparations: Combats por la mémoire de l'esclavage \(XVIIIe-XIXe siècle\)](#)

Dr. Araujo is a member of the [International Scientific Committee of the UNESCO "Routes of Enslaved Peoples Project" \(former Slave Route Project\)](#) since 2017, and she is also one of the three editors of the book series [Race in the Atlantic World](#) of the University of Georgia Press.

She serves on the editorial boards of the journals [Slavery and Abolition](#), [African Economic History](#), [Atlantic Studies: Global Currents](#), and [History in Africa](#), among others. She is also a member of the [Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Scholarly Advisory Board](#) and of the advisory board of the [Memory Studies Association](#). In the recent past she served on the [Board of Editors](#) of the [American Historical Review](#) (the flagship journal of the American Historical Association from 2019 to 2023), the [Executive Committee of the Brazilian Studies Association](#) (2016-2020), and the [Executive Board](#) of the [Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora](#) (2019-2022).

Professor Araujo's other past books are: [Slavery in the Age of Memory: Engaging the Past](#) (Bloomsbury, 2020), [Museums and Atlantic Slavery](#) (Routledge, 2021), [Brazil Through French Eyes: A Nineteenth-Century Artist in the Tropics](#) (University of New Mexico Press, 2015), which is a revised and expanded English version of her book [Romantisme tropical: l'aventure illustrée d'un peintre français au Brésil](#) (Presses de l'Université Laval). A Portuguese version of this book, translated by her, was published as [Romantismo tropical: Um pintor francês nos trópicos](#) (Editora da Universidade de São Paulo, 2017). Other single-authored books are [Shadows of the Slave Past: Memory, Heritage and Slavery](#) (Routledge, 2014), and [Public Memory of Slavery: Victims and Perpetrators in the South Atlantic](#) (Cambria Press, 2010).

She also edited [African Heritage and Memories of Slavery in Brazil and the South Atlantic](#) (Cambria Press, 2015), [Politics of Memory: Making Slavery Visible in the Public Space](#) (Routledge, 2012), [Paths of the Atlantic Slave Trade: Interactions, Identities and Images](#) (Cambria Press, 2011), and [Living History: Encountering the Memory of the Heirs of Slavery](#) (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009), and co-edited [Crossing Memories: Slavery and African Diaspora](#) with Paul E. Lovejoy and Mariana P. Candido (Africa World Press, 2011).

Dr. Araujo conducted fieldwork and archival research in Brazil, the Republic of Benin, Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the United States. Engaging with the public is an important dimension of her work. Her [opinion articles](#) in English and Portuguese appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Slate*, *Newsweek*, *Aeon magazine*, *Africa is a Country*, *The Conversation*, *History News Network*, *Intercept Brasil*, and the Brazilian magazine *Ciência Hoje*. Her work has been featured in [several media outlets in the United States, Portugal, Canada, Brazil, Spain, France, and the Netherlands](#).

At the Department of History at Howard University, Professor Araujo was the Director of Graduates Studies (2011-2015), Director of Undergraduate Studies (2017-2020), and Associate Chair (2020-21). Since 2011, she has led the Seminar "Slavery, Memory, and African Diasporas," sponsored by the Department of History and (since 2024) by the Moorland Spingarn Research Center.

She is willing to supervise M.A theses and Ph.D. dissertations focusing on the history of the Atlantic slave trade and slavery, memory and heritage of slavery and the Atlantic slave trade, material culture, and visual culture of slavery, reparations for slavery, and the history of the African diaspora in the Americas, especially Brazil and its connections with West Africa and West Central Africa.

An overview of her work can be found on her [personal website](#).