

**Mesi Bakari Walton, Ph.D.** is an assistant professor in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Howard University. Bakari Walton's research intersects with Africana, Latin American, and Cultural Studies. Her work explores how Afro-diasporic cultures are employed as symbols of identity and tools of survival through cultural texts of music, song, dance, language, and other practices. Bakari Walton completed her Ph.D. in Afro-Latin Studies in the Department of African Studies at Howard University with a focus on Afro-Venezuelan Cultural survivals.

Bakari Walton was a U.S. Fulbright Scholar in Colombia and completed research titled, "Ancestral Identity - Afro-Colombian Cultural Traditions of the Atlantic Coast" and has publications on Venezuela and Colombia. Among them are the chapter "Dance, rhythm and ritual: Afro-Venezuelans in resistance" and an article titled "Women's collectives as a tool of agency in the Montes de Maria, Colombia." Bakari Walton teaches Spanish language and Afro-Hispanic culture courses in the Department of World Languages and Cultures. She also organizes cultural exchange tours throughout Latin America for youth and adults. Bakari Walton holds a master's in Spanish Language, a master's in early childhood education, and a Bachelor of Science in Human Development from Howard University.