

CURRICULUM VITAE

Layli Jeanette Tahirih Brown-Stangeland
Old Harbor Tribe, Tribal Peoples of the Southern Caribbean
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Education

Graduate

- **2024-Present**

University of New Mexico, USA

Master of Public Administration (Double Credit) In Progress

- **2025-Fall**

Harvard University, USA — Griffin Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Ph.D. in African and Afro-Latin American Studies, with a focus on Government and History (In Progress)

- **2024**

CAF - Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean/FLACSO/DIPROVID/University of Costa Rica, Costa Rica

Diploma in Governance and Public Innovation

Undergraduate

- **2024**

University of New Mexico, USA

Bachelor of Liberal Arts

- **2016-2018**

Central New Mexico Community College, USA

Integrated Studies (Political Science, Sociology, Theater)

Professional experience

- **2023-Present**
Museum Stanford, Costa Rica
Founder and Shareholder
Established the tribal Afro-Descendant cultural platform Caribbean history of Costa Rica, including the Afro-Indigenous Art Gallery and the Poetry House.
- **2024-Present**
Puerto Viejo FC, Limón, Costa Rica
Team Owner and Vice President
Directs the sports management of the Women's Soccer Project in the First Division, focusing on female leadership and the comprehensive development of players.
- **2024-Present**
Cocles Coalition, Costa Rica
Interlocutor
Leads communication and political advocacy efforts for Afro-Indigenous coexistence and territorial peace in Cocles.
- **2022-2024**
Presidency of the Republic of Costa Rica
Ad-Honorem Executive Assistant
Supported the Presidential Committee of Inclusion, Government-Civil Society relations, and advised the Commissioner for Social Inclusion.
- **2022-2025**
Afro Civic Parliament of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica
Active Member and Parliamentary Representative
Advocated for Afro-descendant rights and representation in legislative processes.
- **2003-Present**
Stanf de Puerto Viejo SA, Costa Rica
CEO
Leads a family business focused on sustainable practices, blending cultural preservation and economic development.
- **2012-Present**

Member, CoopecacaoAfro, Costa Rica

Cocoa Producer

Contributes to the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, recovery of Afro-descendant ancestral knowledge in agriculture and medicine, and regional development.

- **2024-Present**

Afro-Costa Rica Initiative

Founder and Leader

Promotes Afro-descendant culture, emphasizing inclusion and representation in various sectors.

- **2025**

Coordinator, Royal Visit of AIDO to Costa Rica

Led the coordination and execution of the official visit of AIDO's Royal Delegation to Costa Rica, enhancing international Afro-descendant diplomatic and cultural relations.

Publications: Journal Articles

- **Brown Stangeland, L.** (2024, April 22). *The Caribbean Spirit: Preserving Our Heritage and Ancestral Rights*. Harvard Review of Latin America. Retrieved from <https://revista.drclas.harvard.edu/the-caribbean-spirit-preserving-our-heritage-and-ancestral-rights/>

Conference Paper Presentations

- **2025**
Presenter, LASA2025 Hybrid Congress: Poner el cuerpo en Latinx América
Paper titled "Cultural Maroonage and Writing Lives: The Afrodiasporic Museum of Puerto Viejo as a Space of Epistemic Resistance" accepted as part of the panel *Revisiting Blackness and Colonialism* within the track *Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants: Epistemologies and Knowledge*. The congress will take place from May 23-26, virtually and on-site at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis, San Francisco, USA.
- **2025**
Presenter, 23rd Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education
Paper titled "There Is Always a Space for Indigenous Education: Lessons from Kenya, Tibet, and Costa Rica" accepted for presentation at the 23rd Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education, to be held from January 4 to 7, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort, Honolulu, Hawaii. The paper was selected following a peer-review process.

- **2024**
Presenter, 2024 Annual Meeting and Conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)
Paper titled “*The Afro Museum*” accepted for presentation at the 2024 ASALH Annual Meeting, to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from September 25-29.
- **2024**
Presenter, ALARI Third Continental Conference on Afro-Latin American Studies
Presented original work at the Afro-Latin American Research Institute (ALARI) Third Continental Conference on Afro-Latin American Studies, held at the University of São Paulo, July 10-12. This event, co-organized by Harvard University and the University of São Paulo, highlighted contributions to the field of Afro-Latin American Studies.
- **2024**
Participant, International Event: Securing Land and Territory Rights for Afro-descendant Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean
Participated in the international event titled “*Securing Land and Territory Rights for Afro-descendant Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean: An Effective Path Towards Conservation and Climate Action*”, held from June 11 to 14, in Bogotá, Colombia. The event focused on advancing territorial rights and environmental justice for Afro-descendant communities.
- **2024**
Participated as an author and Panelist in the special issue of *ReVista* focused on Costa Rica, published by Harvard's David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS). The issue was launched on April 29, in a hybrid event hosted in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with simultaneous interpretation and a reception featuring Costa Rican cuisine.

Invited, Participant and Organizer Events

- **2024**
Participant, Foro Afrodescendiente Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
December 12-14, 2024
Sessions addressing Afrodescendant heritage, rights, and advocacy efforts
- **2024**
Creator, Organizer, and Coordinator, Uolaba: Protection of Ancestral Land and Afrodescendant Rights
Led the event held from December 1-4, in Old Harbor, Costa Rica, focusing on strengthening territorial and cultural rights of Afrodescendant and Garífuna communities through training, cultural exchange, and advocacy strategies.

- **2024**
Participant, IPADA Carnival Program
Attended the IPADA Carnival Program, held from November 29 to December 8, 2024, at La Campagne Tropicana Beach Resort, Lagos, Nigeria. Participated in activities such as the “Festival of Creatives,” discussions on African empires, and events promoting Afro-descendant identity and heritage.
- **2024**
Organizer and Moderator, Book Presentation: Coral Mamífera
Presentation of the poetry book *Coral Mamífera* by Karina Obando, a renowned poet from Limón, Costa Rica. The event took place at the Afro-Costa Rican Museum Stanford in Puerto Viejo de Talamanca on September 26.
- **2024**
Organizer and Host, Tribute to Quince Duncan
Organized and hosted a special event at the Afro-Diasporic Stanford Museum in Puerto Viejo de Talamanca on September 5, honoring the renowned writer and researcher Quince Duncan. The event featured the presentation of his latest book, *Cuentos Limonenses*, a trilingual work written in Limón Creole, Spanish, and Standard English.
- **2023**
Delegate, 2nd Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent
Represented Afro Costa Rica Civil Society at the Third Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA, from May 30th to June 2nd. This forum focused on advancing global discussions on the rights and representation of people of African descent.
- **2024**
Panelist, (R)existencia Afrodescendiente en América Latina y el Caribe
Participated as a panelist in the roundtable and documentary debate titled *(R)existencia Afrodescendiente en América Latina y el Caribe*, held on March 21, 2024. The event was organized by the Institute of International and European Studies “Francisco de Vitoria” at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, with the support of AECID and the Chair on Sustainability, Social Inclusion, Diversity, and Human Rights.

Courses & Training

- **2023-2024**
I Continuing Training Course on Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean: History, Rights, and Current Challenges
Completed the first edition of the course, organized by the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development

Cooperation (AECID). The program was held from November 27, 2023, to February 9, 2024, with a total of 150 hours.

- **2024**

Circuito Pedagógico: “La Agenda Internacional Afrodescendiente en el Decenio: Balance, Impacto y Perspectivas”

Successfully completed 26 hours of training as part of the program organized by the Asociación de Mujeres Afrocolombianas (AMUAFROC), the Articulación Latinoamericana para el Decenio Afrodescendiente (ALDA), and the Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española in Cartagena, Colombia.

- **2023**

University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain

Continuing Training Course on Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean: History, Rights and Current Challenges.

- **2023**

Más allá de las acciones afirmativas: Políticas públicas inclusivas e interseccionales con población afrodescendiente en América Latina y el Caribe

Participated in the event organized by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), held from August 14 to 16, at the Spanish Cooperation Training Center in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia (24 hours).

Membership

- **2024–Present**

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

Active member of the Latin American Studies Association, contributing to the interdisciplinary study and promotion of Latin American issues, with a focus on Afro-descendant and indigenous communities.

Awards and Honors

- **2024**

Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded by the Asociación Trial Afrodescendiente del Caribe Sur (ATACS) in Old Harbour on October 13, 2024, in recognition of her tireless commitment to promoting and preserving Afro-descendant culture and ancestral traditions.

- **2023**

Recognized by the Commissioner for Social Inclusion of the Presidency of the Republic of Costa Rica for her commitment to the rights and legal security of tribal peoples, as well as her dedication to justice and the preservation of cultural traditions.

Language skills

English: Native language
Spanish: Native language
kryol: Native language
Italian: Fluent proficiency in reading, and speaking
French: Intermediate proficiency in reading, and speaking
Arabic: Basic proficiency

“I declare that all the information in this document is accurate and true.
Place: Old Harbor, Southern Caribbean
Date: November 25, 2024”

Layli Jeanette Tahirih Brown-Stangeland
Old Harbor Tribe, Tribal Peoples of the Southern Caribbean