



VANICLÉIA SILVA SANTOS: REFERENCE IN AFRICAN STUDIES IN BRAZIL

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Abstract: Vanicléia was born August 25, 1977, in Jacobina-BA. He was the first person of the generation of his parents' families to finish high school, there he realized that following the path of studies would open up many possibilities to give a better life to his family. Completed his graduation in 1998 at UNEB, did his master's at (PUC / SP), a doctorate at the University of São Paulo and a postdoctoral degree at The University of Texas at Austin (2016). Since 2010, she is a professor and researcher at the Federal University of Minas Gerais. She is currently a graduate of UFMG and works as an Associate Curator of the African Art Collection at the Penn Museum of the University of Pennsylvania in the United States. Vanicléia is a great reference for all about the history of Africa.

Keywords: story; Africa; education.

VANICLÉIA SILVA SANTOS: REFERÊNCIA EM ESTUDOS AFRICANISTAS NO BRASIL

Resumo: Vanicléia nasceu 25 de agosto de 1977, em Jacobina-BA. Foi a primeira pessoa da geração das famílias de seus pais a concluir ensino médio, ali percebeu que seguir o caminho dos estudos abriria muitas possibilidades para dar uma vida melhor para sua família. Concluiu sua graduação, em 1998, na UNEB, fez seu mestrado na (PUC/SP), doutorado na Universidade de São Paulo e pós-doutorado pela The University of Texas at Austin (2016). Desde 2010, é professora e pesquisadora na Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais. Atualmente está licenciada da UFMG e trabalha como Curadora Associada da Coleção de Arte Africana do Penn Museum da Universidade da Pensilvânia, nos Estados Unidos. Vanicléia é uma grande referência para todos/as sobre a história de África.

Palavras-Chave: história; África; educação.

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VANICLÉIA SILVA SANTOS: REFERENCIA EN ESTUDIOS AFRICANOS EN BRASIL

Resumen: Vanicléia nació el 25 de agosto de 1977 en Jacobina-BA. Fue la primera persona de la generación de las familias de sus padres en terminar el bachillerato, allí se dio cuenta que seguir el camino de los estudios le abriría muchas posibilidades para darle una mejor vida a su familia. Completó su graduación en 1998 en la UNEB, realizó su maestría en (PUC / SP), un doctorado en la Universidad de São Paulo y un posdoctorado en la Universidad de Texas en Austin (2016). Desde 2010 es profesora e investigadora de la Universidad Federal de Minas Gerais. Actualmente se graduó de la UFMG y trabaja como curadora asociada de la Colección de Arte Africano en el Museo Penn de la Universidad de Pensilvania en los Estados Unidos. Vanicléia es una gran referencia para todos sobre la historia de África.

Palabras-clave: historia; África; educación.

VANICLÉIA SILVA SANTOS: RÉFÉRENCE DANS LES ÉTUDES AFRICAINES AU BRÉSIL

Résumé: Vanicléia est née le 25 août 1977 à Jacobina-BA. Il a été la première personne de la génération des familles de ses parents à terminer le lycée, il s'est rendu compte que suivre le chemin des études ouvrirait de nombreuses possibilités pour donner une vie meilleure à sa famille. A obtenu son diplôme en 1998 à l'UNEB, a fait sa maîtrise à (PUC / SP), un doctorat à l'Université de São Paulo et un diplôme postdoctoral à l'Université du Texas à Austin (2016). Depuis 2010, elle est professeur et chercheur à l'Université fédérale du Minas Gerais. Elle est actuellement diplômée de l'UFMG et travaille en tant que conservatrice associée de la Collection d'art africain au Penn Museum de l'Université de Pennsylvanie aux États-Unis. Vanicléia est une grande référence pour tout ce qui concerne l'histoire de l'Afrique.

Mots-clés: récit; Afrique; éducation.

INTRODUÇÃO

Vanicléia Silva Santos was born on August 25, 1977, in a small village, with less than three thousand people, in Jacobina, in the hinterland of Bahia. Both maternally and paternally, she was the first person to complete high school and enter a university. In addition, her family made it a priority to offer her, as far as possible, the best education. The village where she lived, until she entered higher education, was mostly composed of black people. Thus, racism has always been present in her life. However, she realized that the absence of debate on the issue was due to a lack of information and training on ethnic-racial relations.



In 1995, she entered the History Degree course at the State University of Bahia (UNEB), on the Jacobina campus, 300 km from Salvador. UNEB was a milestone in the expansion of higher education at Bahia state. At that time, the only job opportunities for graduates was to work in regional schools. In 1998, close to course completion, her life takes a turn. While walking around the UNEB campus, she saw a blue poster about the selection process for a master's degree, at the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC / SP). She called this university to seek for more information. Then, with the support of Professor Heloisa Farias (to whom she is extremely grateful), she sent the registration forms and information about the selection by post. Approved in the project analysis stage, for the first time she travelled to São Paulo to participate in the interview, exclusively for the selection. In October 1998, with great joy, she received the news of her approval and started, in February 1999, her master's degree.

She says that because she was born in the rural hinterland of Bahia, an opportunity, even if it is minimal, can be unique and exclusive in a person's life. Therefore, following the path in studies was an opening of possibilities for her entire family, especially for her two younger sisters. Thus, she embraced the opportunity to enter the master's degree with all her strength - that blue poster being a life-changing possibility.

In the first year of her master's degree, her great challenge was to live in a big city, with its characteristics and totally different from the countryside, in addition to living with the other colleagues, each one from different geographic origins of the country and with their own life narrative. Through her undergraduate advisor, who had also been approved to the doctorate, she had her first contacts with black colleagues within the academy. In addition, since each person was from a place in Brazil, they became increasingly united. Vanicléia recalls that her class, there were four black students, from São Paulo and Uberlândia. At that time, there were several black people at PUC-SP, from different states, because of the teacher and doctoral teacher qualification programs for professors who worked in several universities in the Northeast. However, in the period of her master's degree, the theme about Africa was not studied. She completed her master's degree in 2001 and, in 2002, went to work at the State University of Tocantins (UNITINS). In the following year, she started her doctorate at the University of São Paulo (USP).

After the approval of law 10.639 / 2003 and acting as a researcher and educator at the Afro-Brazil Museum, in 2004, the insertion of African history and ethnic-racial issues became a more effective part of her life, activism and her political conscience . In this sense, concluded her doctorate in 2008, while concomitantly the Federal Universities opened positions for History of Africa in the academical contests, directly impacting the claims of black people in Brazil. Thus, she served for two years as a visiting professor of African History at UNEB, her home university, for which she holds highest appreciation.

Subsequently, in 2010, she was approved in the competition for teaching in the area of African History, at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), being a direct result of the actions of the black movement organized to institutionalize the teaching of African history. At the same time, with her entry into UFMG, History Department created the mandatory subject of History of Africa. Since then, Vanicléia has been consolidating herself as a researcher in the area of African History, inside and outside the country. In Brazil, she served as the 2nd vice-president of the Brazilian Association of Black Researchers (ABPN), between 2012 and 2014, and coordinated the National Working Group on African History at the National History Association (ANPUH), from 2013 to 2015. From 2014 to 2018, she was director of the Center for African Studies at UFMG, an entity that deals with the university's international relations with African universities. Internationally, she participated as a member of the UNESCO International Scientific Committee, for the elaboration of the IX Volume of General History of Africa and co-edited the tenth edition of the General History of Africa collection.

Vanicléia is a great reference for all of us about the history of Africa. She published 16 articles and reviews in periodicals, organized five books and four dossiers in magazines - in addition, she subscribes 16 book chapters. It is worth mentioning that she has contributed strongly to the strengthening of African studies in Brazil and of educators specialized in the area. Thus, she supervised more than 10 master's degree students, three doctorate students, one post-doctoral work and 15 conclusion of and scientific initiation works (figure 1). Three of her former students and current students are now working at IFES.

Adupé!

Figure 1: Vanicléia Silva Santos.



Source: Facebook, 2018.

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