

**Dr. Charlene Désir**  
**Associate Professor**  
**cdesir@nova.edu**

---

**Education**

<b>C.A.G.S.</b> <i>May 2010</i>	<b>Nova Southeastern University, Davie, FL</b> Area of Concentration: Qualitative Research
<b>Ed.D.</b> June 2006 Dissertation Title:	<b>Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA</b> Area of Concentration: Learning and Teaching Lòt Bò Dlo: Across Waters--Haitian Students Search for Identity in U.S. Schools
<b>M.ED</b> June 2002	<b>Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA</b> Area of Concentration: Learning and Teaching
<b>C.A.G.S.</b> May 1998	<b>Tufts University, Medford, MA</b> Area of Concentration: School Psychology
<b>M.A.</b> May 1996	<b>Tufts University, Medford, MA</b> Area of Concentration: School Psychology
<b>B.A.</b> May 1995	<b>Tufts University, Medford, MA</b> Area of Concentration: Social Psychology and American Studies
<b>Diploma</b> June 1991	<b>Boston Latin School, Boston, MA</b> College Preparatory

---

**Professional Positions**

<i>Associate Professor</i> <b>Nova Southeastern University</b>	May 2011 to Present <b>North Miami Beach, FL</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teach research courses in education</li><li>• Advise doctoral students on their dissertation process</li><li>• Serve on academic and discipline committees</li><li>• Develop courses in qualitative research</li><li>• Provide international workshop on research</li></ul>	
<i>Doctoral Enrollment Counselor/Program Professor</i> <b>Nova Southeastern University</b>	April 2007 to April 2011 <b>North Miami Beach, FL</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advise doctoral candidates for admission</li><li>• Facilitate admissions process with various departments</li><li>• Counsel doctoral students on academic achievement</li><li>• Serve on academic and discipline committees</li><li>• Develop courses in global education, family policy and child protection</li></ul>	
<i>Dean of Students</i> <b>Prospect Hill Academy Charter School</b>	August 2004 to June 2006 <b>Cambridge, MA</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developed and implemented discipline program</li><li>• Coordinated Student Life Enrichment program and Health programs</li><li>• Created non-traditional modes of communication as a means for discipline</li><li>• Facilitated safe space school discussions on difference</li><li>• Provide professional development on supporting students' overall health in school</li></ul>	

*Bilingual Teacher in Charge* September 2003 to June 2004  
**Cambridge Public Schools** **Cambridge, MA**

- Coordinated communication between bilingual department and Haitian bilingual staff
- Organized Haitian bilingual teachers to advocate for Haitian student rights
- Initiated seminars on diversity with school staff

*School Counselor* September 1998 to June 2004  
**Cambridge Public Schools** **Cambridge, MA**

- Counseled diverse group of students
- Implemented classroom behavioral interventions
- Consulted on individual educational plans
- Developed functional behavioral plans

*School Psychologist* August 1997 to August 1998  
**Cambridge Youth Guidance Center** **Cambridge, MA**

- Provided counseling support to children and families
- Consulted on intervention approaches
- Developed individual improvement plans

---

## Field Experience

*Teaching Fellow* September 2003 to June 2004  
**Harvard University Field Experience Program** **Cambridge, MA**

- Supervised interns in their respective sites
- Developed strategies for negotiating communication differences
- Counseled interns on professional opportunities in their fields of interest
- Supported best practice interactions in the workplace

*Head Research Assistant* September 1998 to June 2003  
**Harvard Immigration Project** **Cambridge, MA**

- Conducted interviews and observations
- Consulted on Haitian children and culture
- Developed strategies to understand multiple aspects of Haitian students
- Presented papers regarding preliminary data of Haitian students

*School Psychologist Intern* September 1995 to June 1996  
**Cambridge Public Schools** **Cambridge, MA**

- Conducted cognitive and personality assessment of elementary and high school students
- Analyzed and implemented intervention techniques
- Consulted in assessing Haitian bilingual students
- Co-facilitated social skills and support groups

---

## Courses Taught and/or Developed

- Health and Learning
- Qualitative Research
- Methods of Inquiry
- Research in Education: Process and Application
- Educational Diversity and Community
- Qualitative Analysis
- Developmental Foundations for Child and Youth Care Practice
- Theories and Strategies for Behavior Change in Programs for Children and Youth
- Youth, and Design and Management of Therapeutic Environments
- Public Policy and the Child and Youth Care Field for Program Administrators
- Global Education and Classroom Culture
- Program Assessment, Evaluation and Professional Growth

---

## Academic Committees

- NSU Fischler Dr. Charles L. Faires Dissertation of Distinction Award Review Committee
- NSU Fischler College Doctoral Curriculum Committee (Co-Chair)
- NSU Committee to Review Health Science M.H.Sc program
- NSU Undergraduate Retention Committee
- NSU Foundation of Excellence Committee
- NSU Fischler Rank/Promotion Committee
- NSU Fischler School Faculty Peer Review Committee, Nova Southeastern University
- Search Committee for Title IV Community Coordinator, Nova Southeastern University
- Search Committee for Doctoral Enrollment Counselor/Program Professor, Nova Southeastern University
- Student Judicial Committee, Nova Southeastern University
- Office of Community Education and Diversity Affairs Advisory Council, Nova Southeastern University
- Region IV Committee, Nova Southeastern University
- Charter School Education and Leadership Advisory Board

---

## Research Grants

- 2009-2010 Out-of-School Programs, \$100,000, *Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (L.I.F.E.) Summer Institute*, The Children's Trust.
- 2009-2010, *Quality of Life Faculty Community-Based Applied Research Grant, \$10,000*, Connections: Families and Schools Supporting Our Youth, Nova Southeastern University.
- 2008-2009 President's Faculty Research and Development Grant, \$10,000, *A Case Study of Middle School Haitian Children's Identity Awareness*, Nova Southeastern University.
- 2003-2005 Spencer Research Training Grant, \$53,000, *Lòt Bò Dlo: Across Waters Haitian Students Search for Identity in U.S. Schools*, Spencer Foundation.

---

## Academic Honors and Awards

- 2012 *Finer Womanhood Community Fellowship Award*, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority
- 2011 *Alumni of Color Conference Alumni Award*, Harvard University
- 2010 *Africana Center Service Award*, Tufts University
- *Spencer Training Research Grant*, Harvard University
- *Fiske Scholarship*, Harvard University
- *Calderwood Fellow*, Calderwood Foundation
- *David Rockefeller Summer Research Grant*, Harvard University
- *Class of 1911 Academic Award*, Tufts University

---

## Publications

- Desir, C., Hall, P., August, S., Seraphin, W., & Gallagher, S. (2016). Discovering Haitian Youth's Spiritual Epistemology Through a Culturally Based Summer Program. Marcelin, H., Cela, T. & Dorvil, H. (Eds.) *Florida Haitian Youth in the Americas: Generations, Transnational Circulation and Identities*, University of Quebec Press (2016).
- Jean Marie, G, Sider S. & Desir, C. (2015). Comparative International Perspectives on Education and Social change in Developing Countries and Indigenous People in Developed Countries, Information Age Publishing, (2015).

- Sider S., Jean Marie, & Desir, C (2015). Haiti: Leadership for Social Capital and Change. Jean Marie, G, Sider S. & Desir, C. (Eds.). *Comparative International Perspectives on Education and Social change in Developing Countries and Indigenous People in Developed Countries*, Information Age Publishing, (2015).
- Desir, C., Gallagher, S., Dees, D. (2015). *Mobilization of Local Networks to Build Capacity for Educational Systems in Developing Countries and Indigenous Peoples in Developed Countries*. Jean Marie, G, Sider S. & Desir, C.(Eds.). *Comparative International Perspectives on Education and Social change in Developing Countries and Indigenous People in Developed Countries*, Information Age Publishing, (2015).
- Ferguson, G. & Desir, C. (2014). *Ayiti Cheri: Cultural Orientation of Early Adolescents in Rural Haiti*. *The Journal of Early Adolescence*, 34, (5), 620-636.
- Desir, C. (2011). (Invited) *Diasporic Lakou: A Haitian Academic Explores her Path to Haiti Pre and Post Earthquake*. *Harvard Educational Review*, 82 (2), 278-295.
- Chenail, R. J., Cooper, R., & Desir. C. (2009). *Reviewing the Research Literature Strategically in Qualitative Research*. *Journal of Ethnographic & Qualitative Research*, 4, 88-94.
- Bernard, R., C. Cervoni, C. Desir, & C. McKamey (2009). "Understanding the "T" in the academy." in Luttrell, W., ed. *Qualitative Research in Education Reader*. New York: Routledge.
- Desir, C. (2008). *Understanding the Sending Context of Haitian Immigrant Students*. *Journal of Haitian Studies*, 13 (2), 73-93.
- Desir, C. (2008). *Haitian Spirituality in the U.S. Context: An Exploration of Student Experiences in School*. 2008 University of Oxford International Conference on Social Values in Education and Business.

---

## Presentations at Refereed Professional Meetings

- Bacheller, L., Hall, P.D., & Desir, C. (May, 2016). *The Relationship Between Spirituality and Psychological Well-being in Haitian American Adolescents*. Poster accepted for presentation at The Association of Psychological Sciences Convention, Chicago, Illinois.
- Desir, C., Gallagher, S., & Hall P.D. (June, 2016). *Strengthening Haitian Youth Identity with Spiritually-Based Curriculum*. Symposium presentation at the 2011 Caribbean Studies Association, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
- Hall, P.D., Bacheller, L., Coleman, L. & Desir, C. (August, 2016). *Role of religion and spirituality in the psychological well-being of Haitian adults*. Poster accepted for presentation at the American Psychological Association 124th Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado.
- Desir, C. & Tenam Zemach, M. (October, 2015). *Mothers as Curriculum Makers*. Symposium presented at the 2015 American Association for Teaching and Curriculum. Portland, Maine.
- Desir, C. (October, 2015). *Remembering the Legacy of Karen McCarthy Brown : Contributions to Studies of Anthropology, Feminist Studies, and Religion*. Invited Presentation at the 2015 Kosanba Conference, Montreal, Canada.
- Desir, C. (October, 2015). *Discussion of my co-edited book Comparative International Perspectives on Education and Social Change in Developing Countries and Indigenous Peoples in Developed Countries*. Presentation at the 2015 Haitian Studies Association Conference, Montreal, Canada.
- Desir, C. (May, 2015). *An Affirming and Critical Look at the Haitian Family*. Keynote Presentation at the Haitian Mental Health Conference, Needham, MA.

- Desir, C. (January, 2015). *Journey into the Qualitative Arena- a Transformation*. Symposium Presentation at the Qualitative Report Conference, Davie, FL.
- Desir, C. (May, 2014). *Synergizing Education and Mental Health*. Invited Speaker at the Haitian Mental Health Conference, Needham, MA.
- Desir, C., Rahill, G., Sanders, G. & Celeste, M. (November, 2012). *Beyond the Institutional Review Board: Critical Questions for the Study of Haiti*. Symposium Presentation at the 2012 Haitian Studies Association Conference, Queens, NY.
- Hall, P.D., Desir, C., & Rivera-Torres, K. (May, 2012). *Self-Esteem Trajectories of Haitian American Adolescents*. Association of Psychological Science Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.
- Hall, P.D., Desir, C., Rivera-Torres, K., & Hall, S. (August, 2012). *How Do They Measure Up? Measuring Self-Esteem and Depression levels amongst Haitian Adolescents*. Poster Accepted for American Psychology Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida.
- Desir, C. (2011 November). *Diasporic Lakou: Epistemology and Haitian Culture*. Symposium presented at the 2011 Kosanba Conference, Mona, Jamaica.
- Desir, C. (2010, November). *Literacy Initiative for Empowerment: Haitian High School Students in South Florida Use Photovoice Methodology for Empowerment*. Symposium presented at the 2010 Haitian Studies Association Conference, Providence, RI.
- Desir, C. (2010, January). *Understanding Immigrant Student using Qualitative Inquiry*. Symposium presented at 2010 Qualitative Report Inaugural Conference, Davie, FL.
- Chenail, R., Cooper, R., Desir, C. (2009, June). *Reviewing the research Literature Strategically in Qualitative Research*. Symposium presented at the 2009 Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference, Cedarville, OH.
- Desir, C. (2009, May). *Haitian Students' Identity Awareness*. Symposium presentation at the 2009 Child and Youth Care Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL.
- Desir, C. (2008, November). *Mirrored Reflections: Impressions of Haitian Student Identity in Haiti and the U.S.* Symposium presented at the 2008 Haitian Studies Association Conference, Montrouis, Haiti.
- Desir, C. (2006, October). *Haitian Students Doing Identity Work*. Symposium presented at the 2006 Haitian Studies Association Conference, Charlottesville, VA.
- Desir, C. (2006, April). *Vulnerability in Qualitative Research*. Symposium presented at 2006 American Education Research Association Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Desir, C. (2005, April). *Immigrant Students Balancing Race and Ethnicity*. Symposium presented at 2005 American Education Research Association Conference, Montreal, Canada.
- Desir, C. (2005, October). *Invisible School Practices Affecting Haitian Students Hope of College*. Symposium presented at the 2005 Haitian Studies Association Conference, Boston, MA.
- Desir, C. (2003, March). *Haitian Children in American Schools: Cultural Conflicts*. Symposium presented at the 2003 Trans-American Crossroads: Haiti and the Making of the Americas Conference, Amherst, MA.
- Desir, C. & Doucet, F. (2003, April). *What Happens to a Dream Deferred? Framing the Educational Experiences of Haitian Children within the Context of Migration*. Symposium presented at the 2003 Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Tampa, FL.

- Desir, C. Bernard, R., Cervoni, C., & McCamey, C. (2002, June). *Finding the 'I' in the Academy*. Symposium presented at 2002 Ethnography and Qualitative Research Education Conference. Pittsburgh, PA.
- Desir, C. (2001, March). *Cultural Conflict with New Immigrants*. Symposium presented at the 2001 Harvard Graduate Student of Education Conference, Cambridge, MA.
- Bernard, R., Cervoni, C., Desir, C., Katzew, A., Whitehouse, P. & McCamey, C. (2000, February). Subjectivity in Qualitative Research: *The Tensions and Dilemmas of Placing Yourself in Your Research*. Symposium presented at 2000 Harvard University Qualitative Research Series, Cambridge, MA.
- Desir, C. (2000, October). *Understanding the Lives of Haitian Children*. Symposium presented at the 2000 Haitian Studies Association Conference, West Palm Beach, FL.
- Desir, C. (1999, October). *Misconceptions of Haitian Children*, Symposium presented at the 1999 Haitian Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, GA.

---

### Other Presentations and Workshops

- Desir, C, Baldauf, P, LeBlanc, P. & Tenam-Zemach, M. (2015, October). *A New Era of Faculty Rank & Promotion: Balancing the Three Pillars of the Academy: Teaching & Advising; Research & Scholarship; and Service*. Invited speaking engagement for FSE Faculty Retreat. Miami Beach, FL.
- Desir, C. (2015, May). *Culture as a Lens for Professional Success*. Invited speaking engagement at Union County College. Plainfield, NJ.
- Desir, C. (2014, November). *Re-awakening the Haitian Spirit and Haitian Mind*. Invited speaking engagement at Florida International University. Miami, FL.
- Desir, C. (2014, August). *The Role of Perseverance on Women Leaders*. Invited speaking engagement at Florida International University Aqua Foundation Emerging Leaders Conference. Miami, FL.
- Desir, C. (2014, March). *Community Partners on Best Practices for Collaboration*. Invited speaking engagement at Barry University Community Engagement Symposium. Miami Shores, FL.
- Desir, C. (2013, May). *Perceptions of Higher Education in a Diverse Pop Culture*. Invited speaking engagement for Nova Scholars Roundtable. North Miami Beach, FL.
- Desir, C. (2013, April). *Decolonizing the Imagination: Creative Expressions of Youth Liberation*. Invited speaking engagement at Rhode Island College, Providence, RI.
- Desir, C. (2013, March). *Women as Agents of Social Change*. Invited speaking engagement at Miami-Dade College, Miami, FL.
- Desir, C. (2013, January). *Reflections on the 2010 Earthquake*. Invited speaking engagement at Black Studies Department at Barry University, Miami Shores, FL.
- Desir, C. (2012, October). *Aspiring beyond a stereotype*. Invited speaking engagement at Helping Abused Neglected Disadvantaged Youth-HANDY, Lauderhill, FL.
- Desir, C. (2011, October). *Lakou Soley: Maintaining healing through the Arts in Haiti*. Invited speaking engagement at Artswork Conference-Goddard College, Plainville, VT.
- Desir, C. (2011, July). *Qualitative Research Methods Symposium*. Invited speaking engagement at Université d'Etat D, Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

- Desir, C. (2011, July). *School Administration Leadership Dialogues*. Invited speaking engagement at Community Education Project, St. Raphael, Haiti.
- Desir, C. (2011, May). *Art Therapy Lakou: A Hands-On Haitian Educational Project*. Invited speaking engagement at University of Santa Barbara, Center for Black Studies, Santa Barbara, CA.
- Desir, C. (2011, March). *Haitian Teens and Identity Integration*. Invited speaking engagement at the NSU Speakers Forum, Nova Southeastern University, Davie, FL.
- Rivera-Torres, K., Hall, P. & Desir, C. (March 2011). *Examining the self-esteem of Haitian adolescents*. Paper accepted for Presentation at the Florida Academy of Sciences, Melbourne, Florida.
- Desir, C. (2011, February). *Walls of Hope - Reflecting on Community Projects in Rebuilding Haiti*. Invited speaking engagement at Wesleyan University, Middleton, CT.
- Desir, C. (2010, August). *Understanding and Creating Lesson Plans for Traumatized Students*. Workshop engagement for FAVACCA, St. Raphael, Haiti.
- Desir, C. (2010, July). *An Assessment of Haitian Scholarship in Education*. Invited Speaking engagement at the Latin American Caribbean Center, Florida International University, Miami, FL.
- Desir, C. (2010, June). *Healing and Cultural Awareness as a Tool for Academic Advancement*. Keynote speaker for the Haitian Parent Conference, Miami, FL.
- Desir, C. (2010, May). *Social Trauma and its Global Impact on Education*. Invited speaking engagement at New York University, New York, NY.
- Desir, C. (2010, March). *The Socio-psychological Impact of the 2010 Haitian Earthquake on Education*. Invited video-conference engagement at The University of Oklahoma. Tulsa, OK.
- Desir, C. (2010, February). *Students Needs for Academic Achievement*. Invited speaking engagement at Northeastern University, Boston, MA.
- Desir, C. (2009, December). *Youth Activism*. Workshop engagement for College Summit. Miami, FL.
- Desir, C. (2009, June). *Academic Engagement among Immigrant High School Students*. Invited speaking engagement for the Algebra Project at Florida International University. Miami, FL.
- Desir, C. (2009, May). *Haitian Students' Identity Awareness: A Case Study in North Miami*. Workshop engagement at Barry University. Miami Shores, FL.
- Desir, C. (2009, January). *Haitian Middle School Students' Identity Awareness*. Invited speaking engagement for Nova Fischler Faculty Retreat. North Miami Beach, FL.
- Desir, C. (2008, September). *From Traumatic Lives to Bad Students: Haitian Immigrant Youth Creating Identity in U.S. Urban Schools*. Invited speaking engagement for Nova Scholars Roundtable. North Miami Beach, FL.
- Desir, C. (2008, October). *Understanding Haitian Immigrant Children and their Families*. Invited speaking engagement for Nova's Center for Psychological Studies. Davie, FL.
- Desir, C. (2008, January). *Haitian Spirituality in the U.S. Context: An Exploration of Student Experiences in School*. Symposium presented at the 2008 University of Oxford International Conference on Social Values in Education and Business.

- Desir, C. (2005, May). *Training H.S. and College Mentors to work with Immigrant Students in the Cambridge School District*, Workshop engagement. Cambridge, MA.
- Desir, C. (2005, June). *Immigrant Students in Urban Schools*. Invited speaking engagement for Cambridge Community Services. Cambridge, MA.
- Desir, C. (2004, November). *Legacy of Haitians History on Youth*. Invited speaking engagement for Haitian Network Group of Detroit. Detroit, MI.
- Desir, C. (2003, March). *Youth in Crisis*. Invited speaking engagement for Haitian Coalition. Somerville, MA.
- Desir, C. (2000, April). *Haitian Immigration to Boston*. Invited speaking engagement for The Bostonian Society. Boston, MA.
- Desir, C. (2000, May). *Teens Communicating with Parents*. Invited speaking engagement for Haitian Youth Congress at the UMASS. Boston, MA.

---

## Membership in Professional Associations

- Haitian Studies Association, HSA
- Kosanba - The Congress of Santa Barbara
- Caribbean Studies Association, CSA
- American Education Research Association, AERA
- American Association of University Women, AAUW
- National Women's Studies Association, NWSA

---

## Language Competencies/Certifications

- Advanced proficiency in English and Haitian Creole
- Basic proficiency in French
- School Psychologist Certification in MA and FL

---

## Service

- Founder, Gifted Ones Lakou Mentorship Project September 2010 to present
- Secretary, *Children Services Council*, March 2012 to August 2013
- Gubernatorial Appointed Council Member, *Children Services Council*, March 2012 to August 2013
- President, *Haitian Studies Association*, January 2012 to December 2012
- Board Member of *Haitian Studies Association*, January 2008 to December 2013
- Secretary of *Haiti Soliel*, April 2010 to December 2012
- Board Member of *Haiti Soliel*, January 2007 to June 2013
- Co-founder of The Empowerment Network (T.E.N.) Global, January 2007 to Present
- Associate Editor, *The Journal of Haitian Studies*, January 2010 to December 2011
- Associate Editor, *The Qualitative Report*, August 2009 to Present
- Board Member of the *Fantezi Kreyol Dance Company*, August 2004 to July 2006
- Harvard Everyday Antiracist Working Group, September 2005 to June 2006
- Boston Black Administrator's Inquiry Group, September 2004 to June 2006
- Executive Board Member for *The Haitian American Support Society (THASS)*, September 2002 to June 2006
- Student Representative on the *Haitian Studies Association Board*, September 1997 to June 2000
- Co-founder and Coordinator of *Mentor Program for Haitian Girls*, September 1995 to June 1996