

VANESSA LÉON, Ph.D.

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

2019 – present **New York University** – Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service
Assistant Clinical Professor of Urban Planning and Public Service.

2019 – present **New York University** – Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service
co-Director of Urban Planning.

EDUCATION:

2019 **The New School**
Ph.D., Public and Urban Policy.

2012 – 2013 **The University of Maryland** – College Park
Ph.D. student, Urban and Regional Planning and Design.

2010 **New York University** – Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service
Master of Urban Planning.

2008 **Brandeis University**
B.A. *Magna Cum Laude*, African and African American Studies;
American Studies.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2010 – present **Pinchina Consulting, LLC**
Founder + Chief Executive Officer.

2011 – 2012 **The American Institute of Architects (AIA)**
Manager, Public Policy.

2009 – 2010 **Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy**
Graduate Research Assistant.

2009 **New York City Office of Financial Empowerment**
Policy Consultant.

HONORS:

2018 **Impact Award – Young Women Rising** (American Women for International Understanding).

2015 **Jean Price-Mars Haiti Future Leaders Fellow** (The Embassy of Haiti – Washington D.C.).

2015 **Top 5 Haitian-Americans to Watch** (The Haitian Roundtable).

2014 **40 Urban Leaders Under 40** (Next City).

PUBLICATIONS:

Policy Paper

Léon, Vanessa. "Considering the Long-Term Physical, Economic and Social Impacts of China's Recent Engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean: A Review of the Literature" (2012).

Working Paper

Léon, Vanessa. "Towards a Decentralized Haitian State: The Promises and Shortcomings of the Post-Duvalier Constitution of 1987."

Works-in-Progress

Léon, Vanessa. "A Multi-Site Analysis of USAID's Fiscal Decentralization Programming on Public Service Delivery in Haiti from 2013 – 2017."

Léon, Vanessa. "Assessing the Impact of City-Mandated Language Access on Public Service Provision in New York City (2008 – 2018)" (working title).

Léon, Vanessa. "The Role of Immigration Status on Racial Identity Formation and Civic Participation Among Non-Citizen Haitian Millennials in New York City" (working title).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS:

- 2017 "Decentralization in Post-Duvalier Haiti: An Illusive Promise." 29th Annual Conference of the Haitian Studies Association. New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 "Decentralization, Governance and Development in Haiti." International Conference of the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management. Brussels, Belgium.
- 2017 "A Retrospective of Recent U.S. Foreign Policy in Haiti." Panel Discussion with U.S. State Department's Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere and Haiti Special Coordinator Kenneth Merten. Brooklyn College, NY.
- 2017 "Decentralization, Governance and Development in Haiti." Les Défis du Développement d'Haïti. Long Island University. Brooklyn, NY.
- 2016 "Decentralization, Institutional Development, and Planning in Haiti." 41st Annual Conference of the Caribbean Studies Association. Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
- 2016 "Fiscal Decentralization and Institutional Development in Post-Earthquake Haiti." 8th Annual Krueckeberg Doctoral Conference in Urban Studies, Urban Planning and Public Policy. Rutgers University. New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2013 "Moving Towards 'Mutually Beneficial Cooperation' with China in the Caribbean." Invited Public Lecturer. University of Technology. Kingston, Jamaica. September 26th, 2013.
- 2013 "Cultural Identity in Haiti's Public Squares." Inaugural "Biennial Celebration of Public Space in the Americas" Symposium. 2013 National Planning Conference of the American Planning Association.
- 2013 "Engaging China in the Caribbean." 2013 Caribbean Urban Forum. Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

New York University
Management and Leadership (Masters).

CUNY – Queens College
Race, Place and Space (Masters).
Race, Ethnicity and Immigration (Undergraduate; Masters).

CUNY – Hunter College
Land Use, People and the Environment (Masters).

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

African and African American Studies Alumni Advisory Committee.
American Planning Association.
Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management.
Caribbean Studies Association.
Haitian Studies Association.
Townsend Harris Alumni Association.

SKILLS:

Fluent in Haitian Creole.
Proficient in Spanish.