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Digital Storytelling and Knowledge Sharing Practices of Haitian Women's Realities Proposal

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Presentation Proposal
My current interdisciplinary research project moves towards inserting Haitian women's voices in Digital Humanities discourses. As a Black feminist filmmaker, my multilingual project, share the ways diasporic Haitian women revisit and navigate memories through reflection to make sense of the ways their lived experiences contribute to different aspects of their identities. The two situations I use as catalysts for memory are: (1) Inhabiting and reflecting on practices and conversations of the Haitian kitchen space. And, (2) revisiting old photographs to understand how we (re)claim and discover identities. This project takes the form of a navigable website *(coded by me)* where users engage with documentary video *(filmed and edited by me),* photography, and other digital representations for composing and knowledge sharing.

As a scholar, acknowledging the multifaceted process of composing, my research considers how we represent the authenticity of Haitian women's cultural identities in digital formats and spaces. Similar to the multidimensional practice of composition, cultural identities are not performed through a singular practice; it is a multilayered production of knowledge making and practices. Digital/Multimedia composition allows for Haitian women to compose, construct, build, and make meaning in various forms that embrace cultural identities and practices embedded in making and knowledge production.

The digital practices in my research project are rhetorical approaches to disrupt colonial practices that promote epistemic exclusion. Further, I challenge controlling images and texts that circulate to make racism, sexism, and other forms of social injustices appear as the "normal" narrative in digital spaces. As a Caribbean scholar, I contribute to how epistemic resources are created and shared, because "the growing influence of television, radio, movies, videos, CD's, and the Internet constitute new ways of circulating controlling images, especially with new global technologies that allow U.S. popular culture to be exported throughout the world" (Collins 85).

References
- Hill Collins, Patricia. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowermen*t. Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1990.