

Eric Crawford is Director of the Charles W. Joyner Institute for Gullah and African Diaspora Studies at Coastal Carolina University. He holds a Ph.D. in musicology from The Catholic University of America. His research focuses on the rich tradition of Gullah music, specifically the retentions and alterations that have occurred since the antebellum period. Beginning in 2007, he conducted extensive field recordings on Saint Helena Island, site of the historic Port Royal Experiment, and his transcriptions are held at the Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. An outgrowth of this work was the Saint Helena Island Gullah Spirituals Project, which was a collaborative effort among scholars and students to preserve and foster the study of the earliest recorded Negro spirituals. In 2013, the Atheneum Press at Coastal Carolina University published his field interviews in a CD and accompanying booklet entitled *Gullah: The Voice of an Island*.

His work on historic Sandy Island led to the 2017 publication *At Low Tide: The Voices of Sandy Island*. This booklet and interactive multi-media project highlight the rich history of Sandy Island and the need to ensure this island's continued survival. As part of this effort, a Civil Rights Grant from the National Park Service was awarded to Coastal Carolina University to rebuild the island's historic school and create an interactive cultural center. In 2018, Crawford was instrumental in receiving a National Archives Grant that will centralize South Carolina's Gullah Geechee research at Coastal Carolina University. Most recently he will appear in Henry Louis Gates' upcoming miniseries "The Black Church" and is music consultant for the new Amazon miniseries "The Underground Railroad."