



A proud US American of Cuban heritage, Alex was born in Jersey City to Cuban political refugees who fled the Castro revolution. A veteran professor of Spanish and ESL at Brookdale Community College, Alex he has inspired students with his passion for language and culture for over 25 years. He holds a Master's degree in Spanish from Middlebury College's Madrid program and a Bachelor's degree in Comparative Literature from his home state's Drew University, to which he has returned to pursue his Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) degree in Writing.

As does the creative doctoral thesis he is developing, Alex's talk delves into how he experienced his parents' exile vicariously, and his own directly. He shares how being on the outside within his own family as well as the broader society he grew up in led him to a profound realization: while he believed he did not belong anywhere, he, like all of us, belongs everywhere.

Alex's story is one of overcoming adversity and embracing the power of education to transform lives. His TED Talk will explore the intersections of language, identity, and the immigrant experience, offering insights into his taking refuge in his own internal homeland.