

Philip U. Effiong

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EDUCATION

PhD, Drama (electives in Sociology, African and Afro-American Studies) **Aug. 1994**

University of Wisconsin – Madison

Dissertation: "In Search of a Model for African-American Drama"

Committee: Professor Craig Werner (Chair), Professor Jim Moy, Professor Jill Dolan

MA, English and Literary Studies (focus on Literature of the African Diaspora) **Nov. 1985**

University of Calabar – Nigeria

BA, English and Literary Studies **Nov. 1982**

University of Calabar – Nigeria

TEACHING AND RELATED ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor **Jan. 2017 – Present**

Departments of English & Theater, Michigan State University, East Lansing

- Teaching Contemporary Theater Studies, African American Drama and Performance, African Literature, Literature and Society, Africa and the World, Africa-Area Studies.
- Teaching online summer classes.
- Periodically working with faculty and students on theatrical productions.
- Collaborating with History and Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences to document key topics on the Nigerian-Biafran Civil War.
- Periodically working on service committees in Theater.
- As Core Faculty of the African Studies Center, collaborate with other faculty from various departments to advance Africa-focused programs and courses.

Associate Professor **Aug. – Dec. 2016**

Department of English, Morehouse College, Atlanta

- Taught English Composition and World Literature with emphasis on period and region.
- Used Ted Talk and related videos to link specific topics to current issues.
- Participated in African American Studies programs and activities.

Online Professor **Oct. 2006 – Aug. 2016**

Department of English, University of Maryland University College (UMUC)

- Taught African American literature and World Drama using WebTycho and Learning Experience Online (LEO) platforms.
- Facilitated weekly conferences to ensure comprehensive student participation.

Senior Lecturer and Director **Oct. 2014 – May 2015**

Inst. of Languages and Gen. Studies, Regent University of Science and Tech., Accra, Ghana

- Taught writing and research methods.
- Supervised faculty of the Languages Institute and General Studies.
- Helped create syllabus and delivered lectures for African Development class.
- Ensured that French was retained as course for business students and contributed to initial stages of creating an interactive French Club.

- Headed Advertisement and Marketing Committee; developed proposal to promote university brand.

English Instructor

Jan. – June 2014

Rosslyn Academy (Parent-Teacher Fellowship program), Nairobi, Kenya

- Co-created interactive English program for non-English speaking parents.
- Utilized hands-on, everyday experience to clarify topics and facilitate participation.

*(Please refer to “WRITING AND NON-TEACHING POSITIONS” below for activities from 1998 – 2014.)

Visiting Assistant Professor

Sep. 1997 – May 1998

Department of English, Lincoln University – PA

- Taught Remedial English, Freshman Writing and Drama of the African Diaspora (for the latter utilized video presentations and directed participatory group presentations and sketches).

Adjunct Professor

Sep. 1997 – May 1998

Department of English, University of Delaware – Newark

- Taught Freshman Writing, Advanced Writing and Survey of Drama (for the latter utilized video presentations and directed participatory group presentations and sketches).

Assistant Professor

Sep. 1994 – May 1997

Department of English, University of Tennessee – Martin

- Taught Drama, African American Literature, Multicultural Literature and Writing, and maintained interactive sessions through group and individual presentations.
- Prepared and taught distance learning Black Writers class through University of Tennessee Department of Independent Study.
- Supervised graduating theses and participated in extracurricular activities to advance student social and cognitive skills.
- Served on the following Committees: Publications • English as a Second Language (ESL) and Multicultural Concerns • Geography Department Search • English Department Search.

Adjunct Professor

Sep. 1992 – May 1994

Department of Afro-American Studies, University of Wisconsin – Madison

- Taught African American Biography and Folklore, and Coordinated African and African American Linkages course, which entailed recruiting professors from different departments to deliver lectures on culture, art, music, religion, politics and history.
- Supervised teaching assistants in breaking large classes into small interactive groups.

WRITING AND NON-TEACHING POSITIONS

Guest Editor

Oct. 2015 – Aug. 2016

West Africa Review, publication of the Africa Resource Center, New York

- Established the thematic focus of a special edition of the journal, managed the submission and acceptance of articles, and supervised the revision of all accepted articles.

Member, Search Committee

Jan. – May 2015

Lincoln Community School, Accra, Ghana

- Participated in the successful recruitment process of interviewing, researching and providing comparative documentation on candidates for position of new School Head.

Director of Academic Research and Information

Mar. 2007 – May 2010

The Africa Society, Washington, DC, Africa-focused NGO

- Researched, wrote and edited all documents on the education-based goals of the organization, including its web content and newsletter, and delivered lectures for its *Teach Africa* program.
- Raised funds by supervising and writing concept papers for the organization, including letters of inquiry and proposals to promote the organization's brand.
- Conducted research to support series on "Presidential Tours of Africa" for Travel Channel.

Consultant Writer /Researcher /Editor

2001 – 2016

Various USA and Nigerian Agencies

- Periodically contracted to carry out writing projects for: National Democratic Institute • Centers for Disease Control • USAID • UNDP • Department for International Development • Internews (media-focused NGO) • TEOCO Corporation • *Africa Unbound* magazine • *Footprint* magazine • *Transport Digest* magazine • Agencies within Nigerian Federal and State Governments.

Senior Programmer

Nov. 1998 – Apr. 2001

Automatic Data Processing, Rockville, MD

- Participated in the team development of Oracle Software.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *In Search of a Model for African American Drama*. University Press of America, 2000.
- *Monty*, a novel. Author House, 2001 (undergoing revision).

Articles (Academic)

- "The Zombie as Critic: Misinterpreting Fela's 'Zombie.'" Accepted for publication in *African Notes*, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 2017.
- Review of *African Women Playwrights* (2009). *CONTINUUM: A Journal of African/Diaspora Drama, Theatre and Performance*, vol. 3, no. 2, 2016, <http://continuumjournal.org/index.php/104-volumes/issues/vol-3-no-2/3-2-book-reviews/144-african-women-playwrights-edited-by-kathy-a-perkins>.
- "Unleashing Power from Within: Rejecting the Foreign Aid Farce." *West Africa Review*, vol. 24, 2014, pp. 22-40.
- "Forty Years Later, the War Hasn't Ended." *The Nigeria Biafra War*, edited by Chima J. Korieh, Cambria Press, 2012, 261-276.
- "Haya" and "Ginen." *Encyclopedia of African Religion*. 2009.
- "Baraka, Amiri" and "Drama, African American." *Encyclopedia of Africa and the Americas*. Vol. 1, 2008.
- "Hansberry, Lorraine." *Encyclopedia of Africa and the Americas*. Vol. 2, 2008.
- "Pageant, The African American" and "Shange, Ntozake." *Encyclopedia of Africa and the Americas*. Vol. 3, 2008.
- "History, Myth, and Revolt in Hansberry's *Les Blancs*." *African American Review*, vol. 32, no. 2, 1998, pp. 273-283.
- "Civil Rights Movement in Literature" and "Nation of Islam in Literature." *Identities and Issues in Literature*, edited by David R. Peck and Eric Howard, Salem Press, 1997.
- Twenty entries on "Drama and Film." *Dictionary of Twentieth Century Culture*. African American Culture Volume, 1996.
- "The Subliminal to the Real: Musical Regeneration in Ntozake Shange's *Boogie Woogie Landscapes*." *Theatre Studies*, vol. 39, 1994, pp. 33-43.
- "Tracing the Nigerian Literary Heritage." *Nigeria: The People and Their Culture*, edited by J. U. Obot, Wusen Press, 1987, 214-224.

Articles (Nonacademic)

- “Biafra and the Politics of Blame.” *The Republic*. 23 Dec. 2017, <https://www.republic.com.ng/october-november-2017/biafra-politics-blame>.
- “Retelling Our Stories, Redefining Our Heroes.” *Africa Unbound*, Spring 2011, <http://www.africaunbound.org/index.php/aumagazine/issue-7/item/retelling-our-stories-redefining-our-heroes.html>.
- “The Career Africanists in Washington D.C.” *Africa Unbound*, Fall 2009, <http://africaunbound.org/index.php/aumagazine/issue-5/item/the-career-africanists-in-washington-dc.html>.

Novels on Kindle and Completed Manuscripts

- *A Spider’s Sermon*, <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00RH153HA>.
- *Shadrach: War Child* (fiction) • *Morning Song and Mildew* (fiction) • *Diaries of a Housegirl* (fiction) • *A Spider’s Sermon* (fiction) • *Biafran Boy* (memoir) • *Bigmanism: Nigeria’s Personality Cult* (collection of satirical essays).

PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES

- “Genocide: A Systematic and Continuous Process.” IPOB UK Genocide Exhibition, 17 Aug. 2019, Goldsmith University of London.
- “Post Biafra Healing: The Need to Reclaim Precolonial Ties.” Nkata Umu Ibe Monthly Distinguished Speaker Series, Centre For Memories Program, 2 Aug. 2019, Enugu Sports Club, Enugu State, Nigeria.
- Keynote Address. “Connectivity: Africa and the African Diaspora.” We Are The World African Gala, MSU African Student Union program, 17 Nov. 2018, Everett High School, Lansing, MI.
- “The Zombie as Critic: Misinterpreting Fela’s ‘Zombie.’” 50 Years of Black Studies 1968-2018: Intellectual Histories and Institutional Demands, Nov. 29-Dec 1, 2018, Purdue University symposium, West Lafayette, Indiana.
- Facilitator, “Cultural Appropriation in the Diaspora.” “Ubuntu at MSU” organized by Global Youth Advancement Network, Alliance for African Partnership, Student Affairs and Services, and Rising Black Men, 1 Sep. 2018, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.
- “In Conversation with Timothy Modu on ‘Key Actors in the War.’” 6th Annual International Igbo Conference: Legacies of Biafra, Apr. 21-22, 2017, SOAS University of London.
- “Biafran Refugees: A Tale of Endurance and Brutality,” Igbo Studies Conference, Apr. 8-9, 2011, Howard University, Washington DC.
- “Sleepwalk through Ireland,” International Conference on Ireland and Biafra, Sep. 30.-Oct. 1, 2010, National University of Ireland, Galway.
- “40 Years Later...the War Hasn’t Ended,” International Conference on Biafra-Nigeria Civil War: Our Stories and Lessons Learnt, Sep. 25-26, 2009, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- “A Chip off the New Block: Reinventing African Masculinity in Modern America,” First African and African American Studies Conference: African Identities in the Age of Obama, Oct. 8 – 10, 2009, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.
- “From Achebe to Adichie: Preservation of an Oral Tradition,” Library of Congress Symposium on 50th Anniversary of Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*, Washington, DC, Nov. 2008.
- “The Consummate Editor” and “Telling a Good Story,” Internews lecture, Abuja, Nigeria, Dec. 2004 & Feb. 2005.

THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

- Facilitated post-show discussions for *Thus With A Kiss I Die*, MSU immersive production, spring 2018.

- Co-directed Sexual Politics Series, MSU production, fall 2018.
- Wrote short performances pieces addressing the healthcare goals of Africare (an NGO) in Nigeria (2002-2005)
- Played Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, University of Wisconsin production, 1991.
- Played Soldier, Officer and Peasant in *Mother Courage* by Bertolt Brecht, University of Wisconsin, 1990 (also played drum to accompany songs).
- Stage Manager, *Westside Story* by Arthur Laurents, University of Wisconsin, 1989.
- Played Manny in *Strictly Matrimony* by Errol Hill, Study of the African Diaspora production, University of Wisconsin, 1988.

CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Performance (dance, music, song, drama, oral traditions) as a survival and resistance tool among Jamaican Maroons and related diasporic communities.
- Appropriating and Performing Divine Authority: A Tool for Wielding Total Dictatorial Power.
- Influence of European drama and Greek tragedy on African and African diasporic drama.
- Reinterpretation of biblical literature as a tool for creating conflict and unconventional armies.
- Postcolonial and post-apartheid African literature.
- Historical narratives that redefine Africa achievements in education, architecture, science, healthcare, war and astronomy.
- Biafran refugee descendants in the Ivory Coast and Gabon.
- Documentary on the Nigeria-Biafra Civil War.
- Widespread misinterpretation of the music of African legend, Fela Kuti.
- African diaspora in India and the Philippines.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Tip of the Hat Award for teaching excellence, University of Maryland University College (UMUC), 2016.
- Certificate of Recognition, Notable Scholarly Activity in Professional Research, UMUC, 2012.
- Nominated for Stanley J. Drazek Teaching Excellence Award and Teaching Recognition Award, UMUC, 2007 & 2009.
- Honorable Mention, 2006 West Virginia Writers Competition, for *Biafran Child*.
- Finalist in 2004 African Writers Endowment book contest for fiction and nonfiction manuscripts.
- Outstanding Professor Award presented by Older Students Association, University of Tennessee at Martin, Apr. 1996.
- Certificate of Recognition presented by Black Students Association and Secretary of Minority Affairs, University of Tennessee at Martin, Nov. 1996.
- Certificate of Outstanding Service presented by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Sep. 1996.
- Special Certificate of Appreciation presented by President and Board of Trustees of the University of Delaware, Newark, 1996.
- Fulbright Scholar for PhD program, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1988 – 1994.
- Graduate Assistantship and MA scholarship, University of Calabar, Nigeria, 1983 – 1985.

MEMBERSHIP TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of University Professors • Association of Nigerian Authors • West Virginia Writers.

VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE

Northpoint Community Service programs (2015-2016) • Parent-Teacher Organization, Lincoln Community School, Ghana (2014 – 2015) • Parent-Teacher Fellowship, Rosslyn Academy, Kenya (2011 – 2014) • Heritage Fellowship feeding program, Washington, DC (2010 – 2011) • Writer/Editor, Africare (2001 – 2005).