

# Philip U. Effiong

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## EDUCATION

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

## CURRENT APPOINTMENT

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### **Associate Professor, Sep. 2017 - Present**

*Department of Theatre, Michigan State University (MSU), East Lansing*

- Courses taught (online and in-person): Contemporary Theatre Studies, African American Drama and Performance, Africa and the World, Africa - Area Studies, Theatrical Play Analysis.
- Strategic partnerships:
  - Core Faculty member, African Studies Center; engaging in cross-college collaboration to advance Africa-focused programs and courses.
  - Principal Investigator, "Viewing the Masquerade Dance," an ongoing collaboration with the History Department and Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences to document aural and visual narratives on the Nigerian-Biafran Civil War.
  - Supervisor, Institute for Theatre Journalism and Advocacy (ITJA) at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF); supporting and mentoring students from various universities to develop and show case their theatrical talents.
  - Co-coordinator, Transforming Theatre project at MSU; facilitating student writing of theatrical pieces focused on Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) concepts.
  - Co-coordinator, Next Narrative Monologue Competition; working with a team of theatre scholars to build capacity of high school students to feature plays by contemporary African American playwrights.
- Board Membership/Advisory Committees
  - Current: African Studies Center Advisory Committee; Williamston Theatre Board; Ubuntu Dialogues Advisory Board; Theatre Advisory Committee; Theatre Recruitment Committee.
  - Past: Bylaws Review Adhoc Committee; Season Selection Committee; Theatre Pool Search Committee.

## PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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### **Associate Professor, Jan. 2017 - Dec. 2019**

*Department of English, Michigan State University, East Lansing*

- Courses taught: African Literature, Literature and Society

### **Associate Professor, Aug. - Dec. 2016**

*Department of English, Morehouse College, Atlanta*

- Courses taught: English Composition, World Literature.

### **Associate Professor/Professor (Online), Oct. 2006 - Aug. 2016**

*Department of English, University of Maryland University College (UMUC) (now Global Campus)*

- Course taught: African American Literature and World Drama, used WebTycho and Learning Experience Online (LEO) platforms.

**Senior Lecturer and Director, Oct. 2014 - May 2015**

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

- Courses taught: Writing, Research Methods.
- Supervised faculty of the Languages Institute and General Studies.

**English Instructor, Jan. - June 2014**

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

- Co-created interactive English program for non-English speaking parents.

**\*(See "ADMINISTRATIVE/CONSULTANT POSITIONS" below for engagements from 1998 - 2016.)**

**Visiting Assistant Professor, Sep. 1997 - May 1998**

*Department of English, Lincoln University, PA*

- Courses taught: Drama of the African Diaspora, Remedial English, Freshman Writing.

**Adjunct Professor, Sep. 1997 - May 1998**

*Department of English, University of Delaware, Newark*

- Courses taught: Freshman Writing, Advanced Writing, Survey of Drama.

**Assistant Professor, Sep. 1994 - May 1997**

*Department of English, University of Tennessee, Martin*

- Courses taught: African American Literature, Drama, Multicultural Literature, Writing, Black Writers (through Independent Study distance learning program).
- Supervised graduating theses.
- Served on the following Committees: Publications; English as a Second Language & Multicultural Concerns; Geography Department Search; English Department Search.

**Adjunct Professor, Sep. 1992 - May 1994**

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

- Courses taught: African American Biography, Folklore, African and African American Linkages (in collaboration with professors from different departments).

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**ADMINISTRATIVE/CONSULTANT POSITIONS**

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**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.

**Director of Academic Research and Information, Mar. 2007 - May 2010**

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

- 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 documentary 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 • Akwa Ibom State (Nigeria).

## Senior Programmer, Nov. 1998 - Apr. 2001

Automatic Data Processing, Rockville, MD

- Participated in team development of Oracle Software.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

- *My Biafran Passport*, accepted for publication by Lime Tree Press, UK.
- *In Search of a Model for African American Drama*. University Press of America, 2000.
- *Monty*, a novel. Author House, 2001 (undergoing revision).

### Articles (Academic)

- Effiong, Philip U. "When the Zombie Becomes Critic: Misinterpreting Fela's 'Zombie' and the Need to Reexamine His Prevailing Motifs." *Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies*, June 30, 2021. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6q14n95b>.
- 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/octobernovember-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>.

#### Kindle Novel 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) • *Bigmanism: Nigeria’s Personality Cult* (collection of satirical essays).

#### CONFERENCES / PRESENTATIONS

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- “Invisible Boundaries.” Biafra and the Eastern Nationalities: Who is in? Who is out? Virtual Fatherland Group Webinar, 29 May 2021.
- Facilitator, “2021 Ubuntu Virtual Student Dialogues,” Cross-Atlantic Dialogues between African, Latin American, Caribbean, and US Students.
- Chair, “Imagined Identities, Boundaries and Relations Among People of African Descent,” a Virtual African Diaspora Conference, 9 July 2020 (speakers from African countries and the African diaspora).
- Facilitator, “2019 and 2020 Ubuntu Virtual Dialogues,” Cross-Cultural Conversations between US and South African Students of Michigan State and Stellenbosch Universities.
- “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.’” 6<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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**

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- 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 performance pieces addressing the healthcare goals of Africare (an NGO) in Nigeria (2002-2005)

## **CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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- Appropriating and performing divine authority as a tool for wielding total dictatorial power.
- Performance (dance, music, song, drama, oral traditions) as a survival and resistance tool among Jamaican Maroons, the Garifuna, and other Caribbean communities.
- Influence of European drama and Greek tragedy on African and African diasporic drama.
- Historical narratives that redefine African achievements in education, architecture, science, healthcare, war, and astronomy.
- Biafran refugee descendants in the Ivory Coast and Gabon.
- The music of Nigerian legend, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti.
- African diaspora in India and the Philippines.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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- 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.

## **VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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• Current monthly contributor, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (for cancer) • Northpoint (Church) Community Service programs (2015-2016) • Member, Search Committee – New School Principal, Lincoln Community School, Ghana (2015) • 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)