

MARIA ELIZA HAMILTON ABEGUNDE

maehamil@indiana.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D., *African American and African Diaspora Studies*, 2014, Indiana University

Minor: Memory Studies

Dissertation: The Ariran's Last Life

Examination Fields: African American and African Diaspora Studies, African American Literature, Memory Studies

Doctoral Adviser: John McCluskey, Jr.

M.A. with distinction, *Women's and Gender Studies*, 2009, DePaul University

Thesis: When the Past Becomes [the] Present: A Personal Encounter with Memory Work

Thesis Adviser: Sandra Jackson

Certificate, African Studies, Summer 2004, Northeastern Illinois University

African Studies Graduate Institute

B.A., *English*, 1987, Northwestern University

Concentration: Fiction Writing

Study Abroad, 1984-1985, University of Sussex, Great Britain

Concentration: African and Asian Studies

Birth Doula (2013), Bloomington Area Birth Services

Instructors: Georg'ann Cattelona, Ph.D., LCCE, CD (DONA) and Molly Mendota, CLS, LCCE, CD (DONA)

Postpartum Doula (2014), Bloomington Area Birth Services

Instructor: Debby Young, CD (DONA), PCD (DONA), LCCE

Undoing Racism (2012)

Instructor(s): Michael Washington, Ph.D. and Raúl Quiñones Rosado, Ph.D.

Community Grief and Healing (2002)

Instructor: Sobonfu Some

Community Grief and Healing (1998)

Instructor: Malidoma Some and Sobonfu Some

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (ATTACHMENT 1)

Executive Assistant to Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Evanston-Skokie School District 65, Evanston, IL (1988-2009)

Administrative Assistant to the Director/Workshop Leader

Family Focus, Evanston, IL (1986-1987)

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ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE – COURSES/LECTURES/GROUPS DESIGNED AND TAUGHT

Indiana University, Bloomington

Instructor

AAAD-A495: Individual Readings In African American Studies: Black Women: Friends, Movers, and Shakers (May-July 2013)

Associate Instructor

AAAD-A210: Black Women in the African Diaspora (May 2013, May 2014)

AAAD-A169: Introduction to African American Literature: Octavia Butler (2012-2013)

AAAD-A150: Survey of African American Culture Discussion Groups (2010-2011)

Substitute Instructor for Department Chair

AAAD-A355: African American History 1600-1865 (October 11-25, 2012 TTh)

Invited Instructor/Lecturer/Presenter (Single Topic)

AAAD-A278: Contemporary Black Film: *Sugar Hill* (March 2014)

AAAD-A278: Contemporary Black Film: *Cleopatra Jones, Coffy, and Abby* (June 2013)

AAAD-A203: Studying Blacks of the New World: Slavery, Memory, Healing (June 2013)

AAAD-210: Health and Healing: African-based Spirituality as a Method (May 2012)

AAAD-A169: Introduction to African American Literature: Migrations (April 2011)

HPER-263: Personal Health. The Value of Spiritual Health (January 2014; September 2013)

CMCL-C121: Public Speaking: Emotional Persuasion (November 2012)

REL-C-300: Religion and Race in Brazil (February 2011)

RELATED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Prairie State College, Invited Instructor/Artist-in-Residence

Selected English Literature and Creative Writing Classes (February 2013)

Topic: Poetic Dialogue: “Be/Coming”: Healing Slavery’s Wounds through Artistic Collaboration

Northeastern Illinois University, Invited Instructor

African Summer Institute Graduate course (2004-2007 and 2009)

Topics taught: Slavery, West African Religions, Literature, and Curriculum Design and Development for elementary teachers, university instructors, and community organizers

UNESCO Transatlantic Slave Trade Route Project/Breaking the Silence

Invited Team Member/Instructor/Artist-in-Residence (2001-2008)

Topics: Slavery, Middle Passage, Honoring the Ancestors at Public History Sites, Creating Curricula

Roots and Flowers Project, Invited Scholar

Lincolntonville Civil Rights and Memory Project, Roots and Flowers, St. Augustine, Florida (2005)

Spoletto Festival, Invited Artist-in-Residence

Evoking History: Remembering the Roots That Birthed Us, Boone Hall Plantation, (June 2006)

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Middle Passage Voyage, Leg I - Puerto Rico to Brazil (Ship: SS Sortilege)

Invited Lead Team Teacher (December 1998-February 1999)

- Captain: *Bill Pinkney* (Master of the Freedom Schooner, *Amistad*).
- Supervised three teachers.
- Liaison between subsequent teams and sponsors.
- Developed, delivered, and taught curricula related to the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Middle Passage, via satellite and video.
- Participants: over 100 K-12 schools, community organizations, and museums.

Artist-in-Residence

Evanston Districts 65 and 202, Chicago Public Libraries, Schools in Atlanta and Ohio

Topics: Slavery, Middle Passage, Community and Culture, and Creative Writing (1986-2007)

FIELD WORK

Itaparica Bahia, Brasil (December 2011-February 2012)

- *Cultural Memory Practices in Egungun Society in Itaparica, Bahia, Brazil*
- *Purpose*: To study and document *egungun* practices related to the creation, maintenance, and transmission of cultural memory.
- *Research Questions*: How do women function within the society? What is the role of the ancestors in transmitting knowledge? What is the role of the ancestor in healing the community?
- *Interviewees*: Lesser-known and studied elders in *Candomble*.
- *Data*: Formal and informal interviews, participatory research in *espirtismo* healing sessions at *Venceslau*, a recognized and protected natural reserve site of miracles, healing, and pilgrimage.

Perpignan, France (December 2010)

- *A Consideration of Pierre Nora's Realms of Memory at Local Sites of Memory*.
- *Purpose*: To understand how embodied memories and emotions associated with them are directly linked to geography, time and space, and race and culture.
- *Primary site focus*: Alfred Nobel Dynamite Factory – A healing site birthed from destruction.
- *Research Question(s)*: How do my experiences at these sites (and others in France and Spain) differ from my experiences with sites of memory related to slavery that I visited with UNESCO, and sites I visited in the Caribbean and Brazil?
- *Data*: Informal interviews; personal journal and travel log, brochures, videos, and over 800 photographs.

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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS/PANELS BY TOPIC (INVITED)

Brasil

Rural Brasil and the Black Experience: Dreams Deferred – Itaparica, 2003-2005. 2010. *Rural Studies Conference*. Indiana University.

Egungun/Ancestors

Spiritual Ecology/Pedagogy and Performance. 2014. English Department Poetry Working Group. Manic Caravan Reading Series. Duke University.

Dynamic Praxis: Memory, Cloth, Body, Text: Calling *Egungun* (the Bones) to Life. 2013. Herman C. Hudson Spring Colloquium. Indiana University.

Be Not Afraid: Bringing the Ancestors into the Light. 2010. National Pan-Hellenic Council at the recommendation of and together with Sylvester Johnson. Indiana University.

In the Tongue of Our Elders: The Ancestral Voice in the Poetry of the African Diaspora. 2007. Associated Writing Programs Conference.

Poets and Struggle: Writing About Ancestors. 2006. Gwendolyn Brooks Conference. Chicago State University: Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing.

Many Middle Passages. 1999. Special Invitation to present workshop and to open conference. Poem Commissioned. Curacao Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Jacob Gelt Dekker Institute and Museum Kura Hulanda.

Healing

Healing the Ancestral Way: Going Where Past and Present Lead. 2013. Indiana University Art Museum.

What's Love Got to Do with It: *The Strength to Love* in a Difficult World. 2011. Martin Luther King, Jr. Keynote Speaker, Hutton Honors College. Indiana University.

Sankofa in Action: Creating a Plan That Works - Healing the Causes of Violence to Stop the Violence. 2011. Herman C. Hudson Symposium. Indiana University.

The African American Museum as a Healing Site. 2007. Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora. Barbados.

Memory

The Ariran's Last Life: The Healing Work of Memory. 2013. Art as a Vehicle for Change. In conjunction with *The Lynch Quilts Project* exhibition of the Laura Nelson Quilt. Indianapolis, IN.

The Ariran's Last Life: The Healing Work of Memory. 2012. John Hope Franklin Symposium, *The Politics of Reconciliation*. John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation.

The Life That Was My Own: Making Meaning of Memory When the Past Becomes [the] Present. *Special Panel on Trauma and Memory*. 2010. Modern Language Association. Rocky Mountain. New Mexico.

When the Past Becomes [the] Present: Remembering and Writing My Own Ancestral Past. 2010. Let Spirit Speak. City College of New York.

Women

"Mother I Need Your Blackness Now": Yemanja Festival. 2014. Brown Bag. Indiana University.

Women and Religious Cultures. 2007. The Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, Chicago.

Modern Day Penelopes. 2006. The Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center.

The Original Slayer Was Black: A Guide to Being a Black SuperShero. 2004. Emory University.

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AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, CLASSES

Selected Academic Fellowships

- College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Year Completion Fellowship, Indiana University (2013-2014)
- College of Arts and Sciences DeVault Graduate Fellowship, Indiana University (2011-2012)
- Department Fellowship, Indiana University (2009-2010)
- Research Associate, Illinois Transatlantic Slave Trade Commission (2006-2007)
- Scholar, St. Augustine, Florida Lincolnville Civil Rights Project (2006)

Selected Academic Awards

- Winona Fletcher Leadership Award, Indiana University (2013, 2010)
- William Wiggins Award for Outstanding Associate Instructor in Teaching, Indiana University (2011)
- Excellence in Graduate Scholarship, Research, and Performance in Women's and Gender Studies, DePaul University (2009, inaugural year for award)

Selected Academic Grants

- Graduate Student Travel Grant (2010, Modern Language Association, Rocky Mountain)

Selected Creative Writing Fellowships

- Cave Canem (University of Pittsburgh)
- Sacatar Foundation (Brasil)
- Ragdale Foundation (Illinois)
- Norcroft Silent Residency for Women (Minnesota)
- Flight of the Mind (Oregon)

Selected Artistic Awards

- Chicago Literary Exchange Award for Increasing Knowledge of the Middle Passage in the Chicago-area African American Women's Community
- Discovery Award Series, Poetry Center of Chicago (selected by Director of the Poetry Center)

Selected Artistic Grants

- Illinois Arts Council
- Chicago Community Arts Assistance Program
- Barbara Deming Foundation for Women

CLASSES

- Master Class with John Edgar Wideman (September 2012)

NOMINATIONS

- Graduate and Professional Student Organization Award for Community Service, Indiana University (2012-2013)

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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS [ASTERIK INDICATES REFEREED PUBLICATION]

***The Ariran's Last Life* (early dissertation chapter excerpts)**

- **The Eternal Year of African People*. Forthcoming 2014. Chicago Council on Black Studies and Third World Press. Bart McSwine and Authens Asantewaa Oppong Eds. Chicago: Third World Press. Note: will include lesson plan.
- **Let Spirit Speak! Cultural Journeys through the African Diaspora*. Vanessa K. Valdes, ed. 2012. New York: SUNY Press. 13-24.
- **Best African American Fiction*. Gerald Early and Nikki Giovanni, eds. 2010. New York: Ballantine Books. 3-20.
- **The Kenyon Review*. Winter 2008, Volume XXX, Number 1. 145-162.
- **Margin Magazine: Exploring Modern Magical Realism*. 2004.
<http://www.angelfire.com/wa2/margin/Hamilton.html>
- **Warpland*. Qurayshi Ali Lansana, ed. 2003. Chicago: The Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing.

Essays

- *Sankofa in Action: Creating a Plan That Works – Healing the Causes of Violence to Stop the Violence. *Black Diaspora Review*. Summer 2011. Indiana: Indiana University.

Book Reviews

- *Naming Colonialism: History and Collective Memory in the Congo, 1870-1960 by Osumaka Likaka. *Africa Today*. Volume 57, Number 4, Summer 2011.
- *Brazil's Living Museum: Race, Reform, and Tradition in Bahia by Anadelia A. Romo. *Africa Today*. Volume 57, Number 2, Winter 2010.
- *Caliban and the Yankees: Trinidad and the United States Occupation by Harvey R. Neptune. *Black Diaspora Review*. Issue 1, 2010.

Selected Edited or Co-edited Volumes

- Black Diaspora Review*. Valerie Grim, Ph.D. and Maria Eliza Hamilton Abegunde, eds. Summer 2011. Indiana: Indiana University.
- Bridges and Borders: Voices of Immigrant Women: A Chapbook*. Maria Eliza Hamilton Abegunde and Shobha Sharma, eds. 2011. Illinois: Jane's Stories Press Foundation, through a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council.
- Autumpan*. 2009-2010. AAADS alumni newsletter, Indiana University.
- Jane's Stories III: An Anthology of Women's Writing*. Maria Eliza Hamilton Abegunde and Glenda Bailey-Mershon, eds. 2006. Illinois: Jane's Stories Press Foundation.

Selected Creative Nonfiction

- *Knowing Your Primary Divination Tool: A Diviner Reveals Herself. Forthcoming 2014.
nocturnes (re)view of the literary arts. Giovanni Singleton, ed. California: *nocturnes*.
- *When the Past Becomes [the] Present: Remembering and Writing My Own Ancestral Past. Selected from conference proceedings of *Let Spirit Speak! Cultural Journeys through the African Diaspora*. 2012. Vanessa K. Valdes, ed. New York: SUNY Press. 13-24.
- *Tell Them Arroyo Sent You. *nocturnes 2: (re)view of the literary arts*. Giovanni Singleton, ed. Fall 2002. California: *nocturnes*. 58-64.
- Egun Wole! A Family Workbook for Remembering the Ancestors, Evanston, IL. 2006.

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Selected Poetry

Wishful Thinking: a chapbook. 2003. Illinois: Wild Dove Studio and Press.

Still Breathing: a chapbook. 1998. Kentucky: Chicago Spectrum Press.

What is Now Unanswerable: a chapbook. 1994. Evanston: Warrior Poets Press.

**Gathering Ground: A Reader Celebrating Cave Canem's First Decade*. Toi Derricotte and Cornelius Eady, eds. 2006. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 13.

Cave Canem Anthology VII. Yana Harvey and Terrance Hayes, editors. 2002. Maryland: Cave Canem. 1.

Cave Canem Anthology VI. Yana Harvey and Terrance Hayes, editors. 2001. Maryland: Cave Canem. 1-2.

**Toe Good Poetry* (online with audio). forthcoming 2014. <http://toegoodpoetry.com>.

**Wicked Alice* (online). Summer 2004.

**Jane's Story II: An Anthology of Women's Writing*. Glenda Bailey-Mershon, ed. 2002. Illinois: Wild Dove Studio and Press, Inc. 52-53.

**Beyond the Frontier: African-American Poetry for the 21st Century*. E. Ethelbert Miller, ed. 2002. Maryland: Black Classic Press. 14, 175, 333.

**Through a Child's Eyes: Poems and Stories About War*. Victor Klimoski and Samuel Torvend, eds. 2001. Texas: Plain View Press. 34-35.

**Knowing Stones: Poems of Exotic Places*. Maureen Tolman Flannery, ed. 2000. Illinois: John Gordon Burke. 163-164.

**Catch the Fire: A Cross-Generational Anthology of Contemporary African-American Poetry*. Derrick I. M. Gilbert, ed. 1998. New York: Riverhead Books. 81-82.

**I Feel A Little Jumpy Around You: A Book of Her Poems & His Poems Collected in Pairs*. Naomi Shihab Nye and Paul B. Janeczko, eds. 1998. New York: Simon & Schuster.

**Rhino: A Review of Literature*. Kay Meier and Don Hoffman, eds. 1995 and 1996. Chicago: *Rhino*. 38; 45-46.

**Writing Our Way Out of the Dark*. Elizabeth Claman, ed. 1995. Oregon: Queen of Swords Press. 261.

Chain, Chain, Change: For Black Women in Abusive Relationships. Commissioned by Evelyn C. White. 1994. Washington: Seal Press. 89.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS/PRODUCTIONS

Ancestral Masquerades: Harriet Tubman. Upcoming. Special Invitation. Indianapolis Airport.

Ancestral Masquerades: Be/coming. TBD. Invitation. IU Art Museum.

Ancestral Masquerades. Ongoing. Project Poet for LaShawnda Crowe Storm.

Ancestral Masquerades: Be/Coming. Special invitation. 2013. Curated by Beth Shadur, Prairie State College.

**Collaborative Vision: The Poetic Dialogue Project: Be/Coming*. 2009-2012. Special invitation with LaShawnda Crowe Storm. Beth Shadur, Curator. Chicago Cultural Center, Indiana State Museum, Ball State University.

Creating Community, Movement, Foundations, Scholarship, Soul: 40 Years of Black Studies at Indiana University. 2010. Curator and Researcher. Special project assigned by department chair. Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. Indiana University.

The Divining. Theatrical Production of excerpts from *The Ariran's Last Life*. Justin Merrick, director. 2010. Buskirk-Chumley Theatre. Indiana: JMUSE Productionz.

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SERVICE

Academic

- Advisory Committee Member. Anti-Lynching Exhibition. Indiana University Art Museum (2012-2013)
- Department of African American and African Diaspora-Department of History Search Committee (2012)
- Program Chair. Herman C. Hudson Symposium. Indiana University (2011)
- Program Committee. Herman C. Hudson Symposium. Indiana University (2010)
- Creative Consultant, JMUSE [Theatre] Productionz, Indiana University (2009, 2010)
- Mentor: Support research, personal, and professional development of undergraduate and graduate students (2007-present)

Artistic

- Founding Member, Jane's Stories Press Foundation
- Jane's Stories Press Foundation Poetry Contest (2006)
- Norcroft Silent Residency for Women Selection Committee (2001)
- Rhino: The Poetry Forum

Community

Advisory Boards

- Middle Passage Marker Project (2014)
- Jane's Stories Press Foundation (2007-2009)
- Slavery and Civil War Museum, Selma, Alabama (2005-2007)

Birth and Postpartum Doula (present)

- Provide prenatal and postpartum emotional and physical support for mothers.

Community Healing Consultant (1992-present)

- Creator of *Sankofa in Action*, a community-based healing process that combines history, creative literature, and education to help individuals and communities create sustainable, community-based practices and strategies in the aftermath of violence.
- Invited consultant for *The Lynch Quilts Project*.
- Co-organized and supervised community healing tent at the Chicago African Festival of the Arts (2004-2007).

Writing Consultant (1988-present)

- Professional writing and editing support for theses, dissertations, journal articles, poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction.
- Extensive work, including retreats, with the Practitioners Research and Scholarship Institute (PRASI) to help international Peace Makers and Conflict Resolution practitioners of color prepare manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals.
- Created Not Your Average Jane to mentor young women between the ages of eight and twenty-one as part of Jane's Stories Press Foundation.
- Cofounder (with S.Y. Bowland): Peacemakers Make Poetry (Practitioners Research and Scholarship Institute)

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Professional Memberships

- Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)
- The Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)
- Cave Canem
- Jane's Stories Press Foundation
- Modern Language Association (MLA)
- National Council for Black Studies (NCBS)

SELECTED FEATURED PERFORMANCES/APPEARANCES/INTERVIEWS (INVITED)

Manic Caravan Reading Series. 2014. English Department Poetry Working Group. Duke University.

From Visual to Verse: An Evening of African American Poetry and Art. 2013. Indiana University Art Museum, Bloomington.

Contemporary Black Poetry (AAAD-A479). 2013. Indiana University. Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies.

Tell Them Arroyo Sent You: A Middle Passage Voyage on Route to Brasil. 2011. WFHB, *Interchange* with William Morris.

Healing Mind and Body: A Memory Keeper Shares Her Story. 2010. WFHB, *Interchange* with William Morris”.

Voyages Home. 1999. (Emmy-award winning PBS documentary about the Middle Passage Voyage with Captain Bill Pinkney.)

Voices of the Ancestors. 1999. *Northwestern Alumni Magazine*.

Retracing Slave Ships' Tragic Route. Brian Cox. December 8, 1998. *Chicago Tribune*.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://iub.academia.edu/MariaHamiltonAbegunde>

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ATTACHMENT 1 : EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

1988-2009

Executive Assistant to Assistant Superintendent

District 65, Evanston, IL

- Coordinated and oversaw selected federal grants with budgets up to \$100,000
- Coordinated and oversaw nonpublic school federal grant portion up to \$25,000
- Oversaw department budget up to \$100,000
- Oversaw production, dissemination, and payment of summer curriculum projects and associated budget up to \$85,000
- Completed various state and district reports related to program grants
- Coordinated documents for state evaluations of grant programs
- Coordinated annual opening of school program for up to 1000 staff
- Developed and implemented department operating and financial procedures
- Supervised and provided initial evaluation of two department secretaries
- Interviewed and recommended potential department and district-level secretarial staff
- Provided support for new and established families related to curricula, local schools, summer schools, and other district programs
- Provided procedural support to parents with concerns related to interactions with teachers and administrators
- Coordinated over 100 city-wide K-12 standards presentations
- Developed and implemented one-day comprehensive stress relief program for administrative center, including solicitation of corporate and community donations
- Developed evaluation reports on selected department programs/activities
- Developed special gift items for teaching, support, and administrative staffs
- Managed and supported assistant superintendents, curriculum directors/facilitators, department chairs, and standing committees
- Assisted in development and implementation of African-centered curriculum
- Trained selected parents in African-based community rituals (e.g., libation)
- Created and edited reports and correspondence for Board of Education reports, community, staff
- Secretary to the Curriculum Advisory Council

1986-1987

Administrative Assistant/Workshop Leader

Family Focus, Evanston, IL

- Provided administrative support to center director and staff
- Provided support to new and established center families related to Evanston services, local schools, and general parenting issues
- Edited monthly family newsletter
- Maintained membership records
- Facilitated monthly book group for mothers
- Provided evaluation input during family staffings
- Provided information on birth, child care, child development, and education for mothers of children 0-3 years