

Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie

www.ekeretallie.com

EDUCATION

Brown University

Ph.D., Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, 2025

Dissertation: Beyond the Rainbow: The Black Otherwises of Ntozake Shange

Master of Arts, Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, 2020

Mills College

Master of Fine Arts, English and Creative Writing, 2002

Clark Atlanta University

Bachelor of Arts, Mass Communication, 1996

PUBLICATIONS

Books

We Go Slow. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, August, 2025.

A Felicidade de Laila. São Paulo, Brazil: Leya, 2021.

Layla's Happiness. Brooklyn, NY: Enchanted Lion Books, 2019.

How to be a Woman According to Prime Time. New York, NY: Harlequin Creature, 2018.

Strut. Los Angeles, California: Agape Editions, 2018.

Dear Continuum: Letters to a Poet Crafting Liberation. Bronx, NY: Grand Concourse Press, 2015.

Karma's Footsteps. London, UK: Flipped Eye, 2011.

Academic Publications

"Tributes To Nikki Giovanni." *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly* Volume 53, Nos. 3 & 4, Fall/Winter (2025), pp. 19-20.

"The Unwieldy Otherwise: Rethinking the Roots of Performance Studies in and through the Black Freedom Struggle." Co-authored with Leon Hilton, PhD. *Performance Matters* Volume 8, No. 2 (2023): The Syllabus is the Thing: Materialities of the Performance Studies Classroom, pp. 11-20.

Work in Anthologies (Selected)

"The Tell-Tale Sign of Living: Blackness and Sensuality in Ntozake Shange's *nappy edges*." *The Weird Sister Collection: Writing at the Intersections of Feminism, Literature, and Pop Culture*. New York, NY: The Feminist Press, 2024.

"Rebirth," "I Turn The Hours Into a Love Song to Myself." *So We Can Know*. Aracelis Girmay, Ed. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2023.

"You Misunderstand Me," "Poem for the 44th Year," *Where We Stand: Poems of Black Resilience*. Henderson, Surin, Thomas, Eds. Columbia: Cherry Castle Publishing, 2022.

"Global Warming Blues." *Furious Flower*. Alleyne and Gabbin, Eds. Evanston, Illinois: Triquarterly Books Northwestern University Press, 2020.

"My Love For Him Ends The Occupation." *Soul Sister Revue: A Poetry Compilation*. Cynthia Manick, Ed. San Bernardino: Jamii Publishing, 2019.

"Curiosity Did What?" *A Velocity of Being: Letters to a Young Reader*. Bedrick, Popova, Eds. New York: Enchanted Lion Books, 2018.

"Gap Toothed Woman." *The Golden Shovel Anthology*. Kahn, Shankar, Smith, Eds. Fayetteville: The University of Arkansas Press, 2017.

"Unheeled." *The Political Punch*. Frazier-Foley, Smith, Eds. Knoxville: Sundress Publications, 2016.

"The Brazen Hussy Blues." *Circe's Lament: Anthology of Wild Women Poets*. Spriggs and Stoykova Klemmer, Eds. Lexington: Accents Publishing, 2016.

"Paper Bag Poems," "Global Warming Blues," "Sunday," and "Possible." *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop*. Coval, Lansana, Marshall, Eds. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2015.

"We Still Don't Know." *New Rain: 35th Anniversary Anthology*. Gary Johnston, Ed. Bronx: Blind Beggar Press, 2013.

"Oshun Breaks it Down" and "Mami Wata" *Black Mermaids: In Vision and Verse*. Torreeah Washington, Ed. Exhibition Catalog, 2012.

"My Great-great Grandmother Talks to Michelle Obama." *Go, Tell Michelle: African American Women Write to the New First Lady*. Brooks-Bertram, Nevergold Eds. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2009.

"On Solace" *Beats, Rhymes, and Life: What We Love and Hate About Hip-Hop*. Jasper, Womack, Moon, Eds. New York: Broadway Books, 2007.

"Note From a Loving Wife." *Revenge & Forgiveness: An Anthology of Poems*. Patrice Vecchione, Ed. New York: Henry Holt, 2004.

"Height." *The Body Eclectic*. Patrice Vecchione, Ed. New York: Henry Holt, 2002.

"Raindrop Women." *Beyond The Frontier: African-American Poetry for the 21st Century*. E. Ethelbert Miller, Ed. Baltimore: Black Classic Press, 2002.

"Why I Still Write." *The Book of Hope*. Birgitta Jonsdottir, Ed. Beyond Borders, 2002.

"New Recipe" and "I was There Once." *Role Call*. Ali, Bashir, Medina, Eds. Chicago: Third World Press, 2002.

"Medusa." *Bum Rush The Page: A Def Poetry Jam*. Medina, Rivera, Eds. New York: Random House, 2001.

"Barefoot Stroll," "Forced Entry," "Evolution," "Elemental Sounds," "Sometimes," "Recollect," "Domino

Effect,” “Distance is Destination,” “Serenade,” and “A Woman’s Poetic” *Listen Up!* Zoe Anglesey, Ed. New York: One World/Ballantine, 1999.

“Karma’s Footsteps.” *Catch The Fire!!! A Cross-Generational Anthology of Contemporary AfricanAmerican Poetry*. Derrick Gilbert, Ed. Penguin/ Putnam, 1997.

Work in Literary Journals and Magazines (Selected)

Essays & Other Prose

“Dear Ntozake.” *African Voices*. Vol #16, Issue 37. Summer/Fall 2019.

“Javaka Steptoe Interview.” *Mosaic Magazine*. #41. Spring 2017.

“The World Is Much Less Safe.” *VIDA*. April 2014

“Letter Two,” “Letter Five.” *The Pierian*. Spring 2014.

“Rebirth.” *The Mom Egg Blog*. June 2010.

“Pieces Of A Dream.” *Sable*. Autumn/Fall 2007.

Fiction

“Sangria IV.” *Mom Egg Review*. Volume 15. 2017.

Poetry

“Unshattering,” “Journal Writing in the Forest,” “Soul in the Horn Haiku.” *Mosaic Literary Magazine*. No. 44.. 2025

“We Talk.” *The Langston Hughes Review*. Vol 26. No. 1. 2020.

“Infinity.” *No, Dear*. Issue 17. 2016.

“Rain,” “Blaze,” “Mama Haiku 2.” *Newtown Literary*. Issue 8. Spring/Summer 2016.

“How to be a Woman According to Prime Time.” *WordPeace*. February 2016.

“Homage to my Breasts (after Lucille Clifton).” *The Wide Shore*. January 2016.

“Ars Poetica,” “Garment Working Women,” “First of All It’s Hard to Write About You Using Lined Paper but I’ll Try,” “Warning,” “Polaris.” *The Poetry Mail*. October 2015.

“After the Ansel Adams Exhibit.” *North American Review*. Volume 300. Number 3. Summer 2015.

“Paper Bag Poems,” “Blue Libation,” “Mama Haiku 1,” “Memory,” “The Clean Earth Conference Blues,” “What I Remember.” *Black Renaissance Noire*. Volume 14. Issue 2. Fall 2014.

“Global Warming Blues.” *WSQ: Women’s Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 42: 1&2. Spring/Summer 2014.

“Give and Take.” Center for Book Arts Broadside Series. June 2014.

“I Want to Take Him.” *The Pierian*. Spring 2014.

“Sovereign,” “Ancient,” *Mosaic Magazine*. Summer 2014.

“Sunday.” *Minerva Rising*. Issue 5. Spring 2014.

“Why You’ve Loved Me Ever Since You Started Thinking In English.” *North American Review*. Volume 299. Number 1. Winter 2014.

“New York Talk.” *Specter Magazine*. Summer 2012.

“Learning To Swim.” Badilisha Poetry Exchange. July 2010.

“Visibility.” Mothering Magazine Online. February 2009.

“Her Voice.” *Crab Orchard Review*. Winter 2005.

“The Apprentice,” “Cheyenne Speaking.” *Paris/Atlantic* Vol. XXII No. 1 Spring 2000.

“War Dance.” *Drumvoices Revue* Vol. 19. Summer/Fall 2000.

“Lineage,” “New Recipe,” “Reflections of the Daughter.” *Drumvoices Revue* special double issue Vol. 8 No.’s 1&2. 1999.

“Musings of a Moon Maiden,” “Scenario,” “Only.” *Paris/Atlantic* Vol. XX No. 2. Winter 1998.

“Raindrop Women,” “Lineage.” *BOMB* No. 59. Spring 1997.

“Karma’s Footsteps.” *Long Shot* Vol. 19. 1997.

AWARDS & HONORS

2025 New York Public Library Best Book of 2025
2025 Junior Library Guild Selection
2024 International Ecoperformance Film Festival Award
2023 ASTR Helen Krich Chinoy Dissertation Research Fellowship
2023 Brown Arts Institute IGNITE
2023 ATHE Black Theatre Association Debut Panel Finalist
2021-2022 Charlotte Beebe Wilbour Fellowship in Oratory
2021 Rhode Island Great Reads
2020 Bank Street College of Education, Best Children's Books of The Year
2019 Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, Writer Honor
2019 Brainpickings, Favorite Children's Books of 2019
2019 Inclusive Storytime Best of 2019 Picture Books
2017 Pushcart Prize Nominee
2017 Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers Associate
2017 New York Foundation for the Arts Artist as Entrepreneur Boot Camp for Artists of Color
2015 *Dear Continuum: Letters to a Poet Crafting Liberation* Split This Rock! Books We Love
2014 *The Missouri Review* Audio Poetry Contest Runner-Up
2010 Queens Council on the Arts Grant
1999 Fundacion Valparaiso Residency

ART CURATION

"Presence: A Womanist Love Song to Black Fathers." Granoff Center for the Creative Arts, Providence, RI
(April 22, 2024-May 10, 2024)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Freedom Dreams: Black Authors Creating Liberating Texts for the Next Generation." National Council for Teachers of English, Denver, CO (November 2025)

"The New African Diaspora: Intersections of Culture, Race & Identity." Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY (October 2025)*

"Mon Frere, Mon Coeur." Life, Sex, and Death after Stonewall: A Symposium on the Work of Michael L. Denny. Brown University, Providence, RI (October 2025)*

"The Gypsy Cowgirl Otherwise: What's An Avant-Garde Black Feminist Poet Doing at a Rodeo?" American Society for Theatre Research Conference plenary, Seattle, WA (November 2024)

"Literary Orature and Food Practice." Working Group, "Beyond Possession: Reimagining Methods in Performance Studies Research," Annual Conference, The American Society for Theatre Research, Providence, RI (November 2023)

"Full Circle on a Higher Plane: Orature and Black Otherwises in the work of Ntozake Shange." Debut

Panel Black Theatre Association, Annual Conference, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Austin, TX (August 2023)

"Black Water Women: A Theatre of Care." Co panelists Mysia Anderson, Omiyemi Artisia Green, Nina Angela Mercer, Annual Conference, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Austin, TX (August 2023)

"Starshine and Clay: Orisha, Ritual Theatre, and Performance Art as Black Feminist Ways of Self-Making." Working group, "Religion, Ecology and Embodiment: Performances of Interdependence." UCLA TAPS Annual Grad Conference: *In Cahoots: Disciplinary Crossings and a Future for Performance Studies*, Online (February 2023)

"The Radical Vision of Black Feminist Artists Scholars." Co-panelists Lisa B. Thompson, PhD, Angela Ards, PhD, Meta DuEwa Jones, PhD, Christina Knight, PhD, Annual Conference, American Studies Association, Online (October 2021)

"Picture Book Dummies and Writing to the Page Turn." KWELI The Color of Children's Literature Conference, Online (April 2020)*

"Come Celebrate with Me: Tribute to Lucille Clifton and Ntozake Shange." Hostos Community College, Bronx, NY (March 2019)*

"Quitting History! Poets Penning Liberation." Co-panelists Enzo Silon Surin and Shauna Morgan, Annual Conference, Split This Rock! Washington DC (April 2018)

"Clap Back: Women of Color Discuss Emily Dickinson's Influence Over Their Poetic Landscapes." Co-panelists Yesenia Montilla, Christina Olivares, Elisabet Velasquez, Annual Conference, Association of Writers and Writing Programs, Washington DC (February 2017)

"VIDA Count in the Classroom." Co-panelists Holly Burdoff, Sarah Marcus-Donnelly, Camille Rankine, Prageeta Sharma, Annual Conference, Association of Writers and Writing Programs, Washington DC (February 2017)

"College 101: Reading, Writing, Rape." California State University at Chico, Chico, California (April 2017)*

"Picture That! Children's Literature as Resistance." World Fellowship Center, Albany, NH (July 2017)*

"Periodically speaking: Mothers in Publishing Changing the Literary Landscape." Co-panelists Sarah Gambito, Karen Phillips, Marjorie Tesser, Rebecca Wolff, Council of Literary Magazines and Presses, New York Public Library, New York (May 2016)*

"Writing Programs and Diversity." Co-panelists Meena Alexander, Bernice McFadden, Donna Hill, Annual Convention, National Black Writers Conference, Medgar Evers College, New York (April 2016)*

"John Oliver Killens at 100." Medgar Evers College, New York (March 2016)*

"Silencing Black Writers." 17th Annual Harlem Book Fair, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York (July 2015)*

"Dear Continuum." The Watering Hole Retreat, Santee, SC (December 2014)*

"Success Is, Success Ain't: Redefining What It Means To Make It." Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, Texas (March 2014)*

“Opening Our Eyes.” Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes, Tamworth, NH (July 2013)*

“Finding Empowerment Through Writing.” Whitehall High School. Whitehall, NY (March 2013)*

“Word/Life: What Poetry Has Taught Me About Living.” Unitarian Universalist Federation of the Eastern Slopes, Tamworth, NH (July 2012)*

“Writing the Fire Out: Healing through Writing.” World Fellowship Center, Albany, NH (July 2013)*

“Writing the Fire Out.” Voices In The Monte Writers Series. Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas (February 2013)*

“Celebrating The Work of Ntozake Shange.” Hostos Community College, New York (March 2013)*

“Black Literature and Activism.” Co-panelists: Sonia Sanchez, Jamal Joseph, Alison McDermott, Annual Conference, National Black Writers Conference, Medgar Evers College, New York (March 2012)*

“Mother Nature.” Association for Research on Mothering, “Amplifying the Voices of Mothers: Mothers in the Arts, Literature, Media and Popular Culture,” New York (May 2010)

“The Madness Collage: African-American Mothers Versus History/Nia Shakes off Superwoman.” Association for Research on Mothering, “Mothers Gone Mad: Motherhood and Madness Oppression and Resistance,” New York (May 2009)

“Turning Ideas Into Youth Driven Action.” World Urban Forum, Vancouver, Canada (June 2006)

“Art For Our Sake.” Howard University Graduate English Student Association Conference, Washington DC (Oct 2000)

“It’s Bigger than Hip-Hop.” Fifth Annual National Black Writers Conference, Brooklyn, NY (March 2000)*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Spring 2025

Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI
TAPS 0700: Introduction to Theatre, Dance and Performance

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2024

Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI
TAPS 1230: Global Theatre and Performance: Paleolithic to the Threshold of Modernity

Instructor, Spring 2024

Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI
TAPS 0800M: Beyond the Rainbow: Black Otherwises in the Work of Ntozake Shange

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2023
Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI
TAPS 0220: Persuasive Communication

Teaching Assistant, Spring 2023
Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI
TAPS 2575: Theatre History in a Changing Present

Teaching Assistant, Spring 2021
Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI
TAPS 2575: Theatre History in a Changing Present

Teaching Fellow, Fall 2020
Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI
TAPS 1600: Dramaturgy

Teaching Assistant, Spring 2020
Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI
TAPS 0700: Introduction to Theatre, Dance and Performance

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2019
Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI
TAPS 2545: Dramaturgy

Teacher, August 2018
SOS Children's Village, Mbabane, Eswatini & Nhlanguano, Eswatini
Chosen by Furious Flower to take part in the United States Department sponsored Arts Envoy Program. Worked with youth at two SOS Children's Villages on acrostic poems, haiku, and vision boards.

Adjunct Lecturer, Fall 2010-Fall 2013
English Department, York College, City University of New York, Queens, NY
ENG 125: Introduction to College Writing
ENG 200: Understanding Literature

Adjunct Lecturer, Spring 2011, Fall 2012
Queens Educational Opportunity Center (SUNY), Queens, NY
Social Studies and Science: Basic Education, Pre-GED Course
Language Arts and Reading: Basic Education, Pre-GED Course

Instructor, 2010
Afrikan Poetry Theatre and Dining Room, Queens, NY
Conducted workshops on herbal remedies and making kitchen medicine. Sponsored by Queens Council on the Arts.

English Tutor, Fall 2010
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
English Tutor for (HEOP) Higher Education Opportunity Program

English Instructor, Summer 2009 & 2010
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
English Instruction for (HEOP) Higher Education Opportunity Program

Adjunct Lecturer, Fall 2006
Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn, NY
ENGL 112: College Composition I
ENGL 150: College Composition II

Lecturer, Fall 2004-Spring 2005
International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH), Rundu College of Education, Namibia
Taught grammar, analytical reading, editing and creative writing to 200 students.

Adjunct Lecturer, Spring 2004
Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn, NY
ENGL 112: College Composition I
ENGL 150: College Composition II

LITERARY WORKSHOPS

The Watering Hole, Online November 2025
Craft talk and celebration of the 10th anniversary of *Dear Continuum: Letters to a Poet Crafting Liberation*.

Mount Chocorua Writing Week, Conway, NH July 2023
Introduced the “playshop” as a radical method to approach writing. Used work by Ntozake Shange, Pablo Neruda, writing prompts, and embodied theatre games to generate new writing.

World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH July 2017
Wrote short forms as a way to see.

Golden West College, Huntington Beach, CA February 2017
Explored haiku and using the five senses to generate new work.

Mount Chocorua Writing Week, Conway, NH July 2016
Conducted writing workshops that explore the epistolary as healing, revelatory, transformative and literary. Used works by James Baldwin, Ntozake Shange, and Rainer Maria Rilke as examples.

The Watering Hole, Santee, SC December 2014
Explored writing goals, conducted writing the senses and nature workshop. Gave craft talk on social justice, writing and marginalization. Participated in a publishing panel, and conducted one on one critiques with students.

Mount Chocorua Writing Week, Conway, NH July 2013
Conducted Blues Poems Workshop. Discussed why this often misunderstood art is the perfect poetic form to explore identity, complex feelings and survival stories. Listened to different styles of blues, read blues poetry and created our own versions of the blues.

University of Scranton, Scranton, OH April 2013
Discussed the importance of seeing old things with new eyes as writers.

- University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS* April 2013
Conducted writing exercises that allowed us to write about familiar objects in unfamiliar and surprising ways.
- Jackson State University, Jackson, MS* April 2013
Discussed the writer's life, revision, and generated new work as a guest instructor in a three-hour creative writing class.
- Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK* April 2013
Explored writing through our senses and allowing external objects to assist us in hearing internal dialogues.
- Wright State University, Dayton, OH* March 2013
Guest lectured in a creative writing class. Used everyday objects to explore writing through the senses.
- Shaw University, Raleigh, NC* March 2013
Discussed ways to approach writing that honor our unique voices and visions. Explored prompts that students could use daily to generate new writing.
- Whitehall High School, Whitehall, NY* March 2013
Explored the importance of using the senses to create strong settings, three dimensional characters and write about common things in unexpected ways. Students created and shared three pieces of writing.
- William Woods University, Fulton, MO* February 2013
Discussed the impact that deep listening and seeing has on writing. Conducted exercises to generate writing based on overlooked objects from our daily lives.
- Texas A&M International University, Laredo, TX* February 2013
Guest lectured in creative writing class, conducted generative writing exercises and discussed how developing our senses creates vivid, memorable work.
- Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX* February 2013
Conducted workshop focused on sight, sound, and developing habits that can generate more visceral writing.
- Women Writers in Bloom Poetry Salon, New York, NY* November 2012
Taught two-hour workshop on the importance of waking up the senses and weaving the body's knowledge through all forms of writing. Students produced six pieces of writing and shared them during the session.
- World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH* July 2012
Conducted a two-hour workshop at a social justice and environmental camp on weaving our own stories with our political concerns to create poetry.
- African Voices Magazine, New York, NY* Sept-Nov 2003
Conducted an eight-week writing workshop on the craft of poetry, revision, performance, and the business of writing. Series ended with a standing room only poetry reading.

Oak Park Forest High School, Chicago, IL

September 2003

Taught five creative writing classes a day and lectured on the Black Arts Movement.

Kingsland Secondary, London, UK

Feb-June 2003

Worked with two classes at Kingsland Secondary in Hackney to compete in the Inner-London Teen Poetry Slam. Worked intensely on writing and performance during seven after-school sessions. Resulting work is documented in a book, video, and on CD.

Palabras, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

May 2003

Conducted five workshops on unblocking, creating safe space for writing, revision, performance and generating new work. Classes co-taught with poet Tamara “Wonder” Allan.

African Voices Magazine, New York, NY

August 2002

Led three-hour intensive workshop to generate new writings. Critiqued works that participants brought to the writing circle.

Mills College, Oakland, CA

March-April 2000 & 2002

Conducted weekly workshops with Oakland high school students. Workshops culminated in poetry reading to raise funds for the Upward Bound Program.

Ramapo College, Ramapo, NJ

April 2001

Designed Healing Through Poetry workshop exercises to help participants write through sorrow and anger, towards empowerment.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Professional Service

Women's Studies Quarterly, Editorial Board, Jan 2024-present

Sundress Publications, Assistant Editor, 2016-2017

Broadside Reading Series Center for Book Arts, Curator and Host, Fall 2015

African Voices Magazine, Poetry Editor, 2013-2017

Namibian Women's Writing Workshop, Volunteer, November 2004

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Dutch, Low-Intermediate

Spanish, Low-Intermediate

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI)

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)

Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA/USA)

The Author's Guild

*Invited Speaking Engagements