

Portfolio

Editor

Editorships including co-editing *NW15* (Granta/British Council) and *Ten: New Poets* (Bloodaxe). Guest-edited the Winter 2012 issue of *Poetry Review*, Britain's leading poetry journal. Her issue, *Offending Frequencies*, featured more poets of colour than had ever previously been published in a single issue of the journal, as well as many female, radical, experimental and outspoken voices. Bernardine also co-edited a special issue of *Wasafiri* magazine in 2009: *Black Britain: Beyond Definition*, which celebrated and reevaluated the black writing scene in Britain; and she guest-edited the Autumn 2014 issue of *Msllexia*, Britain's best-selling writing magazine.

Supervising Editor of *The Imagination Project*, Brunel University London's third student short story anthology, with student editors, March 2016.

Supervising editor of *The Psyche Supermarket*, Brunel University London's second student short story anthology, with student editors, March 2015.

Guest Editor of *Msllexia* writing magazine, September 2014.

Supervising editor of *The Voices Inside Our Heads*, Brunel University London's first student short story anthology, with student editors, March 2014.

Guest editor of *Wasafiri*: Issue 64, 2010, with Karen McCarthy Woolf.

Guest Editor of Britain's leading poetry magazine in its centenary year, *Poetry Review*: 101:4. *Offending Frequencies*. Winter 2012.

Editor with Daljit Nagra of *Ten* poetry anthology, featuring ten new poets of colour. Bloodaxe Books, 2010.

Co-editor with Maggie Gee of *NW15: New Writing Vol 15*, the annual British Council literature anthology. Granta, 2006.

In the late 1990s I was editor of *FrontSeat* intercultural performance magazine published by the Black Theatre Forum, in the late 1980s I was a co-editor of Black Women Talk Poetry anthology.

Advisory

- 2017 – Vice Chair, Royal Society of Literature
- 2016 – Elected to Council, Royal Society of Literature
- 2014 -15 The Quality Assurance Agency UK (QAA): Panel for Creative Writing
- 2014 Patron: REACH Prize, Youth for Arts, Royal College of Art
- 2014 -15 Arts Council England, Member of the South East Area Council
- 2013 – The Folio Prize: Member of the Academy
- 2012 – Patron: SI Leeds Literary Prize for unpublished black/Asian women writers
- 2012 – Editorial Board: the African Poetry Book Series, APBF, University of Nebraska
- 2009 -11 Patron: Westminster Befriend a Family (WBAF)
- 2007 – 9 The Society of Authors UK: Management Committee
- 2005 – Advisor: *Free Verse* & The Complete Works schemes at Spread the Word
- 2004 – 8 Advisory Committee: New Galleries, Museum of London
- 2004 – 9 Advisory Board: MA Creative Writing, City University
- 2003 – 6 Literature Advisor: The British Council
- 2001 – 5 Special Literature Advisor: London Arts Board
- 2003 – 4 Chair: The Poetry Society of Great Britain
- 2001 – 4 General Council: The Poetry Society of Great Britain
- 2000 – Advisory Board: *Wasafiri* Literature Magazine
- 1990s Board of Directors, Black Mime Theatre Company

Literary prize juries

Selected

- 2019 Polari Book Prize for LGBTQ+ fiction
- 2019 Anthony Burgess/ Observer Prize for Arts Journalism

2019 Glenna Luschei Prize for African Poetry
2018 Panel: 40 new Fellows under 40 for the Royal Society of Literature
2018 (annual) Chair: The Brunel Int. African Poetry Prize
2018 *Isis* magazine Writing Competition, Oxford University
2018 The Queens Commonwealth Essay Competition
2018 Geneva Writers Prize (Switzerland)
2017 (annual) Chair Brunel Int. African Poetry Prize
2016 *Guardian* and 4th Estate BAME Short Story Prize
2016 The Goldsmiths Prize for innovative fiction
2016 The Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets (USA)
2016 (annual) Chair: The Brunel Int. African Poetry Prize
2015 *Prairie Schooner* First Book Prize (USA)
2015 Costa Best Novel Award & Costa Book of the Year
2015 First Story National Writing Competition
2015 (annual) Chair: The Brunel Int. African Poetry Prize
2014 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, Poetry (Trinidad)
2014 Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets, USA
2014 (annual) Chair: The Brunel Int. African Poetry Prize
2013 Golden Baobab Prize, Ghana (Short stories for African children)
2013 Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets (USA)
2013 (annual) Chair: The Brunel Int. African Poetry Prize
2012 Founder & Chair of the Brunel University African Poetry Prize
2012 The Poetry Society's *Poetry News* competition
2012 Chair: The Caine Prize for African Fiction
2012 Chair: The Commonwealth Short Story Prize
2011 The Peacock Poetry Prize (Brighton Festival)
2010 TS Eliot Prize (Poetry)
2010 Alfred Fagan Award – (Black plays)
2010 Orange Award for New Writers (Women's fiction)
2009 Muslim Writers Awards with Penguin (Fiction)
2008 Decibel Penguin Prize (Fiction)
2007 Northern Rock Writers' Award (Fiction & Poetry)

2006 The National Poetry Competition

2004 The Next Generation Top 20 List, organised by PBS and Poetry Society

1997 Ian St. James' Award (Fiction)

UK talks & criticism

2019

Tribute to Toni Morrison/ Guardian

Essay in A Room of One's Own/ Royal Society of Literature

forthcoming: Essay in Brave New Words/ Wasafiri/ Routledge

Review of The Nowhere Man by Kamala Markandaya/ Guardian

Review of Voices of the Windrush Generation, ed David Matthews/ Times Lit.

Supplement

Review of Black Leopard Red Wolf by Marlon James/ New Statesman

2018

Review of Friday Black, short stories by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brennah/ Guardian

My Summer Books' Choice 2018/ Times Literary Supplement

Review of Heart of the Race/ Times Literary Supplement

Review of Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992, play at Gate Theatre/ Times Literary

Supplement

Review of The One Who Wrote Destiny, a novel, by Nikesh Shukla/ Guardian

Review of The Fire This Time (essays ed Jesmyn ward) & Sing, Unburied, Sing (novel)

by Jesmyn Ward/ New Statesman

2017

Review: Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race by Reni Eddo-

Lodge/TLS

Review of Come Let Us Sing Anyway, short stories by Leone Ross/ Guardian

2016

Review of Citizen and Don't Let Me Be Lonely, poetry by Claudia Rankine/ New Statesman

Review of Another Brooklyn, a novel by Jacqueline Woodson/ Observer

Review of Speak Gigantular, short stories by Irenosen Okojie/ Guardian

Review of The Bone Readers, a novel by Jacob Ross/Guardian

Review of My Name is Leon, a novel by Kit de Waal/ Guardian

Review: Between the World and Me/The Beautiful Struggle by Ta-Nehisi Coates/ New Statesman

Piece on Orange is the New Black/ New Statesman

2015

Review of God Help This Child, a novel by Toni Morrison/ Observer

Review of Peace and Conflict, a YA novel by Irene Sabatini/ Guardian

Review: Black Poppies: Britain's Black Comm. & The Great War, by Stephen Bourne/Independent

2014

The Annual Lecture, Literary London Conference/ IES/ University of London

The Keynote Speaker, Black British Womens' Writing Conference/ Brighton University

The Keynote Speaker, Creative Writing Day/ Roehampton University

Review of Assatur Skakur, autobiography/ Independent

Review of A Parallel Life, a memoir by Bonnie Greer/ Independent

Review of Every Day for the Thief by Teju Cole/ Observer

Article on the pre-colonial history of homosexuality in Africa/ Guardian

2013

Article on 1980s black womens' arts activism/ Guardian

Keynote Speaker, 'Race, Migration, Citizenship Conference'/British Midland Institute

Chair: African Diaspora Poets, Africa Writes Festival/ British Library

Review: Mom & Me & Mom, a memoir by Maya Angelou/Observer
The Gospel According to Caine, a novel by Courttia Newland/ Guardian

2012

Light Falling on Bamboo, a novel by Lawrence Scott/ Guardian
Review: Night Dancer, a novel by Chika Unigwe/ Guardian
Review: Three Strong Women, a novel by Marie N'Diaye/ Independent
Review: Reality, Reality, short stories by Jackie Kay/ Guardian
Keynote: Global Womens Writing Conference/ Goldsmiths, University of London
Chair: *Ten* poets/ Victoria & Albert Museum
Chair: *Ten* poets/ Royal Festival Hall
Review: The Prisoner of Paradise, a novel by Romesh Gunsekera/ Guardian
Review: The Last Holiday, a memoir by Gil Scott Heron/ Independent

2011

Essay: in 'Body of Work', 40th anthology/ University of East Anglia
Review: The Granta Book of the African Short Story, ed Helon Habila/ Guardian
Review: 'The Kid', a novel by Sapphire/ Observer
Review: 'Third World Girl' selected poems by Jean 'Binta' Breeze/ Independent
Review: 'Half Blood Blues' by Esi Edugyan/ Guardian
Reading essay on 'The Book that Changed Me' series/ BBC Radio 3Piece on 'Beloved'
by Toni Morrison/ Times
Review: 'Staying Alive' poetry anthology, ed Neil Astley / Times
Chair/Interview: EC Osondu/ Royal Festival Hall
Review: 'Voice of America' by EC Osondu/ Financial Times
Review: 'Is Just a Movie', by Earl Lovelace/ Guardian
Feature-Review: 'The Anthology of Rap-/ Independent

2010

Review: For Coloured Girls (the film), Front Row/ BBC Radio 4
Review: Oil on Water by Helon Habila / *Guardian*
Review: Precious, memoir by Precious Williams/ Times

Review: Red Dust Road, memoir by Jackie Kay /Independent
Keynote: TUC – Unionlearn Conference / Congress House/ London
Chair: Orange Award for New Writers shortlisted authors / Royal Festival Hall
Chair: Precious Women of Colour Publishing Event/ Pearson, Strand/ London
Chair: Diversity Roundtable/ National Arts Strategy/ Arts Council England/ London
Talk: Non-linear narrative / Goldsmith's College/ University of London
Talk: The Beauty of Boredom/ Keynote Speaker / ARK Schools HUB Day / London
Review: The Education of a British-Protected Child, Chinua Achebe / Independent
Talk: Mongrel Nation: A Writer's Perspective on Britain's DNA / Uni/Huddersfield
Talk: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston, The Women's Library/ London
Talk: Black Arts in Britain Conference / Keynote Speaker / University of Padua/Italy
Introduction to TEN poetry anthology (co-editor with Daljit Nagra) / Bloodaxe Books
Interview with playwright Kwame Kwei Armah (also co-editor w/Karen McCarthy/
Wasafiri

2009

10,000 word autobiographical literary essay /Contemporary Authors (USA)
Essay on non-fiction book Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin / Times
Review of novel The Year of the Flood by Margaret Atwood / Financial Times
Review of novel On Black Sisters' Street by Chika Unigwe / Independent
Review of novel Jerusalem by Patrick Neate / Guardian
Memoir piece My Father's House / Five Dials / Penguin
Article on novels as campaign tools for Campaign! / British Library
Bottom Draw / Mslexia magazine
Review of novel The Thing Around Your Neck by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie / Times
Interview with playwright Lizzie Dijeh / Wasafiri
Four of 8-part column on creative writing / Mslexia

Host/Chair

Chair: Discussion of Hi Life by Lizzie Dijeh/ Hampstead Theatre
Host: Wasafiri 25th Anniversary Celebration – Poetry / Royal Festival Hall

2008

Review of novel *A Mercy* by Toni Morrison / Financial Times

Essay: CSI Europe: African Trace Elements / Wasafiri

Review of *The Mistresses Daughter* by A.M. Holmes / Metro

Book of a Lifetime: *The Viceroy of Ouidah* by Bruce Chatwin / Independent

Review of poetry *Bloodshot Monochrome* by Patience Agbabi/ Poetry News

Review of novel *The Accidental* by Ali Smith / Metro

Four of 8-part column on creative writing / Mslexia

Talks

Essay: History/Belonging/ Travel @ Memory Maps Conference / Cambridge University

Essay: Derek Walcott's *Midsummer*/ Newcastle University

2001 – 7

Review of novel *Sweetness in the Belly* by Camilla Gibb / Guardian

Review of novel *Trussed* by Shiromi Pinto / Independent

Review of *The Interruption of Everything* by Terry McMillan / Guardian

Review of novel *Dancing in the Dark* by Caryl Phillips / Times

Review of novel *Borrowed Body* by Valerie Mason-John / Independent

Review of novel *Meet Me in Mozambique* by E.A. Markham / Guardian

Review of the *Oxford Book of Caribbean Verse* / Guardian

Review of novel *Moses, Citizen and Me* by Delia Jarret-Macauley / Independent

Review of novel *Waiting for an Angel* by Helon Habila / Times

Review of novel *A Distant Shore* by Caryl Phillips / Times

Review of *Mixed Feelings & London Crossings* / Times

Review of *Reflections of Osiris* by John Ray / Times

Review of *The Only Way Forward...* by Alice Walker / Independent

Review of novel *A Life Elsewhere* by Segun Afolabi / Wasafiri

Review of novel *All that Blue* by Gaston Paul Effa / Wasafiri

Books round-up / British Council website

Article on the Free Verse poetry report / Independent

Article: The Brain Train or Club 20-80 / Independent
Book of a Lifetime piece: Antigone / Independent
Interview with Toni Morrison / South Bank Magazine
Interview with poet Fiona Sampson / Poetry News
Introduction to Contemporary British Poetry / British Council (website)
Article: Spooky Encounters in Soul Tourists / New Books Magazine
Piece Summer Read: Independent People by Halldor Laxness / Independent
Oyster Card Wallet Text / Arts Council England
Piece of Walcott for homage booklet / South Bank Centre Publications
Mixing up the Metaphors / Poetry Review
Writer's Diary / Calabash
Essay: Origins / British Council
Essay: Writing & The Past / Pen & Inc (UEA)
Essay: The Road Less Travelled / Necessary Journeys, Arts Council England
Essay: European Odyssey/ Europa Express / Eichborn Berlin
Essay: Darling, I don't get out of bed for less than...../ British Council
Essay: Zora Neale Hurston / Marie Claire

Talks

Essay: A Writer's Influences / Middlesex University
Essay: Illegal Immigrant – Slipping over Borders / University of E-Nurnberg,
Germany
Keynote Speaker @ Transcultural Britain / Magdeburg University
Talk on books @ Cambridge Seminar, Cambridge University, British Council
Talk on the Art of Reading / Essex Book Festival
Various talks on writing/literature to Eng Lit student / Georgetown University,
Washington DC

Chair

Panel with Helon Habila, Biyi Bandele, Helen Oyeyemi/ Royal Festival Hall
Panel, Free Verse Report/ South Bank Centre
Panel with Delia Jarret-Macauley & David Nwokedi/ Royal Festival Hall
Panel with Valerie Mason-John, Diana Evans/ Cheltenham Lit Fest.

Video & audio

BBC Radio London, Robert Elms Show, with Jason Solomons, May 7th 2019

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p077yf96>

BBC Radio 3, invited speaker, 'Black British History', November 9th 2016

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b081tkr9>

Interview with me at **Bocas Litfest, Trinidad**, April 2014, with Tyrone Ali.

http://www.spaceswords.com/?page_id=2248

The BBC Radio 4 drama adaptation of my novella **Hello Mum** is available here and to buy as download

<http://www.audiogo.com/uk/hello-mum-afternoon-drama-bernardine-evaristo-gid-100038>

Speaking on **Guardian podcast** on memoir, triggered by my Observer review of *Mom & Me & Mom* by Maya Angelou

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/audio/2013/may/10/memoir-fathers-mothers-angelou-brockes-podcast>

Link to the review

itself: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2013/apr/22/mom-me-mom-maya-angelou-review>

Here's the podcast of my issue of **Poetry Review**, 'Offending Frequencies', Winter 2012, with poets Edward Doegar, Sophie Mayer, Richard Scott, Warsan Shire.

<http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk/content/publications/review/pr1024>

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Launch of **Blonde Roots** at Royal Festival Hall, London/ Audio

with Brenda Emmanus interviewing me. Summer 2008.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/BernieBola?feature=mhee#p/a/u/2/2HxtBDKnEVo>

Blonde Roots is available as an audio book

http://www.wholestoryaudiobooks.co.uk/products?search=blonde+roots&request_token=160721f165da6933e84476670d0a20b55a091db2

My essay on 'For Coloured Girls' / Audio

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-K61Ux8KUU>

Click on the above link to hear me reading an essay I wrote for BBC Radio 3's series '**The Book that Changed Me.**'

I chose 'For Coloured Girls who have Considered Suicide when the Rainbow is Enuf', the seminal play/choreopoem by American writer Ntozake Shange.

Teaching

Currently Professor of Creative Writing at Brunel University London. Devised and taught the University of East Anglia-*Guardian* six month fiction writing course, 'How to Tell a Story' for four seasons from 2011 to 2015.

Selected international writer/teaching residencies include:

- The Montgomery Fellow & Visiting Professor, Dartmouth College, USA (2015)
- Creative Writing Course, University of Muenster, Germany (2011)
- British Council, Writer-in-Residence, Virginia, USA (2007)
- British Council, (course for young women), Saudi Arabia (2006)
- British Council, (course for university professors) Morocco (2005)
- British Council, Writer-in-Residence, Georgetown Uni., Wash. DC (2005)
- Visiting Tutor, MA Creative Writing, City Uni, London, (2004-2008)
- British Council, (Young writers' course), Egypt (2004)
- British Council, (Women writers' course), Libya (2004)
- Writing Fellow, University of East Anglia, UK (2002)
- Visiting Professor, Barnard College/Columbia University, NY, USA (2002)
- British Council, University of the Western Cape, South Africa (2000)
- British Council, (Women writers' course), Zimbabwe (1999)
- Visiting Professor, SUNY Binghamton, New York State, USA (1999)
- Writer-in-Residence, Museum of London, UK (1998)

Mentoring

- 2013 Mentor, Arvon Hollick Caribbean Writers' Prize
- 2012 Mentor, Writers Centre Norwich Escalator Scheme
- 2012 Mentor, Spread the Word Flight programme

2010-11 Mentor, Arvon Mentoring Scheme

2008- Creative Writing Fellow, Oxford Brookes University

2008-10 Visiting Tutor, Creative & Life Writing MA at Goldsmith's

Mentored writers on a private basis from 1995-2011.