

## Octavia “Alonge” Clarkson

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### EDUCATION

**Ph.D. Africology and American Studies**, Temple University **Dec 2024**  
**Dissertation Title:** *An Afrocentric Narrative: A literary practice of cultural identity and the preservation of Ma’at*

**M.A. Africana Studies**, University at Albany **May 2012**

**B.A. Political Science**, University at Albany **May 2010**  
*Second Major: Africana Studies / Minor: Spanish*

### RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

My research interests include African American Literature & Culture as it intersects with women, gender, sexuality and popular culture. Specifically, I am interested in the cultural and literary impact of women writers of the The Black Arts Movement.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Instructor**, Thomas Jefferson University  
American Visions (FA 2025; SP 2025; FA 2024; SPR 2024; FA 2023)  
Race in America (FA 2025; SP 2025; FA 2023)  
African American Studies: Diversity & Equity (SP 2023)  
Gender & Diversity in the US (SP 2024)

**Instructor**, Tennessee State University  
Intro to Africana Studies (FA 2023)  
The African Male (FA 2023)

**Graduate Instructor**, Temple University  
PreCollege: Youth Activism & Social Justice Course (SU 2023, SU 2022)  
The Black Church (FA 2018)  
History and Significance of Race in America (FA 2018)  
African Americans in Sport (SU 2017)  
Sports and Leisure in American Society (SP 2017)

### PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Clarkson, O Alonge; Words of Truth: Phillis Wheatley’s Influence on Black Women Poets of The Black Arts Movement (BAM), Callaloo Special Edition, Vol 42:3, 2024

Clarkson, O Alonge; *Dirty Computer: An Afrocentric Analysis of Afrofuturism; Afrocentricity in AfroFuturism Toward Afrocentric Futurism*, Edited by Aaron X. Smith, November 2023

Clarkson, O Alonge; *Healed* 2022 Featured Poets Anthology- 27th Edition  
Feb 2023

Clarkson, O Alonge; *my love, their minds, our garden* 2021 Featured Poets Anthology-26th Edition  
Feb 2022

## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

“Black Women’s Visions of Sankofa: The Black Arts Movement and Black Studies.” Presented at 49<sup>th</sup> National Council for Black Studies Conference, Cincinnati, OH, 2025.

“The Black Arts Movement: Women Writers Imaginings Toward Cultural Truth.” Presented at The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Pittsburgh, PA, 2024.

“Dirty Computer: An Afrocentric Analysis of Janelle Monae’s Emotion Picture.” Presented at 48<sup>th</sup> National Council for Black Studies Conference, San Jose, CA, 2024.

“Words of Truth: Phillis Wheatley’s Influence on Black Women Poets of The Black Arts Movement (BAM).” Presented at the 50th Phillis Wheatley Poetry Festival, Jackson, MS, 2023.

“An Afrocentric Approach to Environmental Justice.” Presented at Teaching Environmental Justice: A Celebration of Writing and Literacy, Philadelphia, PA 2022.

“The Afrocentric Narrative: Reclaiming Our Stories.” Presented at 44<sup>th</sup> National Council for Black Studies Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2020.

“Kanye West: An Analysis of Art, Mental Illness, and Location of Sunday Service.” Presented at 44<sup>th</sup> National Council for Black Studies Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2020.

“Afronographic Narratives By Way of Sankofa.” 43rd National Council for Black Studies Conference, New Orleans, LA. 2019.

“Comparative Analysis of Good Character in Kemet and Yorubaland.” Presented at National Council for Black Studies Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2018.

“Modalities of Marronage: Diasporic Resistance of Africana People and Their Quest for Freedom(s)-Trends within Spiritual Resistance.” Presented at National Council for Black Studies Conference, Houston, TX, 2017.

“Explicating Pedagogies of Morality: When the Book of Proverbs Resembles the Wisdom Literature of Ancient Africa.” Cheikh Anta Diop Conference, Philadelphia, PA, 2016.

“An Analysis of In the Mecca by Gwendolyn Brooks.” University at Albany English Symposium, Albany, NY, 2008.

## **SERVICE**

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Journal of African American Women and Girls in Education                          | July 2025            |
| Heights Philadelphia Annual Equity Summit   | Apr 2023, 2024, 2025 |
| The ECO Foundation, Director of Service Learning                                  | May- July 2024       |
| Board of Reviewers- <i>Education and Urban Society (EUS)</i>                      | Aug 2023             |
| Heights Project Onramp Day Speaker  | May 2023             |
| Heights Philadelphia Inveniam Prep Week-Internship Prep Workshop Series           | May 2022, 2023       |
| Pan-African Studies Community Education Program (PASCEP) Instructor               | Feb 2022- Oct 2022   |
| Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Adjudicator                                       | Jan 2022             |
| Ngoma Graduation Ceremony Planning Committee                                      | Mar- May 2019        |
| Organization of Africology and African American Studies Secretary                 | Aug 2018-May 2019    |
| Three Cities, Three Authors Grant Team Lead                                       | Feb 2019             |
| 16th Annual Underground Railroad & Black Studies Conference Master of Ceremonies  | Feb 2019             |
| Octavius Catto Memorial: Temple University Graduate Student Wreath Representative | Feb 2019             |

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Education Research Conference (AERA)  
 Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)  
 National Council for Black Studies (NCBS)  
 National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE)

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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|---|----------|
| National Council for Black Studies (NCBS) Student Award                     | Mar 2024 |
| Temple University Department of Africology Ngoma: Outstanding Service Award | May 2019 |