

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME Phiri, Isabel Apawo		POSITION TITLE Professor	
ADDRESS School of Religion and Theology, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X01, Scottsville, 3209, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. .Tel: 27 33 260 6132 (w) 27 33 3462920 (h), 27 724239134(c), Fax 27 33 260 5858, phirii@ukzn.ac.za			
EDUCATION/TRAINING (<i>Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, and include</i>)			
INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	YEAR(s)	FIELD OF STUDY
Chancellor College, University of Malawi	B.Ed	1981	Education, Religious Studies and History
University of Lancaster, England	M.A.	1983	Religious Education and New Testament Studies
Chancellor College, University of Malawi	Certificate	1985	University Teaching Methods
University of Cape Town	Doctoral	1992	Philosophy

A. Positions and Honors. List in chronological order previous positions, concluding with your present position. List any honors. Include present membership on any Federal Government public advisory committee.

Positions

1981 – 1982	Staff Associate, Department of Religious Studies, Chancellor College, University of Malawi
1983 – 1990	Lecturer, University of Malawi
1993 – 1995	Lecturer, University of Malawi
1995 – 1994	Senior Lecturer, University of Malawi
1996 – 1997	Senior Lecturer, School of Theology and Religion, University of Namibia
1997 – Present	Director, Centre for Constructive Theology, Durban
1999 – 2000	Director, School of Religion and Culture, University of Durban Westville
1997 – 2000	Associate Professor, University of Durban Westville
2001 – 2003	Senior Lecturer, School of Theology, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg
2003 – Present	Professor in African Theology, School of Theology, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg
2005- 2007	Head, School of Religion and Theology, University of KwaZulu Natal

Awards

1995	Woman of the Year, <i>Nation Newspaper</i> , Malawi
1998	Honourable Mention for the Noma award for publishing in <i>African Women, Presbyterianism and Patriarchy: Religious Experiences of Chewa Women in Central Malawi</i>
2007	Honourable Mention for Orbis Award with Sarojini Nadar, <i>African Women, Religion and Health: Essays in Honour of Mercy Amba Oduyoye</i>
2006	<i>University of KwaZulu Natal book prize for edited books</i> with Sarojini Nadar, <i>African Women, Religion and Health: Essays in Honour of Mercy Amba Oduyoye</i>

Professional Memberships

1985 – Present	Member , International Association of Mission Studies
1986 – 1990	Vice Chair-person of International Consultations on Religious Education in East, Central and Southern Africa
1989 – Present	Member , Continental Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians
1989 – Present	Member , Association of Theological Institutions in Southern and Central Africa (ATISCA)
1992 – 1993	Convener and Founder of the Cape Town Chapter of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians
1993	Member of a working group on “Scholarship and Research in Theological Education” of the World Association of Theological Institutions (WOCATI)
1994 – 2000	Member of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches Committee on Dialogue with Eastern Orthodox Christians
1996 – Present	Member , Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians (EATWOT)

Principal Investigator/Program Director (Last, First, Middle):

1997 – Present	Convenor and Founder of the Durban chapter of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians
2001 – Present	Member Association of Theological Studies in South Africa
2003 – 2005	Chairperson of the Southern Regional Reference Group (RRG) of Ecumenical HIV/AIDS Initiative in Africa
2002 – 2007	General Coordinator of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians
2006-2013	Moderator of the World Council of Churches Commission on Education and Ecumenical Formation
2008 to 2012	Member of the Executive Committee of the World Conference of Association of Theological Institutions.
2006-2013	Advisor to the Programme Committee of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

B. Selected peer-reviewed publications (in chronological order).

Articles in Journals

1. ‘Doing Theology in Community: The Case of African Women Theologians in the 1990s.’ in *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa* No. 99, November 1997, 68-76
2. ‘Empowerment of Women Through the Centre for Constructive Theology’ in *Ministerial Formation*. World Council of Churches, No. 89, April 2000 and in *International Review of Mission*. Vol. LXXXIX No. 354, July 2000. 329-337.
3. ‘African Independent Churches’ in Virginia Fabella, M.M. and R.S. Sugirtharajah, *Dictionary of Third World Theologies*. Maryknoll: Orbis books, 2000, 3-4.
4. ‘African Women in Mission: Two case Studies from Malawi’ in *MISSIONALIA* Vol. 28, No. 2/3 November 2000, 267-293..
5. ‘Healed from AIDS: The testimony of Pastor Fridah Mzumara-Ngulube of Barak Ministries Lusaka Zambia’ in *Journal of Constructive Theology* Vol. 7, No. 1, July 2001, 63-81.
6. ‘Why Does God Allow Our Husbands To Hurt Us’: Overcoming Violence Against Women” in *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*, Number 2002, November 2002, 12-30.
7. ‘Life In Fullness: Gender Justice A Perspective From Africa’ in *Journal of Constructive Theology* Vol. 8, No. 2, December 2002, 69-82.
8. ‘African Indigenous Religions’ in *Concise Encyclopedia of Language and Religion*. 2003.
9. ‘Virginity Testing? African Women seeking Resources to Combat HIV/AIDS in *Journal of Constructive Theology* 9(1), July 2003, 63-78.
10. ‘The Church As A Healing Community: Women’s Voices and Visions from Chilobwe Healing Centre’ in *Journal of Constructive Theology* Vol. 10, No. 1, July 2004, 13 – 28.
11. ‘HIV/AIDS: An African Theological Response in Mission’ *The Ecumenical Review*, 56(4), October 2004, 422-431.
12. ‘A Theological Analysis Of The Voices Of Teenage Girls On ‘Men’s Role In The Fight Against HIV/AIDS’ In Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa” *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*, Number 120, November 2004, 34-54.
13. ‘Dealing With The Trauma Of Sexual Abuse: A Gender-Based Analysis of the Testimonies of Female Traditional Healers in KwaZulu-Natal” in *Journal of Constructive Theology* Vol. 10, No. 2, December, 2004, 41-58.
14. ‘African women’s Theologies in the new millennium” in *AGENDA: empowering Women for Gender Equity* Number 61, 2004.
15. ‘The Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians: Its Contribution to Ecumenical Formation”, in *the Ecumenical Review*, vol. 57, no. 1, January 2005, 34-41.
16. ‘HIV/AIDS: An African Theological Response in Mission” in *The Ecumenical Review*, vol. 56, no. 4, October 2004, 422-431.
17. ‘Peacemaking And Reconciliation: The Contribution Of African Indigenous Religious Women In KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa” in *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*, Number 124, November 2005, 84-92.
18. With Nadar, S. ‘What’s In A Name? – Forging A Theoretical Framework For African Women’s Theologies *Journal of Constructive Theology* Vol. 12.2. December 2006, 5-24.
19. ‘Called to be the One Church” The Future of Ecumenism: A Protestant Voice” in *The Ecumenical Review*. Vol. 58 No. 1-2 January –April 2006, 121-123.
20. A sostegno della vita. La riflessione teologica Africana su Hiv e Aids” in *CONCILIUM* 3/2007, 54-63.
21. Major challenges for African women theologians in theological education (1989-2008) in *STUDIA HISTORIAE ECCLESIASTICAE* December/Desember 2008 • Volume XXXIV • No/Nr 2, 63-81.

Chapters in books

1. ‘African Traditional Religion: The misunderstood Religion” in Melissa Steyn and Khanya B. Motshabi (eds.) *Cultural Synergy South Africa: Weaving Strands of Africa and Europe*. Randburg: Knowledge Resources, 1996, 55-64.
2. ‘African Traditional Religion and Eco-feminism: The Role of Women at Chisumphi Shrine in Preserving Ecology” in Rosemary Radford Reuther (ed.), *Women Healing Earth*. Maryknoll: Orbis Publishers 1996, 161-171.
3. ‘Marching, Suspended and Stoned: Christian Women in Malawi” in Kenneth R. Ross (ed.) *God, People and Power in Malawi: Democratisation in Theological Perspective*. Gweru: Mambo Press, 1996, 63-105.

Principal Investigator/Program Director (Last, First, Middle):

4. "The Initiation of Chewa Women of Malawi: A Presbyterian Woman's Perspective" in James Cox ed. *Rites of Passage: The Interaction between Christianity and African Traditional Religions*. Edinburgh: Cardiff Press, 1997, 129-145.
5. "Doing Theology as African Women" in *A Reader in African Christian Theology*. Ed. John Parratt, London: SPCK, 1997, 45-56.
6. "Christianity and African Women: Liberation or Oppression?" in Kenneth R. Ross ed. *Faith at the Frontiers of Knowledge*. Blantyre: CLAIM, 1998, 198-217.
7. "African Independent Churches" in Virginia Fabella, M.M. and R.S. Sugirtharajah, *Dictionary of Third World Theologies*. Maryknoll: Orbis books, 2000, 3-4.
8. "Stand up to be Counted: Identity, Spirituality and Theological Education in my Journey of Faith" in Denise Ackerman, Eliza Gateman, Hantie Cotze and Judy Tobler, *Claiming Our Foot Prints: South African Women Reflect on Context, Identity and Spirituality*. Stellenbosch, ESSA Institute for Theological and Interdisciplinary Research, 2000, 145-160.
9. "Called at Twenty Seven and Ordained at Seventy Three!" The Story of Rev Victory Nomvete Mbanjwa in the United Congregational Church in Southern Africa' in eds. Isabel Apawo Phiri, Betty Govenden and Sarojini Nadar *Her-Story: The Histories of Women of Faith in Africa*. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications, 2002, 119-138.
10. "Transformation in South African Universities: The case of female Academics in leadership positions in Theological Institutions" in Roswith Gerloff (ed.) *Mission is Crossing Frontiers*. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications, 2003, 414-432.
11. 'African Indigenous Religions' in *Concise Encyclopaedia of Language and Religion*. 2003.
12. 'Caring During Burial and Bereavement in Traditional Society and the Church in Africa,' in Hance O Mwakabana ed. *Crisis of Life in African Religion and Christianity*. Geneva: The Lutheran World Federation, 2002, 57-68.
13. 'Africa: Christianity and Other Faiths' in Hance O Mwakabana ed. *Multi-faith Challenges Facing the Americas*. Geneva: The Lutheran World Federation, 2002, 133-142.
14. 'African Women of Faith Speak Out in an HIV/AIDS Era' in Isabel Apawo Phiri, Beverley Haddad and Madipoane Masenya. *African Women, HIV/AIDS and Faith Communities* Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications, 2003, 3-20.
15. 'Contextual Theologies in Southern Africa' in John Parratt, (ed.), *Introduction To Contextual Theologies*, Cambridge: Cambridge Press, 2004, ----.
16. "Ruth"; in Tokunboh Adeyemo (ed) *Africa Bible Commentary*. London: Piquant Publishers, 2006.
17. "Rape" in Tokunboh Adeyemo (ed) *Africa Bible Commentary*. London: Piquant Publishers, 2006.
18. "The Bible and Polygamy". in Tokunboh Adeyemo (ed) *Africa Bible Commentary*. London: Piquant Publishers, 2006.
19. "Lobola and Weddings" In Tokunboh Adeyemo (ed) *Africa Bible Commentary*. London: Piquant Publishers, 2006.

Books

The end of the Tunnel: Religious Education for Non Racial South Africa. Co authored with Gordon Michell, Nokuzola Mndende, and Janet Stonier. Cape Town: University of Cape Town Press, 1993, 105 pages.

Religion in Public Education: Options for a New South Africa. Co authored with David Chidester, Gordon Michell and Rashied Omar. Cape Town: University of Cape Town Press, 1994, 176 pages.

The Role of Christianity in Development, Peace and Reconstruction: Southern African Perspectives. Co edited with J. L. Cox and K.L. Ross. Nairobi: All Africa Council of Churches, 1997.

Women Presbyterianism and Patriarchy: Religious Experiences of Chewa Women in Central Malawi. Blantyre: CLAM, 1997.

Her-Story: The Histories of Women of Faith in Africa. Co edited with Betty Govenden and Sarojini Nadar. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications, 2002.

African Women, HIV/AIDS and Faith Communities Co edited with Beverley Haddad and Madipoane Masenya. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications, 2003.

On Being Church: African Women's Voices and Visions edited with Sarojini Nadar, Geneva: World Council of Churches 2005.

African Women, Religion and Health: Essays in Honour of Mercy Amba Oduyoye. Edited with Sarojini Nadar, Maryknoll: Orbis, 2006.

C. Research Support. completed and ongoing (during the last three years)

Completed Research Support

Grant # 1 PI's last name

Phiri, IA

Full start and end date for project period

August 2005 to February 2007

Funder:

Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in AIDS; Yale University, USA

Name of Project

Gender, Violence and HIV/AIDS prevention: Behaviour change interventions for church couples
In Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Principal Investigator/Program Director (Last, First, Middle):

Brief Description

The general goal of this research is to adapt and evaluate Stepping Stones curriculum, which is a gender sensitive HIV/AIDS prevention intervention, and apply it to church couples in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. The targeted population for this research will be 30 church couples from Pietermaritzburg Indigenous African communities, who will be divided into 2 groups. During the four workshops that each group will undergo over a period of four weeks, they will be further divided into 4 groups based on gender and age. Each individual will respond to a quantitative questionnaire at the beginning of the workshop and after 6 months. Notes will be made from discussions in each group. The data collected from the quantitative questionnaire will be analysed to find out if there has been evidence of behaviour change with regard to communication on their sexuality, fidelity and gender-based violence in their relationships. Data analysis of the notes taken will also help in identifying areas that need to be revised in the adapted curriculum for use in the churches.

Role

Principal Investigator

On going Research Support

Grant # 2 PI's last name

Phiri, IA

Full start and end date for project period

01.07.2007- 31.03.2010

Fundor:

The National Research Foundation. A South Africa/Norway Research Cooperation programme (team research)

Name of Project

Broken Women, Healing Traditions? Indigenous Resources for gender critique and social transformation in the context of AIDS

Brief Description

To study the appropriation of indigenous social and religious knowledge, in order to assist just power relations between women and men in the context of HIV/AIDS. By drawing on African and Christian interreligious practises and social recognition of *protective, ritual and untouchable space*, we will contribute to build healing communities of active prevention and self-education.

Role

Principal Investigator in (South Africa)