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## Message from the Director

Welcome back, everyone! We hope you had a lovely and restorative winter break.

As we kick off the Spring 2026 term, we are writing to share some exciting updates and upcoming opportunities for our community. We also want to take a moment to reflect on the vibrant engagement we saw during our Fall 2025 programming.

We are launching the semester with a powerful event on February 3rd: a book talk with Dr. Philip Effiong Jr. regarding his new memoir, ***My Biafran Scar: A War & Postwar Narrative***. Please join us for lunch and what promises to be a critical conversation on war, childhood trauma, and perseverance.

## Pan-Africanism & Education: Uplifting African Ways of Knowing as

***a Catalyst for Positive Change.*** Co-hosted with Columbia's Institute for African Studies and TC's Society for International Education, this event will be a fantastic opportunity to engage with interdisciplinary approaches to education. Keep an eye out for the call for papers and details on how to volunteer to help make this event a success.

For those looking to deepen their involvement this semester, we are actively seeking new leaders and members for the African Studies Working Group (ASWG). This is a wonderful way to build your network and collaborate with peers passionate about the African Diaspora.

Finally, we deeply appreciated your energy during the fall term—from the lunch with the African Obama Scholars to the insightful film screening of *You Think You Grown?* (see highlights below). We look forward to collaborating with you again this semester! As always, I also want to express my tremendous appreciation to my colleagues, Amaeka Effiong and Mahielt Hailu, for their leadership and commitment to the Center.

Mary Mendenhall  
CAE Director

## Spring 2026: Save the Date!

**Pan-Africanism & Education: Uplifting African Ways  
of Knowing as a Catalyst for Positive Change  
- April 17, 2025 -**

# **SAVE THE DATE**

## **Pan-Africanism & Education: Uplifting African Ways of Knowing as a Catalyst for Positive Change**

**April 17, 2026**

**525 W 120th St, New York, NY  
10027**



**Center for African Education**  
Teachers College, Columbia University



**SOCIETY FOR  
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**



**COLUMBIA | IAS**  
INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES

The Center for African Education, the Society for International Education, and the Institute for African Studies are pleased to announce the upcoming mini conference, Pan-Africanism & Education: Uplifting African Ways of Knowing as a Catalyst for Positive Change, to be held on April 17, 2026. More details and call for papers coming soon!

**Book Talk with Dr. Philip Effiong Jr.  
- February 3, 2026 -**



# BOOK TALK WITH DR. PHILIP EFFIONG JR.

## MY BIAFRAN SCAR: A WAR & POSTWAR NARRATIVE

Join us for lunch and an immersive discussion with the author on  
the lasting impact of the Nigerian Civil War



Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

11:30am - 1:00pm

Russel Hall (Gottesman Library) 306

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/cae-book-talk>

To request disability-related accommodations contact OASD at [oasid@tc.edu](mailto:oasid@tc.edu)  
(212) 678-3689, (212) 678-3853 TTY (646) 755-3144 video phone, as early as possible.

Join the Center for African Education for a book talk with Dr. Philip Effiong Jr.,  
Professor of Theatre Studies and Integrative Humanities at Michigan State University,  
on his new book [My Biafran Scar: A War & Postwar Narrative](#).

This novel is the second story in a two-part memoir about the Nigeria-Biafra war and  
its enduring impact on the author, his family and his community. The boy who tells  
the story in Part One becomes the adult narrator in Part Two, providing a candid  
account of his experiences after the war.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided as we gather in critical conversation on war,



Register here:

<https://forms.gle/Qy9cyYePtikuAWqi8>

## Spring 2026 Africa-Focused Graduate Courses Outside of Teachers College

- [African France, French Africa \(GU4779\)](#).
- [Comparative Politics Survey II \(GR6412\)](#).
- [Egypt in the Classical World \(GU4411\)](#).
- [Global Immersion: South Africa's Ongoing Transformation \(B8778\)](#).
- [Health & Healing in Africa \(GU4769\)](#).
- [Locating Africa in the 20th Century World \(GU4052\)](#).
- [Management Consulting Lab \(B8701\)](#).
- [Music and Global Africa \(GU4438\)](#).
- [Sustainable Development in Rwanda \(GU4400\)](#).
- [The Maghreb in Transition: Society & Culture in North Africa Since 1990 \(GU4321\)](#).
- [Topics in the Black Experience \(GU4080\)](#).

## Seeking New Leaders and Members to join the African Studies Working Group!

The Center for African Education is seeking TC students who are passionate about African studies and the African Diaspora to be leaders and members of the African Studies Working Group (ASWG).


### ASWG Goals:

- Develop a dynamic, and sustainable network of African and diaspora studies scholars and practitioners who have research

- Facilitate opportunities for graduate and doctoral students to develop and showcase their scholarly interests and academic pursuits related to Africa
- Establish and maintain partnerships with other African-focused student organizations and groups within Columbia University and other institutions.

**As a leader or member of the ASWG, your role will involve:**

- Creating and supporting opportunities for members to connect and collaborate
- Advancing academic pursuits and research
- Building robust relationships with other organizations and institutions
- Following the guidelines laid out for TC student organizations by the Graduate Student Life & Development office

 If you are interested please fill out the interest form [here](#) and join the ASWG Whatsapp Group [here](#). If you have any questions about this student organization, feel free to reach out to us at [cae@tc.columbia](mailto:cae@tc.columbia).

## 2025 CAE Travel Grant Recipient Spotlight

**Julia Aronchi**

[Localizing Global Citizenship: A Pilot Study in Brazilian Public Schools](#)



“Brazil’s public education system, serving a majority of Afro-Brazilian and low-income youth, continues to reflect the legacies of colonial hierarchies and racial inequality. Observing how teachers interpret Citizenship Education within this context can reveal how diasporic knowledge and resilience shape classroom practice. This journey reminds me that citizenship education is created and lived locally, one classroom at a time.”



## Why Does Racial Self-Identification Matter in Autism Research?



“Rather than naming race in research, I began to reflect on how it is shaped by context and epistemic perspective. My early coursework invited further reflection on how Afro-

## Fall 2025 Highlights

### CAE Fall Social - October 7, 2025 -

In October, the Center for African Education held our annual welcome back event to kick off the new school year and share exciting opportunities for students, faculty, and community members to engage with African Education throughout the semester.

Summer 2025 CAE travel grant recipients Yami Cao, Julia Aronchi, and Inara Bezerra Ferreira De Sousa (highlighted above) also had the opportunity to give lightning talks on their experiences working abroad in African Diasporic Contexts while attendees enjoyed Dunkin Donuts and hot apple cider.





Opening remarks from CAE Director Dr. Mary Mendenhall.

## Lunch & Learn with African Obama Scholars - October 21, 2025 -



questions and shared insights about the projects they are developing centered around their countries of origin, their educational journeys, and their experiences with the Obama Foundation Scholars program.

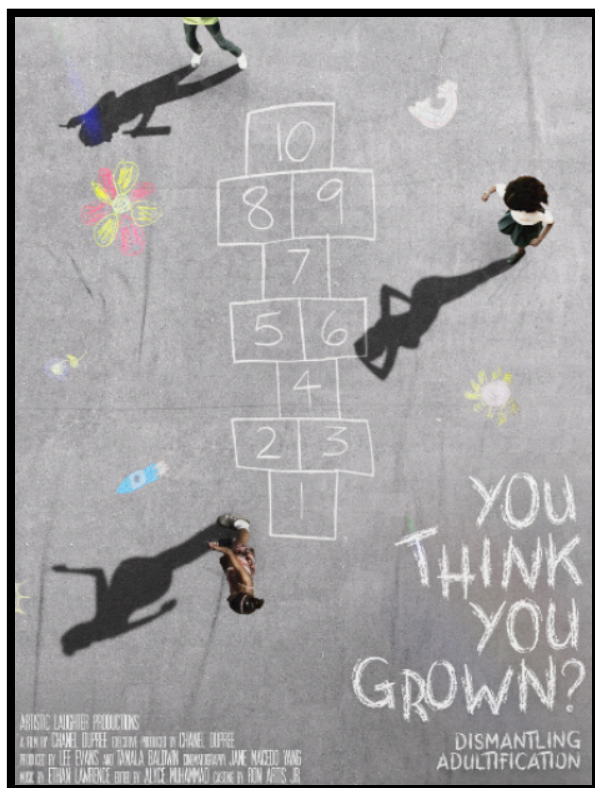


Obama scholars Michael Richard Katagaya, Bathsheba Asati, Mahmoud Hadhoud, and Khalid Hashi pose for a photo after engaging in a captivating panel discussion.

## **Film Screening on the Adultification of Black Girls with Chanel Dupree: *You Think You Grown?* *Dismantling Adultification* - November 5, 2025 -**

In collaboration with the Black Caucus, Student Union, and Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Columbia's School of Social Work, the CAE hosted an engaging documentary film screening of *You Think You Grown? Dismantling Adultification* followed by a talk back with the award-winning Screenwriter and Director, Chanel Dupree.

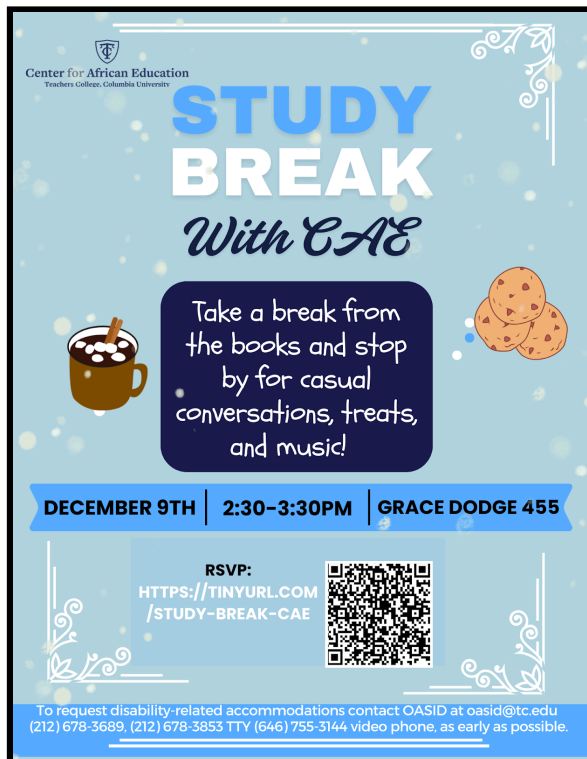
effects on Black girls and women. In this film, educators, activists, artists, and teens share their experiences within Black girlhood and discuss dismantling Adulthood for the next generation.





## CAE Study Break - December 9, 2025 -

After an exciting semester the Center for African Education hosted a casual study break where students could pop in and out to enjoy some treats as they wrapped up their fall semesters.



## CAE Resources

### Office Hours

Need guidance with research, a project, or idea generation concerning African or diaspora education? Reach out to the Graduate Research Assistants [here](#) to schedule a time to chat!



Having trouble finding scholarly resources about African education? Click on "CAE Library" below to explore books located in the CAE library. Search for what you need by topic, country, or geographical region.

For further support, consider consulting with the Subject Specialists at Columbia University. Librarians specialize in African Studies (both North and South of the Sahara) and African-American Studies. Click on "Main Campus Library Resources: Subject Specialists" below to learn more about each librarian's subject expertise and schedule an appointment to meet with them.

**CAE Library**

**Main Campus Library Resources: Subject Specialists**



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