

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Arese Carrington

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Carrington, Arese, 1958-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Arese Carrington,
Dates:	October 20, 2016
Bulk Dates:	2016
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:31:00).
Abstract:	Public health consultant Dr. Arese Carrington (1958-) served as associate director for Harvard University's AIDS Prevention Initiative Nigeria (APIN). Carrington was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 20, 2016, in Newton Center, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2016_075
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Public health consultant Dr. Arese Ukpoma Carrington was born on July 16, 1958 in Lagos, Nigeria to Dora and Elisha Ukponmwan. Her great-great-grandfather, Oba Ovonramwen Nogbaisi, was the ruler of Benin from 1888 to 1897. Carrington and her mother were separated from her father during the Biafran Civil War, but the family later reunited. Carrington earned her M.D. degree from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria in 1980.

Carrington briefly served as a medical officer for the Nigerian Airports Authority before establishing a private practice. In 1986, she founded Goldline Limited, a commercial company providing consulting and promotional services to multinational companies and foreign non-profits. She also founded Health and Medical Services that same year to consult on issues of preventive healthcare in the workplace. Carrington enrolled in a master's program at the Harvard School of Public Health, where she studied in the Department of Population and International Health. Graduating in 2000, she was chosen as the graduate orator at the commencement ceremony. Carrington then became the associate director of government relations and community programs for Harvard's AIDS Prevention Initiative Nigeria (APIN), helping to secure a health grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the largest at that time. She also authored *Malaria in Nigeria*, published in the Fall 2001 issue of the Harvard Health Policy Review. In 2004, Carrington worked for the Pan African Health Foundation, which partnered with the Nigerian government to establish an auto-disable syringe factory in Port Harcourt. In 2006, she and her husband, U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria Walter C. Carrington, founded Africana Consultants USA to advise on issues of public health and investment promotion.

Carrington served as vice president of the board of directors of the United Nations Association of Greater Boston. As a visiting committee member for the Arts of Asia, Oceania and Africa at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, she facilitated the development of the Benin Kingdom Gallery. She also served on the trustees' advisory board of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. In 2014, Carrington was the recipient of the Newton Human Rights Lifetime Achievement award, Massachusetts State Senate Official Citation, and the Massachusetts House of

Representatives Official Citation in recognition of being a life-long advocate of Human Rights.

Carrington and her husband, U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria Walter C. Carrington, have two children: Temisan Oyowe-Carrington and Thomas Carrington.

Dr. Arese Carrington was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 20, 2016.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Arese Carrington was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 20, 2016, in Newton Center, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Public health consultant Dr. Arese Carrington (1958-) served as associate director for Harvard University's AIDS Prevention Initiative Nigeria (APIN).

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Carrington, Arese, 1958-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Carrington, Arese, 1958- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Healthcare Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Arese Carrington, October 20, 2016. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Arese Carrington, Section A2016_075_001_001, TRT:

1:31:32 ?

Dr. Arese Carrington was born on July 16, 1958 in Lagos, Nigeria to Dora Obaseki Ukponmwan and Elisha Noyoze Ukponmwan. Her maternal great-great-grandfather, Ovonramwen Nogbaisi, was the king of Benin in the late 19th century. After the British invasion of Benin in 1897, he was exiled to Calabar, Nigeria, where he eventually died. Both Carrington's great-grandfather, Agho Obaseki, and grandfather, Gaius Obaseki, served as the iyase of Benin. Her grandfather also traded commodities like timber and cocoa. Carrington's mother was born in 1922 in Benin City, Nigeria. She studied nursing and midwifery in England, where she met her husband. Carrington's paternal grandfather was an Anglican minister. Her father attended the Government College in Ibadan, Nigeria, and then studied civil engineering at the University of London. He went on to serve in the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing in Nigeria. Carrington talks about the Beninese culture, and the qualities of a successful marriage.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Arese Carrington, Section A2016_075_001_002, TRT: 2:29:21 ?

Dr. Arese Carrington was two years old when Nigeria became independent from Britain in 1960. Three years later, Nnamdi Azikiwe was elected as the country's first president. Carrington grew up in the Ikoyi section of Lagos, Nigeria. There, she attended the private Corona School Ikoyi, where she learned the importance of social justice. Her mother, Dora Obaseki Ukponmwan, was a nurse, and inspired Carrington's interest in medicine. At the onset of the Nigeria-Biafra War in 1967, Carrington's parents attempted to shield her and her siblings from the violence. However, as the war intensified, her father, Elisha Noyoze Ukponmwan, decided to divide the family between Benin and Nigeria. Around this time, her future husband, Walter C. Carrington, helped evacuate Peace Corps volunteers from Benin. Carrington went on to complete her secondary education at Queen's College, Lagos and the International School, Ibadan. At this point in the interview, she talks about gender inequality and regional differences in Nigeria.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Arese Carrington, Section A2016_075_001_003, TRT: 3:28:59 ?

Dr. Arese Carrington attended the all-girls Queen's College, Lagos in Lagos, Nigeria, where she developed an interest in biology. Upon completing her premedical studies at the University of Ibadan in Ibadan, Nigeria, she fulfilled her clinical requirements at Ibadan's University College Hospital. In 1981, Carrington served as a medical officer for the Nigerian Airports Authority at the Ibadan Airport, as part of the country's required National Youth Service Corps. She initially specialized in general medicine, and came to focus to public health because she wanted to help larger populations. After medical school, Carrington opened a medical practice called Health and Medical Services in Lagos, where malnutrition and malaria were among the most common illnesses. She went on to attend the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts. At this point in the interview, Carrington talks about the healthcare system in Nigeria, including the importance of community health practices.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Arese Carrington, Section A2016_075_001_004, TRT: 4:29:43 ?

Dr. Arese Carrington established her medical practice, Health and Medical Services, in Lagos, Nigeria in 1986. Through her connections at the local embassies, she met her future husband, Walter C. Carrington, who was the U.S. ambassador to Nigeria at the time. They married in 1995. Carrington also met President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn Carter, on their visit to Nigeria.

During this period, General Sani Abacha served as Nigeria's de facto president, following the annulled election of Moshood Abiola. Under Abacha's rule, the state focused on increasing oil exports, and directed violence against dissidents like the environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, who was executed for protesting the government's drilling practices; as well as pro-democracy activists like Kudirat Abiola, Funmilayo Ransome Kuti and Gani Fawehwas, whose deaths were attributed to the Abacha regime. At this point in the interview, Carrington talks about the wealth inequality in Nigeria. She also remembers the U.S. immigration process.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Arese Carrington, Section A2016_075_001_005, TRT: 5:28:18 ?

Dr. Arese Carrington married U.S. Ambassador Walter C. Carrington in the Republic of Benin in 1995. She then resigned her post as the director of Health and Medical Services in Lagos, Nigeria. Around this time, pro-democracy activists in Nigeria organized a farewell party for Carrington's husband, but General Sani Abacha's military troops broke up the gathering at gunpoint. After Abacha's death in 1998, Nigeria transitioned to democracy, and an enclave in Lagos was named the Walter Carrington Crescent. At this point, Carrington talks about the circumstances surrounding Moshood Abiola's death. In 2000, Carrington graduated from the Harvard School of Public Health. She went on to serve as the associate director of the AIDS Prevention Initiative Nigeria (APIN), a \$25 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in Nigeria. Carrington also worked with Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo to create the National Action Committee on AIDS.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Arese Carrington, Section A2016_075_001_006, TRT: 6:32:06 ?

Dr. Arese Carrington served as the associate director of the AIDS Prevention Initiative Nigeria, which was created by the Harvard School of Public Health to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in Nigeria. She also served on the board of the Pan African Health Foundation, which built an auto-disable syringe factory in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. In addition to her public health work in Nigeria, Carrington was a board member of the United Nations Association of Greater Boston and a trustee of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. She joined the board of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston following the gift of the Benin bronzes to the museum's Benin Kingdom Gallery. At this point in the interview, Carrington talks about modernization in Africa and Nigeria's Safe Schools initiative. She also describes the challenges confronted by Nigerian women and girls, and reflects upon her hopes and concerns for the country of Nigeria.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Arese Carrington, Section A2016_075_001_007, TRT: 7:31:01 ?

Dr. Arese Carrington advocated for education and social justice in the United States and her birth country of Nigeria. Her husband, Walter C. Carrington, served as the U.S. ambassador to Nigeria in the 1990s, and the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos, Nigeria later named the Carrington Youth Fellowship Initiative in his honor. Carrington had one daughter, Temisan Oyowe Carrington, who attended Harvard University. Carrington reflects upon her life, legacy and the importance of relationships. She describes how she would like to be remembered, and concludes the interview by narrating her photographs.