

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Roberto "Bert" Ifill

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Ifill, Roberto Norman, 1954-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Roberto "Bert" Ifill,
<b>Dates:</b>	May 13, 2022
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2022
<b>Physical Description:</b>	11 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:03:12).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Academic administrator and economics professor Roberto "Bert" Ifill (1954 - ) served in leadership roles and taught economics at Williams College, Connecticut College, Macalester College, and St. Mary's College of Maryland. He also is a board member of Simmons University, the alma mater of his late sister, noted journalist Gwen Ifill. Ifill was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 13, 2022, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2022_051
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Academic administrator and economics professor Roberto "Bert" Ifill was born on April 12, 1954 in Brooklyn, New York to Eleanor Edmay Husbands and Rev. Oliver Urcille Ifill, Sr. He received his A.B. degree in economics in 1976 from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire and his M.A. and M.Phil. degrees in 1979 and Ph.D. degree in 1992 in economics from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

From 1983 to 1989, Ifill taught economics at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where he also served as assistant dean and dean of freshmen. In 1989, he was hired by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in New York City as a program associate for higher education and public affairs with particular responsibility for liberal arts colleges. In 1993, Ifill was hired as a program associate for academic planning and advising and as an associate dean at Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut, where he also taught economics and served as dean of planning and assistant to the president. In 1997, he was hired as special assistant to the president for diversity and campus community, assistant to the president and director of the council for multicultural affairs at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he also taught economics. From 2001 to 2003, Ifill held a research fellowship at the American Council on Education, where he studied college savings plans and diversity initiatives for colleges and universities. In 2008, he was hired as a visiting professor at St. Mary's College of Maryland in St. Mary's City, Maryland, where he taught economics and served as interim dean of students from 2012 to 2014. From 2015 to 2017, Ifill served as an executive search consultant at the higher education search firm AGB Search in Washington, D.C. Ifill has drafted and facilitated strategic plans for several institutions including Connecticut College, the Lyman Allyn Art Museum, the Garde Arts Center, and others.

Ifill joined the board of trustees of Simmons University in 2021, where he has served as vice chair. He also has served on Simmons University's Dean's College Advisory Council of the Gwen Ifill College of Media, Arts, and Humanities, named after his late sister and noted PBS-TV journalist Gwen Ifill (1955-2016). Ifill also has chaired

the boards of the Playwright's Center and the Theatre Lab for the Dramatic Arts and served on the boards of the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, the Lyman Allyn Art Museum, Western Vocal Wind Ensemble, the Cantate Chamber Singers, and the Yale Glee Club Associates and as a member of Omicron Delta Kappa.

Ifill and his wife, Gisèle Becker, live in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Roberto "Bert" Ifill was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 11, 2022.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Roberto "Bert" Ifill was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 13, 2022, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 11 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Academic administrator and economics professor Roberto "Bert" Ifill (1954 - ) served in leadership roles and taught economics at Williams College, Connecticut College, Macalester College, and St. Mary's College of Maryland. He also is a board member of Simmons University, the alma mater of his late sister, noted journalist Gwen Ifill.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Ifill, Roberto Norman, 1954-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Ifill, Roberto Norman, 1954---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Academic Administrator

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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## 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 Roberto "Bert" Ifill, May 13, 2022. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

## **Series I: Original Interview Footage**

Video Oral History Interview with Roberto "Bert" Ifill, Section A2022\_051\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Roberto "Bert" Ifill, Section A2022\_051\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:36 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Roberto "Bert" Ifill, Section A2022\_051\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:43 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Roberto "Bert" Ifill, Section A2022\_051\_001\_004, TRT: 4:30:48 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Roberto "Bert" Ifill, Section A2022\_051\_001\_005, TRT: 5:32:48 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Roberto "Bert" Ifill, Section A2022\_051\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:21 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Roberto "Bert" Ifill, Section A2022\_051\_001\_007, TRT: 7:28:19 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Roberto "Bert" Ifill, Section A2022\_051\_001\_008, TRT: 8:28:48 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Roberto "Bert" Ifill, Section A2022\_051\_001\_009, TRT: 9:29:04 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Roberto "Bert" Ifill, Section A2022\_051\_001\_010, TRT: 10:28:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Roberto "Bert" Ifill, Section A2022\_051\_001\_011, TRT: 11:06:49 ?