

jennifer.muchiri@uonbi.ac.ke

muchirijennifer@gmail.com

Tel: +254 722 631 550

P.O. Box 29659

G.P.O 00100

Nairobi

Jennifer Nyambura Muchiri, PhD

Nationality Kenyan

Languages spoken English, Kiswahili, Kikuyu

Languages written English, Kiswahili, Kikuyu

Date of Birth 21st May 1977

ACADEMIC RECORD

2006 – 2008: University of Nairobi, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Literature

Title of Thesis: *“The Female Autobiographical Voice in Independent Kenya”*

2001 – 2003: University of Nairobi, Master of Arts (MA) in Literature

Title of Dissertation: *“The Child Narrator in George Lamming’s *In the Castle of My Skin*”*

1996 – 2000: University of Nairobi, Bachelor of Arts (BA ó Literature Major) Second

Class Honours, Upper Division

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

March 2015 to date **University of Nairobi**, Department of Literature

Position: **Senior Lecturer**

July 2009 – March 2015 **University of Nairobi**, Department of Literature

Position: **Lecturer**

Responsibilities: Teaching and examining undergraduate and postgraduate courses; Research; Supervision of MA and PhD candidates; Postgraduate studies coordinator (2016 to date); Timetabling Officer (2013-2016); Examinations officer (2009 ó 2012; 2014-2016); Coordinator of Departmental common units (2009-2014); Representative to the Faculty of Arts Research, Seminars, and Publications Committee (2011-2013); Representative to the Faculty Postgraduate Studies Committee (2016 to date).

March – July 2009 **Kenyatta University**, Literature Department

Position: **Lecturer**

Responsibilities: Teaching and examining undergraduate courses; in charge of the Literature Department programmes at Mombasa Campus.

Sept. 2007 – Mar. 2009 **Kenyatta University**, Literature Department

Position: **Tutorial Fellow**

Responsibilities: Teaching and examining undergraduate courses; in charge of the Literature Department programmes at Mombasa Campus.

Jan. – Sept. 2007 **Daystar University**, Department of Languages and Performing Arts

Position: **Part-time Lecturer**

Responsibilities: Teaching and examining undergraduate courses

Apr. 2004 – Sept. 2007 **University of Nairobi**, Department of Educational Studies

Position: **Part-time lecturer**

Responsibilities: Teaching and examining undergraduate courses in Literature

Oct. 2003 – Dec. 2004 **Macmillan Kenya Publishers**

Responsibilities: Assessment of manuscripts (part-time)

COURSES TAUGHT

2009 to date: University of Nairobi

Graduate Courses: The African Biography and Autobiography; English Literature; Women's Writing in Africa

Undergraduate Courses: Nature and Functions of Literature; Introduction to Prose; Language Use in Literature; Modern African Poetry; Kenyan Prose; Major Author; African Prose

2007 – 2009: Kenyatta University

Undergraduate Courses: Introduction to Literary Genres; East African Prose Fiction; East African Oral Literature; Critical Reading and Response; Survey of African Literature

2007: Daystar University

Undergraduate Courses: Appreciation of Literature; Advanced Writing; Advanced Reading; Critical Thinking and Study Skills

2003 – 2007: University of Nairobi

Undergraduate Courses: East African Poetry and Drama; East African Oral Literature and Prose

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' SUPERVISION

Completed PhD Supervision

1. **Marciana Were. Stellenbosch University.** Thesis title: "Negotiating Public and Private Identities in Autobiographies by African Women Politicians" (2017)
2. **Macharia Mwangi. University of Nairobi.** Thesis title: "Publishing Outposts on the Kenyan Literary Landscape: *Busara*, *Mutiiri* and *Kwani?*" (2015)
3. **Agnes Magu. University of Nairobi.** Thesis title: "The Development of the Female Self and National Identity in Women's Writings in Kenya." (2014)

Ongoing PhD Supervision

4. **Violet Nasambu Barasa. University of Nairobi.** Thesis title: "Imaging Social-Political Spaces in Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Theatre."
5. **Purity Wanja. University of Nairobi.** Thesis title: "Stasis, Movement, and Change in Meja Mwangi's Writings."

Completed MA Supervision

1. Joseph Linguya. "Form in Contemporary Youth Writing in Kenya." (2016)
2. Kevin Morwani. "The Construction of Female Agency in David Mulwa's Prose Fiction." (2016)
3. Samuel Wanjohi. "Narrating Transnational Violence and Crime in Mukoma wa Ngugi's Novels." (2015)
4. Joyce Kaigai. "Narrating Dystopia in Modern Kenya: Philo Ikonya's *Leading the Night* and Ngumi Kibera's *Beyond the Darkness*." (2014)
5. Maureen Amimo. "Literary Strategies in Tony Mochama's Prose." (2014)
6. Bernard Chweya. "Re-presentation of Memory in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Dreams in a Time of War* and Wole Soyinka's *Ake: the Years of Childhood*." (2014)
7. Anne Midanya. "The Narrative Voice in Abdulrazak Gurnah's *Desertion*." (2013)

8. Purity Wanja. "The Portrayal of Masculinities in Rebecca Njau's *The Sacred Seed* and Wambui Githiora's *Wanjiira*." (2013)
9. Wafula Yenjela. "A Teacher for all Time: A Biography of Mary Okello." (2013)
10. Mahat Isaac Hassan. "Literary Strategies in Barack Obama's *Dreams from My Father*." (2010)

Ongoing MA Supervision

11. Peter Odongo. "Narrating the Political Hero in Kenya: A Study of *The Flame of Freedom*." (2018)
12. Joseph Ilinga Katelo. "The Metaphor of Seasons in *Seasons of Hope: A Memoir of David Musila*." (2018)

PhD THESES EXAMINATION

2013: Larry Mutinda Ndivo's PhD Thesis titled "The Quest for Redemption in the Kenyan Criminal Autobiography." (2013)

2010: Masumi Hashimoto Odari's PhD Thesis titled "The Treatment of Social Injustices in Charles Dickens's Works." (2010)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

1. "Notions of Ellipsis in Yvonne Owuor's *Dust*." In *Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies* (forthcoming 2019).
2. "Ngũgĩ's Mbugua's *Different Colours* as an Allegory of the Kenyan Nation." In *Chemchemi – International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* (2016).
3. "Calling Wanjiku." In *Awaaz Voices*, Vol. 12 Issue 3, 2015.
4. "Narration of the Human Condition and Dystopia in Cho Se-Hui's *The Dwarf* and Meja Mwangi's *The Cockroach Dance*." In *The Nairobi Journal of Literature* Special Issue on "Glimpses into Korean Literature and Culture." Number 8, 2015.

5. (Co-authored with Peter Wasamba). "Reflections of Two African Researchers on Oral Testimony Fieldwork in South Korea" In *The Nairobi Journal of Literature* Special Issue on "Glimpses into Korean Literature and Culture." Number 8, 2015.
6. "Contesting Public Discourses on Sexuality in Kenya: a Reading of Kevin Mwachiro's *Invisible*." In *Agenda* 103/00.00, 2015, 1-6.
7. "The Intersection of the Self and History in Kenyan Autobiographies." In *Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 1&2, 2014, 83-93.
8. "Understanding Modern Korea through Oral Testimonies." In *HEKIMA Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences* Volume VI, Number 1, 2014, 66-85
9. "Defining the Self through Autobiography: A Study of Saga McOdongo's *Deadly Money Maker*." In *The Nairobi Journal of Literature* Number 7, 2013, 119 ó 131.
10. "Literature and Human Rights: the Case of Chimamanda Adichie's Fiction." In *Journal of Science Technology Education and Management (J-STEM)* Vol. 5, Nos. 1&2, 2012, 139-159.
11. "Capturing Socio-Cultural Diversity and Change through Oral Literature." In *The Global South, Vol. 5, No. 2*, Special Issue: Indigenous Knowledges and Intellectual Property Rights in the Age of Globalization (Fall 2012), 77-92.

Books

12. Wasamba, Peter and Jennifer Muchiri (eds.) *Kenya Meets Korea in Essays*. Nairobi: College of Humanities and Social Sciences, 2015.
13. Wasamba, Peter and Jennifer Muchiri. *Seoul Speaks: Narratives of Urbanization in Korea*. Nairobi: Kenya Oral Literature Association, 2013.
14. Wasamba, Peter, Jennifer Muchiri, and DH Muchugu Kiiru (eds.) *The Essay as a Handshake: Impressions on the Kenyan-Korean Interface*. Nairobi: Bridging the Divide: Networking African and Korean ResearchersøProject, 2012.
15. Muchiri, Jennifer. *Women's Autobiography: Voices from Independent Kenya*. Saarbrücken: VDM, 2010.
16. Muchiri, Jennifer. *The Child Narrator: George Lamming's In the Castle of My Skin*. Saarbrücken: VDM, 2010.

Book Chapters

17. "A Human Rights Reading of Meja Mwangi's *Going Down River Road*." In *Poverty and Human Rights: East African Perspectives*. Nairobi: Focus, 2017.
18. "The Art of Narrating Pain in Margaret Ogola's *Place of Destiny*." In *Readings on Margaret Ogola*. Nairobi: Contact Zones, (Forthcoming 2019).

Online Publications

19. "Reading and Understanding Poetry." 2010
<http://www.marimbapublications.co.ke/resource-center/literature>
20. "Reading and Understanding Prose." 2010
<http://www.marimbapublications.co.ke/resource-center/literature>

Bibliographic Entries

21. Entries on Barbara Kimenye, Charity Waciuma, and Rebeka Njau in *Dictionary of African Biography*. Eds. Henry Louis Gates and Emmanuel Akyeampong. New York: Oxford UP, 2011.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Co-researcher in "Voices from the Cities: A Comparative Study of Urbanisation in Kenya and Korea" sponsored by the Academy of Korean Studies through Kenya Oral Literature Association (2011 - 2013).

Outcome: Two journal articles, one of which has already been published in HEKIMA Journal (Vol. VI, No. 1, 2014) and one published in The Nairobi Journal of Literature Number 8, 2015, 16-33, and a book, *Seoul Speaks* (Nairobi: KOLA, 2013)

Researcher in "Kenyan Women in Public Spaces" project sponsored by the FORD Foundation through the University of Nairobi.

Outcome: A biography of a prominent Kenyan female academician is being compiled and will be published in 2019.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED AND PAPERS PRESENTED

June 2016: “Notions of Ellipsis in Yvonne Owuor’s *Dust*.” Paper presented at a conference themed “Perspectives on Yvonne Owuor,” African Leadership Centre, Nairobi.

August 2015: “Reflections on the Detective Novel as an Allegory of Contemporary Kenya.” Paper presented at The 2nd Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies Conference themed “Textualities of Space: Connections, Intricacies and Intimacies” Makerere University, Uganda.

December 2014: “The Human Condition and Dystopia in Cho Se-hui’s *The Dwarf* and Meja Mwangi’s *The Cockroach Dance*.” Paper presented at the conference “Korean Studies in Africa: Past, Present, and Future,” University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya.

September 2013: “The Intersection of the Self and History in Kenyan Autobiographies.” Paper presented at the conference “East Africa at 50: A Celebration of Histories and Futures,” University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya.

November 2012: “*Different Colours as an Allegory of Kenya Today*.” Paper presented at the conference “Borderless Communities: Shifting and Convergence of Cultures across Borders, Boundaries, and Spaces,” University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya.

September 2011: “Human Rights and Poverty through Literary Lenses: the Case of Meja Mwangi’s Fiction.” Paper presented at the University of Nairobi and Norwegian Centre for Human Rights conference, “Poverty as a Human Rights Violation,” Lake Naivasha Country Club, Naivasha, Kenya.

June 2011: “Literature and Human Rights: The Case of Chimamanda Adichie’s Fiction.” Paper presented at the conference “Multi- and Inter-Disciplinary Human Rights in Africa,” University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa.

April 2011: “The Female Protagonist in Chimamanda Adichie’s Fiction.” Seminar paper presented at the University of Nairobi, Department of Literature.

July 2010: “Capturing Socio-cultural Diversity and Change through Oral Literature.” Paper presented at the 8th International Society for the Oral Literatures of Africa (ISOLA) Conference in Diani, Kenya.

December 2009: “Defining the Self through Autobiography: A Study of Saga McOdongo’s *Deadly Money Maker*.” Seminar paper presented at the University of Nairobi, Department of Literature.

OTHER INTERESTS

Media: Book reviewer and writer on cultural issues for Literary Discourse pages in *The Standard on Saturday* and *The Standard on Sunday* (May 2013 -- 2017)

Human Rights:

I am interested in the field of Human Rights and I have been involved in the activities of the Centre for Human Rights and Peace in the University of Nairobi. I have written two articles based on the relationship between literature and human rights.

1-10 November 2011: Attended the 10TH All Africa Course on International Humanitarian Law at the University of Pretoria, Centre for Human Rights

August 2011 – Feb. 2012: Attended a course on Prevention of Crime and Violence organized by the Open Society Initiative for Eastern African at the Kenya School of Government

April 2011: Attended a workshop on “The Role of Academic Institutions in Promoting Regional Cooperation, Human Rights and Peace in Sub-Saharan Africa” at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI), University of Lund, Sweden.

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

2008 to date: Member, Kenya Oral Literature Association 2009 to 2013 (KOLA Treasurer from 2009 to 2013)

2010 to date: Member, International Society of the Oral Literatures of Africa (ISOLA)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2012 to date: Member, Board of Management, Kiru Boys High School

REFEREES

1. Dr. Masumi Odari

Chair, Department of Literature

University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197 Nairobi

Phone: +254 712 293 473

E-mail: modari@uonbi.ac.ke

2. Prof. Peter Wasamba

Department of Literature

University of Nairobi, P. O Box 30197 Nairobi

Phone: +254 722 734 121

E-mail: pwasamba@uonbi.ac.ke

3. Prof. D H Kiiru

Department of Literature

University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197 Nairobi

Tel: +254 722 562 361

E-mail: dhmkiiru@uonbi.ac.ke