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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

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

**1996 – 2000: University of Nairobi, Bachelor of Arts (BA – Literature Major) Second
Class Honours, Upper Division**

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

June 2020 to date University of Nairobi, Department of Literature

Position: **Chairperson**

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 – 2020); Timetabling Officer (2013-2016); Examinations officer (2009 – 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 – 2020).

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

UNIVERSITY LEVEL 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. **Violet Nasambu Barasa. University of Nairobi.** "Imaging Social-Political Spaces in Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Theatre." (2019)
2. **Macharia Mwangi. University of Nairobi.** "Publishing Outposts on the Kenyan Literary Landscape: *Busara, Mutiiri* and *Kwani?*" (2015)
3. **Agnes Magu. University of Nairobi.** "The Development of the Female Self and National Identity in Women's Writings in Kenya." (2014)

Ongoing PhD Supervision

4. **Mumia Osaaji. University of Nairobi.** "The Literariness of the Personal Essay in Anglophone Africa: A Study of Chinua Achebe and Ngugi wa Thiong'o." (submitted, awaiting examination)
5. **Purity Wanja. University of Nairobi.** Thesis title: "Stasis, Movement, and Change in Meja Mwangi's Writings."

Completed MA Supervision

1. Peter Athanas Mutisya. "Narrating Publicness in Contemporary Kenyan Women's Autobiography." (2020)
2. Joseph Ilinga Katelo. "The Metaphor of Seasons in *Seasons of Hope: A Memoir of David Musila*." (2020)
3. June Chelule Chebet. "The Convergence of Self and History in Ellen Sirleaf Johnson's *This Child Will Be Great* and Joe Khamisi's *Dash Before Dusk: A Slave Descendant's Journey in Freedom*." (2019)
4. Joseph Linguya. "Form in Contemporary Youth Writing in Kenya." (2016)
5. Kevin Morwani. "The Construction of Female Agency in David Mulwa's Prose Fiction." (2016)
6. Samuel Wanjohi. "Narrating Transnational Violence and Crime in Mukoma wa Ngugi's Novels." (2015)

7. Joyce Kaigai. "Narrating Dystopia in Modern Kenya: Philo Ikonya's *Leading the Night* and Ngumi Kibera's *Beyond the Darkness*." (2014)
8. Maureen Amimo. "Literary Strategies in Tony Mochama's Prose." (2014)
9. 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)
10. Anne Midanya. "The Narrative Voice in Abdulrazak Gurnah's *Desertion*." (2013)
11. Purity Wanja. "The Portrayal of Masculinities in Rebecca Njau's *The Sacred Seed* and Wambui Githiora's *Wanjiira*." (2013)
12. Wafula Yenjela. "A Teacher for all Time: A Biography of Mary Okello." (2013)
13. Mahat Isaac Hassan. "Literary Strategies in Barack Obama's *Dreams from My Father*." (2010)

Ongoing MA Supervision

14. Peter Odongo. "Narrating the Political Hero in Kenya: A Study of *The Flame of Freedom*."
15. Spourtinah Nyamweya. "The Language of Narrating (In)visibility in Thomas Letangule's *Trailblazer*."

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

1. "Notions of Ellipsis in Yvonne Owuor's *Dust*." In *Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies*. No. 6 Vol. 3, 2021.
2. (Co-authored with Tom Odhiambo). "Reflections on the Detective Novel as an Allegory of Contemporary Kenya." *The Journal of Language, Technology & Entrepreneurship in Africa*. Vol. 11, No. 2, 2021.
3. (Co-authored with Masumi Odari and Mumia Osaaji). "The Agile Thinking and Subversion in Chinua Achebe's *The Education of a British-Protected Child*." In *Nairobi Journal of Literature*, Number 9, 2020.

4. (Co-authored with Violet Barasa and Miriam Musonye) “Television Theatre as an Alternative Peace and Conflict Intervention Tool in contemporary Kenya: An Analysis of *Vioja Mahakamani*.” In *International Journal of Research and Scholarly Communication (IJORAS)* Vol. 1, Issue 3, 2018.
5. (Co-authored with Violet Barasa and Miriam Musonye) Vitimbi as a Commentary of Kenya’s Socio-Political Experiences. In *Nairobi Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, Vol.2*, Issue 3, 2018.
6. “Ng’ang’a Mbugua’s *Different Colours* as an Allegory of the Kenyan Nation.” In *Chemchemi – International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* Vol. 10 Number 1, 2015.
7. “Calling Wanjiku.” In *Awaaz Voices*, Vol. 12 Issue 3, 2015.
8. “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.
9. (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.
10. “Contesting Public Discourses on Sexuality in Kenya: a Reading of Kevin Mwachiro’s *Invisible*.” In *Agenda* 103/00.00, 2015, 1-6.
11. “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.
12. “Understanding Modern Korea through Oral Testimonies.” In *HEKIMA Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences* Volume VI, Number 1, 2014, 66-85
13. “Defining the Self through Autobiography: A Study of Saga McOdongo’s *Deadly Money Maker*.” In *The Nairobi Journal of Literature* Number 7, 2013, 119 – 131.
14. “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.
15. “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

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

Book Chapters

21. "A Human Rights Reading of Meja Mwangi's *Going Down River Road*." In *Poverty and Human Rights: East African Perspectives*. Nairobi: Focus, 2017.
22. "The Art of Narrating Pain in Margaret Ogola's *Place of Destiny*." In *Readings on Margaret Ogola*. Nairobi: Contact Zones, (Forthcoming 2021).

Online Publications

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

Bibliographic Entries

25. 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 2021.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED AND PAPERS PRESENTED

February 2021: “African Women’s Lives Matter: Poetry as a Tool of Resistance against State Oppression.” Paper presented at the 11th annual African, African American & Diaspora Studies (AAAD) conference themed “Movement(s), Collectives, and Collectivity” hosted by James Madison University, USA.

October 2020: “Re-imagining and Re-staging Cultural Identity in Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s *Kenda Muiyuru*.” Paper presented at the third annual conference on the role of literature in a global world themed “Eastern African Literatures in the 21st Century,” University of Nairobi, Kenya.

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. Prof. Ephraim Wahome

Dean, Faculty of Arts

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2. Prof. Peter Wasamba

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3. Prof. D H Kiiru

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