

CURRICULUM VITAE

Contact Information

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Personal Statement

I had my university education from 3 continents – Africa, Asia and Europe. I hold a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in History & Government and Master of Arts (MA) in History from the University of Nairobi, Kenya; a Master of Philosophy (MPHIL) in Intellectual History from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in History from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.

I have over 20 years of working experience spread across consultancy, lecturing, management, research and volunteer work. I have done consultancy on governance, civic education, electoral politics, and community engagement in biomedical interventions, policy planning and implementation.

Over the years, my research interests have revolved around the power dynamics of Kenyan politics; change and continuity in colonial and post-colonial settings; the instrumentality of the state in social change; biomedicine and its historically inherent role as a 'tool' of control and domination.

In teaching, I cover thematic areas of political ideas, social history of medicine, dynamics of conflicts and conflict resolution in contemporary history. In geographic terms, I teach courses on Africa, Kenya and Asia (South Asia).

For the last 6 years and 9 months, between May 11th, 2009 and January 20th, 2016, I was the Chief Executive Officer of a state corporation, Kenya Utalii College, with an annual fiscal budget of over \$16 million, managing 700 workers and 2000 students spread in 4 campuses: 2 in Nairobi, 1 each in both Kisumu and Mombasa.

Equally, I have done community service and volunteer work. Internationally, I was the African Regional Vice President of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Affiliate Members Board in the period September 2013 to September 2015.

From 2013 to 2016 I sat in the governing board of the International Organization of Hotel Schools (EUHOFA) as the representative of the African continent. Also, I served as the Secretary of the Association of Hospitality and Tourism Schools in Africa (AHTSA) for over 6 years. I sat in the boards of 2 schools locally and I sat in the Board of Governors of the Catering and Tourism Development Levy Trustee (now Tourism Fund) for 4 years.

I am the current Chairman of the Kenya-India Friendship Association (KIFA), a non-profit organization which seeks to enhance historical and cultural bonds of friendship between India and Kenya. Not only that, I was the Patron of the Hospitality and Tourism Sports Organization (HOTOSO), which coordinates sporting activities among tourism and hospitality establishments in the country, for over 6 years.

One of the duties, I have undertaken, in service to my country, was working with the National Accord Implementation Committee (NAIC) following the signing of the National Reconciliation Accord in February 28th, 2008. I was in the team which compiled the "Report of the National Accord Implementation Committee on National Reconciliation and Emergency Social and Economic Recovery Strategy,"

March, 2008. This was the report which informed Government efforts in resettling internally displaced people, returning the country to normalcy and stopping violence.

Education

- **2000: PhD** in Social History of Modern Medicine in Africa, University of Cambridge, UK. Dissertation: "History of Malaria Control Policy in Kenya, 1897 -1963" supervised by Prof. John Iliffe, St. Johns College, University of Cambridge. Prof. John Lonsdale was my Internal Examiner.
- **1996: MPhil** in Intellectual History of Modern India, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Dissertation: "Eclecticism and Expediency: Evolution of Dayanand Anglo-Vedic Society Education Movement in Colonial North India" Supervised by Prof. K.N. Pannikar.
- **1994: MA** in History, University of Nairobi, Kenya. Dissertation: "Hindu Socio-religious organizations in Kenya: The case of Arya Samaj, 1903 - 1978" Supervised by Dr. Prem Narain and Dr. Devendra Mohan Misra. Dr. David Sperling was my Internal Examiner.
- **1992: BA** Honors in History & Government, University of Nairobi, Kenya.

Skills Enhancement Training

- **2012:-**
 - Executive Team Leaders' Training on Balanced Score Card as a tool of management.

- Completed High-level Seminar on Tourism Management for Developing Countries, Qiongzhou University, Sanya, Hainan Province, China.
- **2011:-**
 - Five-Day Training Course for Directors/Chief Executive Officers on Corporate Governance.
 - Trained on Strategic Leadership and Change Management Workshop for Directors of State Corporations, Kenya Institute of Administration.
- **2010:-**
 - Trained on Legal Audits, Compliance and Oversight of State Corporations by the Council of Legal Education, Kenya School of Law.
 - Fire Awareness Training by G4S Fire Service.

Skills

- **Computer Skills:-**
 - I use various computer packages more so Microsoft word which is most suited with the work I do every day.
- **Qualitative Research skills:-**
 - I'm very well versed with the qualitative and social science research methodology.
- **Language skills:-**

- I speak and write in English and Swahili fluently. Among the indigenous languages, I speak and write Ekegusii fluently.

Excellence Award & Honors

- **2013:** Order of the Grand Warrior of Kenya (OGW): An award conferred on me by HE President Uhuru Kenyatta for my contribution in the promotion of hospitality and tourism education in Kenya during my current tenure at the Kenya Utalii College.
- **1997:** Malaysian Commonwealth Cambridge Scholar Award: This is a merit award given to outstanding scholars going to the University of Cambridge. It is awarded by the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust in collaboration with the Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre, University of Cambridge.

Experience

- **January 20th, 2016 to Present: Senior Lecturer,** Department of History and Archaeology, University of Nairobi
- **May 2009 – January 2016: Principal/Chief Executive Officer** of Kenya Utalii College: Managing, as an accounting officer, the first Hospitality School in Africa overseeing over 700 members of staff, 2000 students and an annual fiscal budget of over US dollars 16 million.
- **August 2001 – May 2009: Lecturer,** Department of History, University of Nairobi, Kenya: Lecturing and supervising students besides undertaking administrative duties.

- **October 2003 – April 2004: A visiting fellow** Wolfson College/African Studies Centre, University of Cambridge, UK.
- **January – August 2001: Lecturer**, Department of History, Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Nairobi.
- **July 2000:** Conference Assistant, African Studies Association of UK (ASAUK) Biennial Conference, Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK.
- **April – October 1997: Research Assistant** in a project on the history & epidemiology of malaria in East Africa, a collaborative project between the Wellcome Trust/Kenya Medical Research Institute & Wellcome Unit of the History of Medicine, University of Oxford, UK.
- **1994 - 1995: Administrator & Research Officer**, Eastern Action Club for Africa (EACA). EACA was a minority lobby group constituted mainly by Indians in Kenya.
- **1993 - 1994: Executive Officer II** serving as a Deputy Transport Officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development & Marketing, Government of Kenya.

Other Positions Held

- **2013- 2016:-**
 - Vice President-African Region, Board of Affiliate Members of the United Nation World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).
- **2013- 2016:-**

- Member of the International Association of Hotel Schools (EUHOFA) Board.
- **2011:-**
 - Chairman, Kenya India-Friendship Association (KIFA).
- **May 2009 – April 2012:-**
 - Board Member of Catering and Tourism Development Levy Trust (now Tourism Fund).
- **May 2009 – 2016:-**
 - Secretary of the Association of Hospitality and Tourism Schools in Africa (AHTSA).
- **2009- 2016:-**
 - Patron of the Hospitality and Tourism Sports Organization (HOTOSO).
 - Secretary of the Kenya Utalii-Tourism Industry Liaison Committee.
- **2005:-**
 - Member of the Faculty of Arts Board Sub-committee on Awards at the Faculty of Arts, University of Nairobi. The sub-committee was appointed by the Faculty Board to design criteria for the Faculty for rewarding outstanding performance.
- **2004 – May 2009:-**

- In-charge of book orders, Department of History, University of Nairobi.
- **2004 – Present:-**
 - Member of the *Hekima* Editorial Committee. *Hekima* is the Faculty of Arts multi-disciplinary journal.
- **2003 -2005:-**
 - Secretary, Mvita Constituency Development Fund (CDF).
- **2001 - 2003:-**
 - Examination Officer, Department of History, University of Nairobi.

Professional Associations and other Organizations

- **2006 – Present:-**
 - Member Kenya-India Friendship Association (KIFA).
- **2004 onwards:-**
 - Member of the British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA).
- **October 2003 – April 2004:-**
 - Fellow Wolfson College & African Studies Centre, University of Cambridge.
- **1998 - Present:-**
 - Fellow of the Cambridge Commonwealth Society.

- **2004 – Present:-**

- Member Oxford and Cambridge Society of Kenya.

Seminars Attended & Papers Presented

- **September 24th, 2008:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, "Renting mobs: Militia and 'armed forces' in Kenya", a paper presented at the seminar on '(Re)membering Kenya: Identities, cultures and freedom at the Goethe Institute (German Cultural Centre), Nairobi.
- **August 20th -21st, 2008:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, "Paradoxes of public accountability and governance efforts in Kenya", a discussion of a paper on "Achievements, best practices and lessons learned, challenges faced and recommendations for the strengthening of anti-corruption campaign: The case of Kenya", presented during the Regional Forum on Strengthening Accountability and Governance in East Africa held in Arusha, Tanzania.

The paper was presented by Micah N. Nguli, Programme Officer, Research and Advocacy, National Anti-Corruption Campaign Steering Committee, Kenya. The forum was organized by Kituo cha Katiba, Kampala, Uganda.

- **June 25th -28th, 2008:** Kenneth Ombongi and Marcel Rutten, "Looking For the Tide that Lifts All Boats - Tracking Development in Kenya and Malaysia". A paper presented at the first plenary meeting of the Tracking Development Project, Leiden, Netherlands. Tracking Development is a project funded by the Dutch Government Ministry of Foreign Affairs to compare development in south-east Asia and Africa in the last quarter century. In the project Kenya is compared with

Malaysia. Dr. Adams Oloo, Department of Political Science, University of Nairobi, and I are the Kenya In-country Co-ordinators of the project.

- **May 19th, 2008:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, "Causes of Conflict with the focus on political factors", a paper presented at a seminar On "Interfaith Dialogue: Towards a Culture of Working Together", Organized by the Department of Religious, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Karen, Nairobi.
- **November 17th, 2006:** Kenneth Ombongi & George Gona, "Tales from Nairobi's Eastends: The histories of Mathare Valley, Nairobi, Kenya", a paper presented at the collaborative seminar programme organized by the Department of History, University of Nairobi, British Institute in Eastern Africa, French Institute for Study in Africa (IFRA) and the National Museums of Kenya.
- **November 2nd – 3rd, 2006:** Kenneth Ombongi, "Reforms without Change: Paradoxes of state medicine in post-colonial Kenya", a paper presented at a workshop on the "Changing states of science: Ethnographic and historical perspectives on medical research in contemporary Africa", University of Copenhagen, Demark.
- **June 12th, 2005:** Kenneth Ombongi, "If 'unprotected' land in Kenya is conflict prone, can 'protected' land be conflict proof?", a paper presented at the seminar on "Environmental research workshop: Resource management in protected areas and its impact on human development" at the Hemmingway's Conference Room, the New Stanley Hotel, Nairobi. The Seminar was jointly organized by Prof. Joao Luis Fernandes, University of Coimbra, Portugal, and Mr. Nicholas Githuku, University of Nairobi.

- **November 4th - 9th, 2005:** Kenneth Ombongi, "A mixed bag: Post-coloniality and medical policy in Kenya", a paper presented at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine conference on 'Locating the field: Ethnography of medical research in Africa, Kilifi, Kenya'.
- **November 15th, 2004:** Kenneth Ombongi, "The kaleidoscopic duality: Nehru's enduring legacy in the 21st century", a paper presented at the symposium organized by the High Commission of India at the UNEP Headquarters, Gigiri, Nairobi. I was asked by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi through Prof. Kenneth Mavuti, Director of International Linkages, to represent the University in this meeting.
- **March 13th, 2004:** Kenneth Ombongi, "Urban malaria control in colonial Kenya, 1896-1926", a paper presented at the African Studies Centre, University of Cambridge, in a Conference on African Urban Histories.
- **October 2003:** Kenneth Ombongi, "The rage for sanitary improvement: Malaria control in early urban Kenya", a paper presented at the Five Colleges Conference in Northampton, USA, and thereafter in the African Studies Association Conference, Boston.
- **17th, April 2001:** Kenneth Ombongi & Karuti Karinga, 'Steaming cups: The coffee sector today: The case of Nyeri and Meru', a paper presented at the workshop on Business Systems in Africa, organized by the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, and Centre for Development Research, Copenhagen.
- **July 24th, 2001:** "Poverty and oriental religions: The case of Hinduism", a paper presented in a seminar on Religion and Poverty at the Loreto Mary Ward Centre, Langata, organized by the All African Conference of Churches.

- **December 2001:** “Colonial Kisumu: A kaleidoscope of contending hegemonies”, a paper presented during the Kisumu centenary celebrations, Tom Mboya, Labour, College, Kisumu.

Academic & other projects done

- **2008 -2012:** I was a partner in a World Health Organization (WHO) project on “Best-practice guidance for deployment of genetic control methods against mosquito vectors in disease endemic countries” – MOSQGUIDE. This is a \$600,000 (Ksh. 42m) three year World Health Organization collaborative project. More than \$80,450 (Ksh.6m) of the total budget amount was remitted to the University of Nairobi as a grant for my use. Partners in this project are in the UK, Mexico, Panama, Brazil, Thailand and India. The Principal researcher in the project was Prof. John Mumford, Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College, London.

- **2008 - 2010:** I was a member of the Ethical, Social and Cultural (ESC) Working Group on Vectors in a program run by the Grand Challenges in Global Health (GCGH) Initiative. The goal of the ESC is to identify key roadblocks and commission research to facilitate the successful and appropriate adoption of technologies resulting from the GCGH projects that are focused on vectors. The GCGH Initiative was created by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). It aims to identify and resolve bottlenecks in science and technology that will address the most critical health problems of the developing world. The GCGH Initiative involves 44 projects totaling over US\$450 million in funding and involving scientists from 33 countries.

- **February 7th – May 15th, 2007:** Research Assistant in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) project coordinated by the African Centre for Economic Growth (ACEG) on “Measuring and monitoring progress towards good governance in Kenya: Second African growth report. Prof. Wafula Masai and Prof. Octavian Gakuru were the principal researchers in the project.
- **February – March, 2007:** Kenneth Ombongi, “Kiambiu Needs Assessment Report” done for Healthcare Alliance International, private health service provider in Kenya and Partners for Care, a United States of America charity.
- **November 2006 to present:** Kenneth Ombongi & George Gona, “Tales from Nairobi’s Eastends: The histories of Mathare Valley, Nairobi, Kenya”, a project on the history of Mathare Valley partially funded by the British Institute in Eastern Africa.
- **May 13th, 2006:** Kenneth Ombongi, “Malaria and the configuration of ethnic identity in colonial Kenya”, a paper presented at “Honour and Poverty in Africa history: A symposium in honour of Prof. John Iliffe, at the Winstanley lecture Theatre, Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK.
- **March 2006 – April 2007:** I was contracted, along with Prof. Godfrey Muriuki, Prof. Milcah Achola and Dr. Kakai, by the European Union National Museums of Kenya support Programme to prepare material to be used at the History of Kenya Exhibition Galley to be used in the newly renovated Kenya National Museum in Nairobi. Later the Kenya National Museums asked Prof. Muriuki and I to prepare an epitaph for the Dedan Kimathi statue on Kimathi Avenue, Nairobi.

- **January 17th – March 16th, 2006:** I participated in “A project formulation study on governance in Kenya” done for Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- **2003:** I undertook a research for the Nairobi Gymkhana Sports Club on its history and wrote a brochure for the club’s 75th anniversary.
- **2003:** Compiled a report of the 2002 General Elections in Kenya for the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) and Institute for Education in Democracy (IED).
- **2003:** I Undertook an evaluation and wrote a report on the project on ‘Registration of Voters in 2002: An audit’ - sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Embassy and UK’s Department for International Development, Eastern Africa for the Institute for Education in Democracy (IED).
- **2002:** I undertook an impact assessment and evaluation of the Ford Foundation sponsored two-year civic education for constitution review project on People’s participation in constitution making: Initiating dialogue through community based hearings for Consultancy for the Institute for Education in Democracy (IED).
- **2002:** I did an impact assessment and evaluation of the IED/CORAID project on ‘Civic education for marginalized groups in Kenya’.

Publications

- **2013:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, “The politics of Urban Malaria Control in Kenya, 1896 – 1926” in Mwanzia D. Kyule & George M. Gona, *Mizizi: A collection of Essays on Kenya’s History* (Nairobi: University of Nairobi Press, 2013).

- **2011:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, "The historical interface between the state and medical science in Africa: Kenya's case" in P. Wenzel Geissler and Catherine Molyneux eds. Evidence, Ethos and Experiment (New York/Oxford: Berghan, 2011).
- **2010:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, "Dashed hopes and missed opportunities: Malaria: Malaria control policies in Kenya, 1896 – 2009" in Marleen Dekker and Rijk Van Dijk eds. Markets of well-being: Navigating health and healing in Africa, 2010.
- **2007:** Ezekiel N. Nyanhage & Kenneth S. Ombongi, "History of water supply and sanitation in Kenya, 1895 – 2002", in Petri S. Juuti, Tapio S. Katko and Heikki S. Vuorinen eds. Environmental history of water (London: IWA publishing, 2007).
- **2006:** Paul Wenzel Geisler & Kenneth S. Ombongi, "Public perception of risk and risk control – anthropological perspectives from Africa", Foresight project in infectious disease: Preparing for the future. A study report presented to the office of Science and Innovation, UK Government. www.foresight.gov.uk.
- **2005:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, 'Radical change in Mvita' in M. Katumanga, W. Mitullah and H. Marvepeu (eds.), The Moi Transition (Nairobi: Transafrica Press, 2005).
- **2005:** Kenneth Ombongi & Marcel Rutten, 'Kenya: Nineteenth Century: Pre-colonial' in Kevin Shillington (ed), Encyclopedia of African History Volume 2 (New York: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2005).
- **2001:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, "The Gusii Electoral Politics: An analysis of 1997 Elections", in M. Rutton, A. Mazrui and F. Grignon, Out for the count: Democracy in Kenya, 2001.

- **1998:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, Maureen Malowany, Mary J. Dobson and Robert W. Snow, "The East African Medical Journal: Its history and contribution to malaria research during the last 75 years", *The East African Medical Journal*, Vol. 75 no.6, 1998, pp.s10 - s19.
- **1998:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, Maureen Malowany, Mary J. Dobson and Robert W. Snow, "The Voice of East Africa: The East African Medical Journal at its 75th Anniversary", *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, vol.92, 1998, pp.685 - 686.
- Marcel Rutten & Kenneth S. Ombongi, "Harry Thuku" in *Encyclopaedia of African Thought*, (Abiola Irele & Biodun Jeyifo, editors), Oxford University Press.
- Kenneth S. Ombongi & Marcel Rutten, "Ali A. Mazrui" in *Encyclopaedia of African Thought*, (Abiola Irele & Biodun Jeyifo, editors), Oxford University Press.
- Kenneth S. Ombongi & Marcel Rutten, "Harry Leakey" in *Encyclopaedia of African Thought*, (Abiola Irele & Biodun Jeyifo, editors), Oxford University Press.

Unpublished Works

- **2000:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, "A history of malaria control policy in colonial Kenya, 1897-1963", unpublished PhD dissertation, University of Cambridge, UK.
- **September 2000:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, "Dashed hopes and missed opportunities: Drug, insecticide and biological anti-malaria schemes in Kenya, 1950 - 63", unpublished paper presented to the Kirk-Greene Junior Fellowship Selection Committee, University of Oxford.

- **1996:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, 'Eclecticism and Expediency: Evolution of Dayanand Anglo-Vedic Society Education Movement in colonial north India, 1886 - 1936', an unpublished MPhil dissertation, JawarharLal Nehru University, 1996.
- **1993:** Kenneth S. Ombongi, 'Hindu Socio-religious Organizations in Kenya: A case of Arya Samaj, 1903 - 1978', an unpublished dissertation, University of Nairobi, 1993.