

# Jennifer Nyambura Muchiri, PhD

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**Nationality:** Kenyan

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## ACADEMIC RECORD

**2006 – 2008: University of Nairobi,** Doctor of Philosophy in Literature

**2001 – 2003: University of Nairobi,** Master of Arts in Literature

**1996 – 2000: University of Nairobi,** Bachelor of Arts (Literature Major)

**1991 – 1994: Alliance Girls' High School,** Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education

**1983 – 1990: Kiru Primary School,** Kenya Certificate of Primary Education

## EMPLOYMENT RECORD

**January 2024 to date: University of Nairobi, Department of Literature**

**Position:** Associate Professor

**Responsibilities:** Teaching; examination; supervision; research; mentorship;  
community service

**August 2022 to date: University of Nairobi**

**Position:** Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

**Responsibilities:** Curriculum; Teaching and learning; students' affairs; policy implementation and liaison; faculty collaborations; planning, monitoring and evaluation

**June 2020 to August 2022: University of Nairobi, Department of Literature**

**Position:** Chairperson

**Responsibilities:** Academic and administrative head

**March 2015 to Jan. 2024: University of Nairobi, Department of Literature**

**Position:** Senior Lecturer

**Responsibilities:** Teaching and examining undergraduate and postgraduate courses; Research; Supervision of MA and PhD candidates; Postgraduate studies coordinator (2016 – 2020); Timetabling and Examinations Officer (2014-2016); Member, Departmental curriculum committee (2014-2022); Representative to the Faculty Postgraduate Studies Committee (2016 – 2020).

**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; Timetabling Officer (2013-2016); Examinations officer (2009-2012; 2014-2016); Coordinator of Departmental common units (2009-2014); Representative to the Faculty Research and Publications Committee (2011-2013).

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

**Position:** Lecturer

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

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

Position:                    **Part-time Lecturer** Teaching and examining undergraduate courses

**2004 – 2007**              **University of Nairobi**, Department of Educational Studies

Position:                    **Part-time lecturer** -- Teaching and examining undergraduate courses in Literature

## **UNIVERSITY LEVEL COURSES TAUGHT**

**2009 to date: University of Nairobi**

**Graduate Courses:** The African Biography and Autobiography; Women's Writing in Africa; English Literature; Comparative Study of African Literature; Caribbean Literature; African-American Literature; North-American Literature; Popular Literature.

**Undergraduate Courses:** Nature and Functions of Literature; Introduction to Prose; Language Use in Literature; Introduction to Drama; Modern African Poetry; Kenyan Prose; African Prose; Kenyan Oral Literature; African American Literature; Introduction to Literature; Literature of Eastern Africa; Major Author; Modern Korean Literature; Popular Literature; Dissertation.

**2007 – 2009: Kenyatta University --** Introduction to Literary Genres; East African Prose Fiction; East African Oral Literature; Critical Reading and Response; Survey of African Literature

**2007: Daystar University --** Appreciation of Literature; Advanced Writing; Advanced Reading; Critical Thinking and Study Skills

**2003 – 2007: University of Nairobi --** East African Poetry and Drama; East African Oral Literature and Prose.

## **POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' SUPERVISION**

### **Completed PhD Supervision**

1. **Mumia Osaaji. University of Nairobi.** “The Literariness of the Personal Essay in Anglophone Africa: A Study of Chinua Achebe and Ngugi wa Thiong’o.” (2022)
2. **Violet Nasambu Barasa. University of Nairobi.** “Imaging Social-Political Spaces in Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Theatre.” (2019)
3. **Macharia Mwangi. University of Nairobi.** “Publishing Outposts on the Kenyan Literary Landscape: *Busara*, *Mutiiri* and *Kwani*?” (2015)
4. **Agnes Magu. University of Nairobi.** “The Development of the Female Self and National Identity in Women’s Writings in Kenya.” (2014)

### **Ongoing PhD Supervision**

5. **Purity Wanja. University of Nairobi.** Thesis title: “Stasis, Movement, and Change in Meja Mwangi’s Writings.” (research and writing stage)

### **Completed MA Supervision**

1. Maxwell Chuma. “The Art of (Re)membering the Self in Alain Mabanckou’s *The Lights of Pointe-Noire*.” (2023)

2. Mark Obure. "The Representation of Dis-Ease in Contemporary East African Poetry." (2022)
3. Spourtinah Nyamweya. "Narrating (In)visibility in Thomas Letangule's *Trailblazer*." (2021)
4. Peter Athanas Mutisya. "Narrating Publicness in Contemporary Kenyan Women's Autobiography." (2020)
5. Joseph Ilinga Katelo. "The Metaphor of Seasons in *Seasons of Hope: A Memoir of David Musila*." (2020)
6. 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)
7. Joseph Linguya. "Form in Contemporary Youth Writing in Kenya." (2016)
8. Kevin Morwani. "The Construction of Female Agency in David Mulwa's Prose Fiction." (2016)
9. Samuel Wanjohi. "Narrating Transnational Violence and Crime in Mukoma wa Ngugi's Novels." (2015)
10. Joyce Kaigai. "Narrating Dystopia in Modern Kenya: Philo Ikonya's *Leading the Night* and Ngumi Kibera's *Beyond the Darkness*." (2014)
11. Maureen Amimo. "Literary Strategies in Tony Mochama's Prose." (2014)
12. 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)
13. Anne Midanya. "The Narrative Voice in Abdulrazak Gurnah's *Desertion*." (2013)
14. Purity Wanja. "The Portrayal of Masculinities in Rebecca Njau's *The Sacred Seed* and Wambui Githiora's *Wanjiira*." (2013)
15. Wafula Yenjela. "A Teacher for all Time: A Biography of Mary Okello." (2013)
16. Mahat Isaac Hassan. "Literary Strategies in Barack Obama's *Dreams from My Father*." (2010)

### **Ongoing MA Supervision**

17. Kimotho, Frederick. "Re-Imagining the Nation through Contemporary Kenyan Resistance Poetry"

## **POSTGRADUATE EXTERNAL/INTERNAL EXAMINATION**

### **PhD THESES EXAMINATION**

2023: Alfred Ong'ang'a. "The Autobiography as a Political and Ideological Rhetoric: An Evaluation of Ngugi wa Thiong'o's Memoirs." (**University of Nairobi**)

2022: R J Lim. "Precarious Unmoorings: Women's Voices in the Anglo- and Lusophone Literature of Adichie, Chiziane and Mohamed." (**Stellenbosch University**)

2013: Larry Mutinda Ndivo. "The Quest for Redemption in the Kenyan Criminal Autobiography." (**University of Nairobi**)

2010: Masumi Hashimoto Odari. "The Treatment of Social Injustices in Charles Dickens' Works." (**University of Nairobi**)

### **MA THESES EXTERNAL EXAMINATION**

2024: Gladys Mbithe John. "Art and Politics in Kenya: Interrogating the Nature and Function of Artivism in the Kenyan Society through the XYZ Show." (**Machakos University**)

2023: Mulei Helen Nduku. "Of Children's Literature and Literacy." (**Machakos University**)

2021: Teresiah Kaberia. "Intersections of Knowledge, Power, and Resistance in the Poetry of Maya Angelou." (**Machakos University**)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Journal Articles**

1. **Muchiri, Jennifer.** "The Art of Narrating Pain in Margaret Ogola's *Place of Destiny*." In *Readings on Margaret Ogola*. The Journal of Language, Technology & Entrepreneurship in Africa. The Journal of Language, Technology &

- Entrepreneurship in Africa. Vol. 13, No. 1, **2022**, pp. 221-250.  
<https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jolte/issue/view/20757>
2. **Muchiri, Jennifer**. “Ellipsis as a Narrative Technique in Yvonne Owuor’s *Dust*.” In *Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies*. Vol. 8: 1-2, **2022**, pp. 60-80.
  3. **Muchiri, Jennifer** and Tom Odhiambo. “Reflections on the Detective Novel as an Allegory of Contemporary Kenya.” *The Journal of Language, Technology & Entrepreneurship in Africa*. Vol. 12, No. 1, **2021**, pp. 17-35.  
<https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jolte/issue/view/19490>
  4. Mumia Osaaji, Masumi Odari and **Jennifer Muchiri**. “From Alterity to Agency: Pathways of Subversion and Resistance in Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s Personal Essays.” *The Journal of Language, Technology & Entrepreneurship in Africa*. Vol. 12 No. 1, **2021**, pp. 1-16.
  5. Mumia Osaaji, Masumi Odari and **Jennifer Muchiri**. “The Agile Thinking and Subversion in Chinua Achebe’s *The Education of a British-Protected Child*.” In *Nairobi Journal of Literature*, Number 9, **2020**.
  6. Violet Barasa, Miriam Musonye and **Jennifer Muchiri**. “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**.
  7. Violet Barasa, Miriam Musonye and **Jennifer Muchiri**. “Vitimbi as a Commentary of Kenya’s Socio-Political Experiences.” In *Nairobi Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol.2, Issue 3, **2018**.
  8. **Muchiri, Jennifer**. “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**.
  9. **Muchiri, Jennifer**. “Calling Wanjiku.” In *Awaaz Voices*, Vol. 12 Issue 3, **2015**.

10. **Muchiri, Jennifer.** "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*. Number 8, **2015**.
11. Peter Wasamba and **Jennifer Muchiri.** "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**.
12. **Muchiri, Jennifer.** "Contesting Public Discourses on Sexuality in Kenya: a Reading of Kevin Mwachiro's *Invisible*." In *Agenda* 103/00.00, **2015**, 1-6.
13. **Muchiri, Jennifer.** "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.
14. **Muchiri, Jennifer.** "Understanding Modern Korea through Oral Testimonies." In *HEKIMA Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences* Volume VI, Number 1, 2014, 66-85
15. **Muchiri, Jennifer.** "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.
16. **Muchiri, Jennifer.** "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.
17. **Muchiri, Jennifer.** "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**

18. Wasamba, Peter and **Jennifer Muchiri** (eds.) *Kenya Meets Korea in Essays*. Nairobi: College of Humanities and Social Sciences, **2015**.
19. Wasamba, Peter and **Jennifer Muchiri.** *Seoul Speaks: Narratives of Urbanization in Korea*. Nairobi: Kenya Oral Literature Association, **2013**.



20. 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 Researchers' Project, **2012**.
21. **Muchiri, Jennifer**. *Women's Autobiography: Voices from Independent Kenya*. Saarbrücken: VDM, **2010**.
22. **Muchiri, Jennifer**. *The Child Narrator: George Lamming's In the Castle of My Skin*. Saarbrücken: VDM, **2010**.

### **Book Chapters**

23. **Muchiri, Jennifer**. "Re-imagining and Restaging Ageing and (Dis)ability in African Theatre: A Reading of Francis Imbuga's *The Return of Mgofu*." (**Submitted, Routledge, 2024**)
24. **Muchiri, Jennifer**. "A Human Rights Reading of Meja Mwangi's *Going Down River Road*." In *Poverty and Human Rights: East African Perspectives*. Nairobi: Focus, **2017**.

### **Online Publications**

25. **Muchiri, Jennifer**. "Reading and Understanding Poetry." 2010  
<http://www.marimbapublications.co.ke/resource-center/literature>
26. **Muchiri, Jennifer**. "Reading and Understanding Prose." 2010  
<http://www.marimbapublications.co.ke/resource-center/literature>

### **Bibliographic Entries**

27. **Muchiri, Jennifer**. 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.

## CONFERENCES AND SEMINAR PAPERS PRESENTED

**17<sup>th</sup> October 2024:** “The Mau Mau Struggle as a Personal Journey: A Reading of Joseph Muthee’s *Mau Mau Detainee* and Gitu wa Kahengeri’s *The Betrayal of the Mau Mau Freedom Fighters*.” Paper presented at the annual International Conference on the Mau Mau Movement, University of Nairobi.

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2023:** “Promoting Students’ Mentorship in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in the University of Nairobi.” Paper presented to a panel of the International Deans’ Course 2023/2024 (sponsored by the DAAD).

**17<sup>th</sup> February 2023:** “Of Shaken and D(r)ying Roots: Imbolo Mbue’s *How Beautiful we Were*.” Paper presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual African, African American & Diaspora Studies (AAAD) conference themed “Roots, Limbs, and Leaves” hosted by James Madison University, USA.

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2022:** “Contemporary Imaginaries on Family Life and Home in Selected Recent Kenyan Fiction.” Paper presented in a conference themed “Making a Home: Subjectivities and Housing in Times of Spatial Changes” hosted by University of Nairobi and Technical University of Berlin.

**7<sup>th</sup> September 2021:** “What is Love About? Contemporary Imaginations on Family Life in Selected Kenyan Fiction.” Paper presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies Conference themed “On Radical Joy” hosted by Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya.

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2021:** “Re-imagining and Restaging Ageing in African Theatre: A Reading of Francis Imbuga’s *The Return of Mgofu*.” Paper presented at the African Theatre Association (AfTA) annual conference 2021 themed “Ageing, Old Age and Disability in Africa and African Diaspora Performance” hosted by Humboldt University, Germany.

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

**12<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS**

2022 to date: **Board Member** -- Partnership for Africa’s Next Generation of Academics (PANGeA)

2022 to date: **External Examiner**, Stellenbosch University

2021 to date: **External examiner**, Machakos University

2020 to date: **Reviewer** for Tydskrif vir Letterkunde: A Journal for African literature

2016 to date: **Reviewer** for Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies

2016 to date: **Consultant** (English and Literature) Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development

2023: Panelist during the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award to Prof. Micere Mugo by the Defenders Coalition at the Kenya National Theatre

2023: Panelist during the launch of *Resilience: Stories in the Lives of Nairobi Women Hawkers* by AMKA at the Goethe Institute

2022: Panelist during the launch of the French translation of Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s *Dreams in a Time of War* at Alliance Francaise.

2021: Moderator during the launch of Mariam Mpaata’s *Boots Don’t Lie* at the Goethe Institute.

## **TRAININGS ATTENDED**

**2023/2024: DIES International Deans' Course Africa 2023/2024** Organised by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Osnabruck University, Germany

**December 2019:** Training on Pedagogy, Andragogy and Mentorship organised by University of Nairobi

**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.

**1-10 November 2011:** Attended the 10<sup>th</sup> All Africa Course on International Humanitarian Law at the University of Pretoria, Centre for Human Rights

**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.

## **OTHER INTERESTS**

**Film:** Part of the cast in the Netflix series “Mo-Faya.” (2023)

**Media:** Book reviewer and writer on cultural issues for Literary Discourse pages in *The Standard on Saturday* and *The Standard on Sunday* (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.

## **MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES**

- 2018 to date: Member, African Theatre Association (AfTA)
- 2010 to date: Member, International Society of the Oral Literatures of Africa (ISOLA)

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

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- 2007 to date: Member, Alliance Girls High School Alumni Association
- 2010 to date: Member, Kiru Primary School mentorship committee
- 2012 to 2019: Member, Board of Management, Kiru Boys High School

## REFEREES

1. Prof. Jack Odhiambo

Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197 Nairobi

Phone: +254 722 662 388      E-mail: [jaodhiambo@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:jaodhiambo@uonbi.ac.ke)

2. Dr. Miriam Musonye

Chair, Department of Literature

University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197 Nairobi

Tel: +254 722 379 603      E-mail: [musonye@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:musonye@uonbi.ac.ke)

3. Prof. Peter Wasamba

Professor of Literature

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