

CURRICULUM VITAE

PETER ANYANGA O WASAMBA

(B.A. Lit, MA. Lit. PhD LIT (Nairobi), LLB, LLM (Nairobi), Dip. Law (KSL)

Professor of Literature and Scholar of Law

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Peter Wasamba is a Professor of African Literature at the University of Nairobi. He is also a lecturer of Law and an advocate of the High Court of Kenya, trading under the name Anyanga Wasamba Advocates. He has over 22 years of teaching experience at the university. He is also an experienced university administrator with 11 years in management as the Chairman of the Department of Literature, Associate Dean, and Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Wasamba has a B.A., M.A., and PhD degree in literature. He also has a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and Master of Laws (LLM) degree from Nairobi. He is an international scholar with collaborators in Africa, Asia, Europe and America. Wasamba's specialization is Research in African Oral Literature and Human Rights Law.

Education Background

- a) Diploma in Law (Dip. Law) Kenya School of Law, 2022
- b) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Literature, University of Nairobi, 2002
- c) Master of Laws (LLM), University of Nairobi, 2018
- d) Master of Arts (MA) in Literature, University of Nairobi, 1998
- e) Bachelor of Laws (LLB), University of Nairobi, 2017
- f) Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Literature, University of Nairobi, 1994

Professional Growth:

- a) Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, from 2022
- b) Lecturer of Law, University of Nairobi, from 2018
- c) Professor of Literature, University of Nairobi, from 2016
- d) Associate Professor, University of Nairobi, 2010 - 2016
- e) Senior Lecturer, University of Nairobi, 2006 - 2010
- f) Lecturer, University of Nairobi, 2000 - 2006

Research Interests:

- a) African Literature
- b) Comparative Literature
- c) Postcolonial Studies
- d) Literary Theory and Criticism
- e) Legal Narratives and Literature
- f) Human rights law and literature
- g) Language, literature and Law

Relevant Publications:

1. Wasamba P, *Uyoma and Other Poems*, Nairobi: Contact Zone. 2024 (in print)
2. Wasamba, P, *Relentlessly Resilient*, Marimba Publications Ltd, 2022. ISBN 798-9966-794-50-6. pp. 224.
3. Wasamba, P, *Contemporary Oral Literature Fieldwork: A Researcher's Guide*. University of Nairobi Press, 2015. ISBN 978-9966-792-53-2. pp. 300.
4. Wasamba, P. "Kenyan Students Record Pandemic Oral Testimonies," *Oral History International Work*, Spring 2021. p. 18-19.
5. Wasamba P. "Fictions of Dignity: An Exploration of how Literature Mirrors Human Rights Consciousness in Society.". Forthcoming.
6. Wasamba P, Situma J. "[Problematics of Plato's Aesthetic Theory in Contemporary Society](#)." *The Nairobi Journal of Literature*. Forthcoming.
7. Wasamba, P. "Voicing Seoul Metropolis: The Other Side of Urbanization in Korea." *HEKIMA: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*. UoN. Vol. VI. No. 1, 2014, 119-134.
8. Wasamba,P and Jennifer Muchiri. "Overcoming Challenges in a Strange Research Locale: Reflections of Fieldwork Experiences in the Republic of Korea." *HEKIMA: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*. UoN. Vol. VI. No. 2, 2014
9. Wasamba, P., "Intertextuality in Joseph Conrad's *Under Western Eyes* and Ngugi wa Thiongo's *A Grain of Wheat*." *Journal of African Affairs*. HUFs. Vol. 34, August 2013, 95-126.
10. Wasamba, P. "Quest for Ethnic Tolerance in Kenya: *The Role of Oral History*". *Journal of African Affairs*.HUFs. Vol. 33. February 2013, 247-272.
11. Wasamba, P and Ben Sihanya. "What do they get for their Sweat: Rethinking Compensation for Artists in Poor Cash-based Economies." *Journal of African Cultures*. SOAS. Vol. 24, No. 2, December 2012, 171-183.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13696815.2012.732303>.

12. Wasamba, P. "Going beyond Data Collection in Ethnography: Options for Bridging the Gap between Researchers and Archivists." *Journal of African Renaissance Studies*. UNISA. Vol. 7. No. 2. April 2013, 4-17. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/18186874.2013.774695>.
13. Wasamba P. "Politics, Ethnicity and Ethics: The Dilemmas of a Fieldworker." *International Journal of African Renaissance Studies*. UNISA. Vol. 4 No. 2. November 2009, 193 – 204
14. Wasamba P. "The Concept of Heroism in Samburu Moran Ethos". *Journal of African Languages and Cultural Studies*. SOAS. Vol. 21, No. 2, December 2009, 145 – 158
15. Wasamba P. "Centring the De-Voiced: Rethinking Personhood in Oral Literature Field Research." *The Nairobi Journal of Literature*, UoN. No. 6 (2010).
16. Wasamba P. "Ethnicity and Chronic Poverty in Kenya: A Phenomenological Approach. *African Affairs Journal*, Hankuk University, (2009): pp 185 – 212.
17. Wasamba, P. "The Pedagogical Value of Children's Oral Literature in Kenya" *Nairobi: The Nairobi Journal of Literature*. No 4, 2007
18. Wasamba P. "Magic or Mirage: The Efficacy of Nvivo7 in Oral Literature Research". *African Affairs Journal*, Hankuk University, (2007): pp 141 – 182.
19. Wasamba P. *Marching Backwards into the Future: Oral Literature in the Cyberspace*, *Chemi Chemi Journal of Literature*, Kenyatta University, Nairobi (2007): pp 114-118.
20. Wasamba P. "Preservation of Oral Literature through Research." *The Nairobi Journal of Literature*, (2006): pp 1 – 6.
21. Wasamba P. "Oral Poetry in East Africa: Perspectives and Insights." *The Nairobi Journal of Literature* (2004), Nairobi. pp 1-9.
22. Wasamba, P and Jennifer Muchiri. *Seoul Speaks: Narratives of Urbanisation in Korea*. Nairobi, Kenya Oral Literature Association, 2013. ISBN: 978-9966-21-391-4
23. Wasamba P, J. Bwonya & H. Mugambi. Eds. *Tales from my Motherland*. Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, 2010. Pp. 163
24. Peter Wasamba et.al. Eds. *Our Narratives Our Landscapes: Relationship between Creativity and Environmental Conservation*. Nairobi: Kenya Oral Literature Association, 2006

Professional Memberships:

- a) Law Society of Kenya
- b) Kenya Association of Literature
- c) International Society for the Study of Oral Literature in Africa (ISOLA)
- d) African Literature Association (ALA)
- e) African Studies Platform Advisory Board, Ghent University
- f) Oral History Programme Advisory Board, University of Newcastle

Awards and Honors:

- a) Research Fellowship (Ghent University June – July 2024): awarded Global Minds project fellowship for a research stay at Ghent University.
- b) Research Fellowship (Ghent University, November - December 2021): Awarded a research fellowship for a research stay at the University of Ghent, Belgium, to develop grant proposals with my Ghent collaborator, Prof. Inge Brinkman.
- c) Visiting Professor (February – October 2019): Visiting Professor, Machakos University
- d) DAAD Senior Researchers Fellowship, 2019: awarded the fellowship for a research stay at the Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany (May – July 2019). The research products from the 2019 fellowship have been published under *Relentlessly Resilient* (2022).
- e) DAAD Senior Researchers Fellowship, 2012: awarded the fellowship for a research stay at Hamburg University, Germany (April-July 2012). The research products from the 2012 fellowship have been published in peer-reviewed journals and a university-level textbook.
- f) DAAD Junior Researchers' Fellowship, 2007: Awarded a junior research fellowship for visiting the University of Hamburg, Germany. The research culminated in my first high-impact journal paper, "The Concept of Heroism in Samburu Moran Ethos". *Journal of African Languages and Cultural Studies*. SOAS. Vol. 21, No. 2, December 2009, 145 – 158.
- g) Visiting Researcher to the Republic of Korea, 2012): awarded a research grant to conduct fieldwork in Seoul Metropolis, South Korea, with Hankuk University of Foreign Studies on Perceptions of Urbanisation among Koreans.
- h) A Visiting Researcher to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2009: Visited the Centre for the Study of the American South (CSAS) at the University of North Carolina (UNC), Chapel Hill, USA and was trained in digital humanities (3rd – 10th June 2009)

- i) Visiting Scholar to the USA, 2008: I gave lectures and seminar papers as a guest lecturer at the University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill, Messiah University College, and Wake Forest University.
- j) Visiting Researcher to the Republic of Korea, 2011): awarded a research grant to explore strategies for productive collaboration between Kenyan and Korean universities.
- k) Deans Committee Research Grant, 2006 – 2008: Funded by the University of Nairobi to research how digital technology can be applied in oral literature research.
- l) University of Nairobi Scholarship, 1995: Awarded the University of Nairobi scholarship of merit to pursue an M.A. in Literature.
- m) University of Nairobi Scholarship, 1999: Awarded the University of Nairobi scholarship to pursue PhD in Literature.

Funded Projects

I am a passionate fundraiser. The following are sampled funded projects:

- a) PANGeA Networking Project ((2024-2029): Won a grant from Gerda Henkel Stiftung (GHS), Germany, to support the Partnership for Africa's Next Generation of Academics secretariat activities based at the University of Nairobi.
- b) VLIR-UOS TEAM Project (2022 -2026): Together with my collaborators, Prof. Inge Brinkman (African Studies, UGent, Belgium) and Prof. Teshome Mossissa (Institute of Oromo Studies, Jimma University, Ethiopia), we won a five-year research project on "Storytelling and Young People Coping with Crisis: Oral Narratives and Crisis Management in Kenya and Ethiopia."
- c) International Summer School on Labor and Leisure (2018): Successfully raised funds from The Institute for *History and Future of Work-Berlin* (Re-Work) to host an International Summer School on Labor and Leisure at Leisure Lodge – Diani for two weeks. The summer school brought together 32 senior researchers and doctoral students researching labour and leisure worldwide.
- d) ERASMUS Plus project (**EAGERLearn**) 2016-2020: Successfully competed for the project in 2016 and was renewed in 2018. The collaborating universities are Humboldt University – Berlin, the University of Nairobi, Karatina University and the University of Dar es Salaam. The project has funded joint research and exchange of students and staff between Germany and Kenya.

- e) Korean Studies Networking Project(2010-2012): The Korean government awarded a grant to link Kenyan and Korean scholars in the humanities and social sciences.
- f) Korean Studies Comparative Research Project (2011-2014): awarded a three-year research grant by the Korean Government as the P.I. for a comparative study of urbanization experiences in Seoul and Nairobi.
- g) KOPINOR Grant 2011, awarded by Kopinor, a reprographic organization in Norway, to support hosting the International Society for the Study of Oral Literature in Africa (ISOLA) international conference in Mombasa, Kenya.
- h) Korean Studies Curriculum Project 2013 – 2015): P.I. in the project to develop a curriculum for the Korean Studies course at the University of Nairobi. The B.A. in Korean Studies is on offer at the University of Nairobi.
- i) Korean Professor at the UoN, 2023 – 2024, Got support from the Korea Foundation to sponsor a Korean Visiting Professor at the UoN.

Professional Service:

- a) Chairman of the University of Nairobi Professors' Association, a professional association of professors, emeritus, and retired professors at the University of Nairobi committed to academic excellence and integrity.
- b) Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Nairobi (2015- 2019)
- c) Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Nairobi, (2011-2015)
- d) Chairman, Department of Literature, University of Nairobi, (2008 – 2011)
- e) Head of Secretariat, Partnership for Africa's Next Generation of Academic (PANGeA), a network of eight premier African universities committed to producing high-quality doctoral graduates in the humanities and social sciences in Africa, by Africa and for the African higher education sector.
- f) Reviewer: *Journal of African Languages and Literature* (JALL) representing the East African region (University of Zimbabwe, Harare)
- g) Editor, *The Nairobi Journal of Literature*
- h) Reviewer, *Africa Focus*, *Journal of Ghent University*.
- i) KOPIKEN (2005 – 2010): As Chairman of the KOPIKEN Board of Directors, a reprographic rights organization in Kenya. The organization focused on protecting the copyright of authors from unauthorized use.
- j) Southern and Eastern African Copyright Network (SEACONET 2008 – 2010): Served as the Vice-Chairman of the regional copyright network based in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Skills:

- a) Literary Analysis
- b) Teaching and Curriculum Development
- c) Academic Leadership and Administration
- d) Civil litigation
- e) Legal Research and Writing
- f) Mediation

PhD Supervision

1. Mark Obure, 2024: "Eco-Orality in Digo Oral Narratives."
2. Philip Puyaka, 2023: "Textualizing Imagery in the Performance of Pokot Sapana Initiation Songs," ongoing.
3. Judith Jefwa. "Perceptions of Dying and Death in Selected Literary Works", Unpublished PhD Dissertation, UoN, 2016.
4. Kimingichi Wabende. "From the Fireside to the Stage: A Study of the Performance of Oral Narrative." Unpublished PhD Dissertation, UoN, 2014.
5. Felix Orina. "An Examination of Symbolism and Transience in the Oral Literature of the Abagusii." Unpublished PhD Dissertation, UoN, 2014.
6. Masibo Beatrice. "The Treatment of Women in the Novels of Ngugi wa Thiongo and Alice Walker." Unpublished PhD Dissertation, UoN, 2010.
7. Unpublished Master of Arts in Human Rights, UoN, 2019.
8. Maina Lucy M. "Myths in Modern African Literature: A Case Study of Rebeka Njau's Works". Unpublished PhD Dissertation, UoN, 2008.
9. Muleka Joseph."Bweya Nuptial Songs". Unpublished PhD Dissertation, UoN, 2007.

MA SUPERVISION

1. Beatrice Munala, "Spoken Word Poetry as a Postmodern Urban Genre: A Case Study of Poet Teardrops from Nairobi, Kenya, Unpublished Master of Arts in Literature, UoN, 2024.
2. Stanley Mutwiwa, "Shifting Narrative Voices as a Strategy for Environmental Consciousness in the Novel How Beautiful we Were by Imbolo Mbue," Unpublished Master of Arts in Literature, UoN, 2024.
3. Firthoza Ali Ahmed, "Country Dynamics on the Application of Responsibility to Protect (R2P): A Case of Syria between 2011 and 2019," Unpublished Master of Arts in Human Rights, UoN, 2019.
4. Alice Barbara Akinyi, "Laws, Policies and the Rights of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya," Unpublished Master of Arts in Human Rights, UoN, 2019.

5. Stella Kwamboka Nyamweya, "Effectiveness of Legal and Policy responses in Combatting trafficking in Persons Living with Disabilities in Kenya," Unpublished Master of Arts in Human Rights, UoN, 2019.
6. Doreen K Nyakundi, "An Interrogation of the Author's Portrayal of Disability in Goro wa Kamau's *Ghost and The Fortune Hunters*," Unpublished M.A Dissertation (2019). Kagotho Hellen Wamuyu, "Orality and Therapy in the *Kayamba* Poetry of the Digo." Unpublished M.A. Dissertation (2017).
7. Ojiambo, J. Kubasu, "The Art of Narrative Embedding in Chimamanda Adichie's Fiction". Unpublished M.A. Dissertation (2014).
8. Kiguru, D. Wanjiru. "Representations of Violence in Childhood Narratives: Chimamanda Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus* and *Half of a Yellow Sun*." Unpublished M.A. Dissertation (2012).
9. Mugo Abel M. "Symbolism in Oral narratives of the Samburu of Baawa Location." Unpublished MA Dissertation, UoN, 2011
10. Odhiambo, J. A. "Aesthetics in Luo Praise Poetry". MA Dissertation (2010)
11. Atsango Ruth F. "The Journey Motif in Flora Nwapa's *Efuru* and Margaret Ogola's *The River and the Source*. Unpublished MA Dissertation, UoN, 2010.
12. Orina Felix A. "An Investigation of Aesthetic Strategies Employed by Gusii Oral Narrators in Gusii Oral Narratives." Unpublished MA Dissertation, UoN, 2008.
13. Komu Rose Wangui. "Treatment of HIV/AIDS in Fiction: A Focus on Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's *Chira*, Joseph Situma's *The Mysterious Killer*, and Carolyn Adalla's *Confessions of an AIDS Victim*. Unpublished MA Dissertation, UoN, 2005
14. Ndivo Larry M. "Organic Unity in Alex La Guma's *Time of the Butcher Bird*." Unpublished MA Dissertation, UoN, 2004.
15. Wambua Kawive."The Problematics of the Quest for Identity in Derek Walcott's *Dream on the Monkey Mountain*." Unpublished MA Dissertation, UoN, 2003.

External Examination

I am currently serving the following universities as an External examiner:

25. Department of English, University of Ghana, Ghana
26. Department of English, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
27. Department of English, University of South Africa (UNISA), RSA
28. Department of English, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
29. Makerere University, Uganda
30. Department of English, Uganda Christian University, Uganda

- 31. Kabale University, Uganda
- 32. Department of English, Acharya Nagarjuna University, India
- 33. Kibabii University, Kenya

Selected Conferences and Workshops

- a) 2024: Orality and Museology seminar, Ghent University, Belgium.
- b) 2018: Labor and Leisure symposium in Basel, Germany.
- c) 2016: a keynote speaker at the international conference on oral history organized by the University of Hamburg, Germany. The paper was entitled "Orality, Fieldwork and Textual Production in the 21st Century."
- d) 2016: Presented a paper entitled "Internalisation in University Culture, Campus and Curriculum: Perspectives, Possibilities and Risks' Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Yongin Campus, Korea.
- e) 2016: Participated at the PANGeA Board Meeting in Accra, Ghana (9th – 11th June 2016). I successfully lobbied for increased PhD scholarship allocations to applicants from the University of Nairobi.
- f) 2015: Presented a paper at Bayreuth, Germany's African Literature Association (ALA) International Conference. My paper was "Trends in the Oral Genres of the Digo of Kenya."
- g) Presented a paper at the symposium at Humboldt University, Berlin, on 'Emerging trends in Oral Genres Fieldwork" (25th May – 10th June 2015)
- h) 2013: Presented a paper, "Going beyond Data Collection in Ethnography: Options for Bridging the Gap between Researchers and Archivists." A Conference in Oral Literature and Multimedia Research at Mohammed V. University, Rabat, Morocco (11th – 16th December 2013)
- i) 2010: Presented a paper entitled "The State of Copyright Protection in Kenya " in Harare, Zimbabwe (29th January 2010)
- j) 2010: Presented a paper, "Oral Testimonies (O.T.) Methodology and the Pedagogy of Hope in the Narratives of IDPs of Mt. Elgon, Kenya." Mbarara University of Science & Technology, Uganda (3rd – 7th July 2010)
- k) 2009: Presented a paper entitled, "What Korea Needs to Know to Partner effectively with the University of Nairobi," Academy of Korean Studies, Seoul 27th November 2009.

- l) 2009: Presented a paper on "Quest for Peace in Kenya. Why History Matters?" UNC-Chapel Hill. NC, USA (9th 14th April 2009)
- m) 2009 – 2010: Convener 8th Conference of the International Society for the Oral Literature of Africa (ISOLA) on "Indigenous Knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights in the Age of Globalization." Leisure Lodge, Diani (15th – 20th July 2010)
- n) 2009: National Symposium on "Digital Technology and the Future of African Oral Literature, Moana, Diani November 2009.
- o) 2008: Coordinator: National Symposium on "Oral Literature and the Quest for Peace in Kenya" September 2008, MOANA, Diani.
- p) 2007: Presented a paper on "Efficacy of Nvivo Software in Analyzing Recorded Performances." Institute of Asian and African Studies, Hamburg University, Germany 15th June 2007.
- q) 2006 December: Participated in the Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) training on Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis, Dakar, Senegal.
- r) 2005: Coordinated an International Conference on "Our Landscapes, Our Narratives: The Value of Oral Literature to Environmental Conservation." 22nd – 25th November 2005 Sunset Hotel, Kisumu.
- s) In 2004, I presented a paper on "Preservation of Oral Literature through Research" at the 4th ISOLA Conference in Banjul, Gambia.

Languages:

- a) English (Fluent)
- b) Swahili (Fluent)
- c) Dholuo (Fluent)

References:

Available upon request.