

## DR LINDA NKATHA GICHUYIA

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### PROFILE

Dr Nkatha's professional journey spans academia, public service, and consultancy. She maintains a strong record of leading high-impact, multistakeholder programs across Africa. Her work bridges deep technical expertise in building and urban physics, climate-adaptive mitigation, ESG integration, urban systems, infrastructure strategy, and housing and settlement systems, with a strong focus on delivery, stakeholder alignment, and evidence-based execution. Dr Nkatha thrives in dynamic, high-impact environments that require systems thinking, strategic planning, and actionable results at the intersection of policy, people, and the built environment.

#### Core competences:

- ESG integration & Climate Resilience
- Urban Development & Housing Sector Reforms
- Evidence-based National Policy & Regulatory Advisory
- Donor-funded Program Delivery (FCDO, WB, MCF.)
- Systems Thinking & Decision Support Frameworks
- Public Sector Governance & Reform
- National Program Design & Execution Governance
- Technical Writing, Modelling & Systems Analysis

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### EDUCATION

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| 2012 –2017 | <b>PhD in Architecture - University of Cambridge, UK</b><br>Dissertation title: "Indoor overheating risk: A framework for temporal building adaptation decision-making". Award date - July 2017.  |
| 2011 –2012 | <b>MPhil in Environmental Design - University of Cambridge, UK</b><br>Dissertation title: "The Implication of Global Warming on the Indoor Thermal Performance of free-running office buildings in Nairobi, Kenya". High pass awarded in July 2013.                     |
| 2008 –2010 | <b>Bachelor of Architecture - University of Nairobi, Kenya</b><br>Dissertation title: "The impact of buildings on climate change. A case of Nairobi's Upper Hill area, towards low energy architecture". First-class honours awarded in September 2010 (Valedictorian). |
| 2004 –2008 | <b>Bachelor of Architectural Studies - University of Nairobi, Kenya</b><br>Specialism in building design and construction. First-class honours awarded October 2008 (Valedictorian).  |

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#### Select Additional Training

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| 2021       | <b>Regional Senior Mission Leadership Course – National Defence University, Kenya</b><br>A course to equip mission leaders serving or foreseen to serve in the United Nations (UN), African Union (AU) and other deploying bodies with relevant knowledge and skills that will enable them to plan, manage, and effectively implement a UN mission mandate. |
| 2016 –2017 | <b>Cambridge Future Cities Research Fellow - University of Cambridge, UK</b><br>A grant for eight postgraduate fellows to conduct bespoke research on issues shaping future cities and related policy. I developed a framework for the temporal adaptation of African cities to climate change.   |
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## SKILLS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

<b>Consultancy Roles</b>	<p><b>Subject Matter Expert (SME), KPMG – One Africa, Infrastructure and Transport Advisory.</b> I provide ESG, Sustainability, and climate resilience subject matter expertise in strategy development, policy alignment, and implementation frameworks for green and inclusive growth. (February 2023 – Ongoing)</p> <p><b>Scientific Committee Member &amp; Senior Academic Representative of Kenya to COP26 (UKGoV)</b> Contracted by UKGoV's Department for Business, Energy &amp; Industry and The University of Cambridge to develop Visions of a Net-Zero Future in preparation for COP26. (May 2021 – Nov 2021)</p> <p><b>Team Leader and Lead Technical Expert, The Project Management Office (FCDO)</b> A 'Situation Room' set up at the State Department of Housing and Urban Development to advise and help coordinate the Government of Kenya's response to COVID-19 in Kenya's Informal Settlements. (April 2020 – June 2021)</p>
<b>Public Service Roles</b>	<p><b>Chairperson, The Affordable Housing Fund - Government of Kenya (GoK), <i>Kenya Gazette Vol.CXXIV – No.33</i></b> (Inaugural Chairperson – July 2024)</p> <p><b>Chairperson, The Taskforce on Re-engineering and Transformation of Urban Development in Kenya (GoK)</b> A 45-member task force appointed to assist the Government to develop strategies that shall lead to vibrant, responsive and transformative urban development institutions that shall drive the implementation of sustainable, inclusive, resilient and smart approaches in urban and metropolitan development in Kenya. <i>Kenya Gazette Vol.CXXV – No.163.</i> (July 2023 – February 2024)</p> <p><b>Vice Chairperson, The Taskforce on Re-engineering and Transformation of Urban Development in Kenya (GoK)</b> A 22-member task force appointed to assist the Government in establishing and funding smart urban areas and cities in Kenya. <i>Kenya Gazette Vol.CXXIV – No.87</i> (May 2022 – Nov 2022)</p> <p><b>Program Design &amp; Technical Support Expert, National Hygiene Program' <i>Kazi Mtaani'</i> (GoK)</b> Technical Committee member working with the State Department of Urban Housing and Development – Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban and Public Works. (April 2020 – June 2021)</p> <p><b>Council Member and Chairperson of Operations, training, and programs (GoK)</b> of the National Youth Service, a Kenyan State corporation. <i>Kenya Gazette Vol.CXXIV – No.44 and Kenya Gazette Vol.CXXI – No.17</i> (February 2019 – February 2025)</p> <p><b>Council Member and Chairperson of Infrastructure and Services (County Gov)</b> of the Meru Economic Social Council, a Meru County Government Think tank. <i>Kenya Gazette Vol.CXXII – No.177</i> (February 2018 – October 2023)</p>
<b>Research Leadership Roles</b>	<p><b>Co-Research Lead, Urban Rental Housing and Climate Resilience in Nairobi</b> - Funded by the MasterCard Foundation &amp; University of Cambridge Climate Resilience and Sustainability research fund. <i>Kenya and UK.</i> (October 2025 – April 2026)</p> <p><b>Co-Research Lead, The Housing Ambition Project, Kenya</b> - Funded by the Ethno Kalos Grant. <i>Kenya and Ireland</i> (September 2024 – August 2026)</p> <p><b>Co-Researcher and supporting curator, Countryside The Future II</b> – Showcasing the East African Countryside as a place to live. A Qatar National Library exhibition. <i>Qatar - Netherlands - Nairobi</i> (July 2024 – Ongoing)</p> <p><b>In-Country Research Lead, Housing and Settlements Research- African Cities Research Consortium (FCDO).</b> Contracted by the Global Development Institute of the University of Manchester to conduct research as part of a city-level housing and settlements study in <i>Nairobi and six other cities in Africa</i> (Sep 2021 – May 2023)</p>

	<p><b>Co-Research Lead, Housing and Settlement patterns in Kenya</b> (published lecture modules) – A Global Architectural Historical Teaching Collaborative (GAHTC) funded by Andrew W. Mellon. <i>Kenya – Ireland – MIT/USA</i> (2020 – 2021)</p> <p><b>Member of Jury, HOME – KIT Student Design Competition</b> for the development of sustainable modular houses for slum dwellers amidst COVID-19 for the World Renewable Energy Congress. <i>Portugal.</i> (2020-2021)</p> <p><b>Co-Researcher and supporting curator, Countryside, The Future</b> - The East African Countryside: A 12-month Guggenheim -Newyork exhibition. <i>New York - Netherlands – Nairobi.</i> (2018-2021)</p> <p><b>Hosting international collaborations with the University of Nairobi</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint University of Nairobi / University College Dublin exhibition – Communicating the Architecture of Vernacular house construction in Samburu (March 2022).</li> <li>• VOLUME magazine for architecture, design and beyond. (August 2021 – December 2021)</li> <li>• Design Academy Saaleck _ for arts, crafts, architecture and global community building (June 2019)</li> <li>• Global Connections Fellowship funded by GAHTC (Summer of 2019)</li> </ul>
<b>Educator Roles</b>	<p><b>Member, University College Dublin's Africa Advisory Group.</b> <i>Ireland</i> (October 2024 – Ongoing)</p> <p><b>External Examiner, The Martin Centre at the University of Cambridge</b> (UK, May 2024 - Ongoing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPhil in Architecture and Urban Studies</li> </ul> <p><b>Visiting Assistant Professor of Architecture</b> at the University College Dublin - School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy. (Ireland, 2020 – 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 2,3 and 4 Design Evaluations</li> <li>• One-on-one postgraduate research project supervisions</li> </ul> <p><b>Lecturer and Research Fellow</b> at the University of Nairobi - Department of Architecture and Building Science. (Kenya, December 2017 - Ongoing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am the Masters of Environmental Design in Architecture research course coordinator and teach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ BAR 6126 Luminous environment</li> <li>○ BAR 6122 Acoustic design</li> <li>○ BAR 6130 Environmental building Economics</li> <li>○ BAR 6120 Environmental Design Course</li> <li>○ BUM 6108 Urban Enviromental Management</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Supervisor in Architecture</b> at the Cambridge University (UK, October 2015 - October 2017)</p> <p><b>Tutorial Fellow of Architecture</b> at the University of Nairobi - Department of Architecture and Building Science. (Kenya, October 2010 - October 2016)</p>
Architectural Design & Build coordination expertise	<p><b>Founder and Director, Design and Analytics Studios Ltd.</b> (November 2017 - Ongoing)</p> <p><b>Graduate Architect at Beglin Woods Architects, Nairobi</b> (October 2010 - September 2011)</p> <p><b>Summer positions in three architectural firms as an undergraduate student</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symbion Architects, Nairobi. (July 2008 – September 2008)</li> <li>• Eco-Build Africa, Nairobi (July 2007 – September 2007)</li> <li>• Studio Infinity Architects, Nairobi (July 2006 – September 2006)</li> </ul>
Knowledge management; Analytics; Research;	<p><b>Published and co-published 40plus</b> peer-reviewed academic papers, books, Op-Eds, policy statements and conference papers in these subject areas _ architectural design, urban development, climate change adaptation and mitigation, building physics, housing and human settlements, future cities, future countrysides, informal settlements, policy and strategic planning.</p>

Writing and Presentation skills	<p><b>Data and Information Architecture expert.</b> I have vast experience in developing local and international decision-support frameworks. Frameworks that engage the dimensions of decision-support information generation, information structuring, and the exploration and dissemination of decision strategies flexibly and transparently.</p> <p><b>Decision Analytics expert.</b> I am well-versed in computational and optimisation model-based approaches to diagnostics and prognostics, with exposure to parameterisation, stochastic analysis, meta-modelling, uncertainty and sensitivity analysis procedures.</p>
Languages and IT literacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Languages: English, German, Kiswahili and Kimeru.</li> <li>• I am highly experienced in parametric modelling software, including: System Dynamics modelling - Vensim; Dynamic thermal modelling - IES VE; Meta-modelling - SPSS; Numerical modelling - SPSS, MS Excel; Architectural Design and modelling - Archicad, SketchUp; Uncertainty and Sensitivity modelling - SIMLAB.</li> <li>• I am proficient in Adobe Creative Suite software for graphic design and the Microsoft Office suite software.</li> </ul>
Professional Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architectural Association of Kenya – Environmental Design Chapter - Member No. 2912</li> <li>• Development Studies Association - Membership Number: M40247</li> <li>• Society of Building Science Educators - Member ID: 76145509</li> </ul>

## SELECT SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

**Leaders and Legends Award (2020)** Awarded for being a Leader in Academia, a recognition by Women In Real Estate - Kenya (WIRE)

**PhD Future Cities Prize Fellowship (2016)** Awarded to support the development of research relating to future cities by some of the brightest young PhD students at Cambridge University

**Gates Cambridge Scholarship (2012)** Awarded 4 years full financial support to pursue my PhD studies.

**Kettles Yard Travelling Fund (2012)** Field work costs and travel expenses.

**Gates Cambridge Scholarship (2011)** Awarded a one-year full financial support to pursue my MPhil studies.

**Hughes Hall College Travel Fund (2011)** Field work costs and travel expenses.

**Gandhi Smarak Nidhi Trustee Fund Prize (2008 & 2010)** for being the best overall student in the whole of the University of Nairobi, with the highest proficiency in both academic and extra-curricular activities.

**David and Mary Kiamba Memorial prize (2008 & 2010)** for being the best female final year student in the whole university

## SELECT SCHOLARLY WORK

- **Gichuyia, L.N.**, (2025, February 13) "A BOLD LOOK AT KENYA'S HOUSING FUTURE: CHALLENGES AND REFORM GAPS". The Daily Nation Newspaper– Kenya, pp. 23–25.
- Sverdlik, A., **Gichuyia, L.N.**, et al. (2025). "NAIROBI: CITY REPORT". ACRC Working Paper 2025-24. Manchester: African Cities Research Consortium, The University of Manchester. Available online: [www.african-cities.org](http://www.african-cities.org). ISBN: 978-1-915163-23-3
- **Gichuyia, L.**, Ricci, L., Martin, S. (2023), "IN(HABITAT)ION OF THE ARCHIVE: Probing the emergence of the UN Agenda on human settlements and the built environment" In The Third Ecology EAHN Thematic Conference Reykjavík 2023 with MoMA x Iceland University of the Arts. October 12th 2023, at the Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Centre, Reykjavik. Paper submitted.
- **Gichuyia, L. N.** (2023), "NAIROBI CITY MARKET: THE VERSATILE AFTERLIFE OF A COLONIAL ERA BUILDING IN A POSTCOLONIAL WORLD". In McAuliffe, S.; Farah, L. (Eds.) Mobs and Microbes - Market halls, Civic Order and Public health. Leuven University Press. ISBN 978-94-6270-360-5
- **Gichuyia, L. N.** (2021), "THE NAIROBI CITY MARKET: AN ELASTIC ARCHITECTURE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING OF TIME." In 'VOLUME 60: The World in Reviews (Issue 60) 30-32. ISBN:9-789077-966709.
- Mogo, E., Wesonga, J., **Gichuyia, L.**, & Shuckburgh, E. (2021). COP26 FUTURES WE WANT – KENYA COUNTRY PROFILE. Cambridge Open Engage. doi:10.33774/coe-2021-llx5j

- **Gichuyia, N.,** Omenya, A., Ngobi, B., Omanwa, P., & Gathoni, M. (2021). "COVID-19 MANAGEMENT IN KENYA'S INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS: AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE BLUEPRINT". For the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. London. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.17078.61763
- **Gichuyia, N.,** Omenya, A., Ngobi, B., Omanwa, P., & Gathoni, M. (2021). The Kazi Mtaani Program Exit Strategy \_ March 2021 for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. London. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.20434.06089
- **Gichuyia, L.N.;** Madette, E. (2020), "OCHA: AFRICAN AVANT GARDE". In Koolhaas. Countryside, A Report. Guggenheim – Taschen. ISBN 978-3-8365-8331-2.
- **Gichuyia, L.N.** (2019), "BOOSTING INTERCONTINENTAL RELATIONS \_ LESSONS FROM BUILDING PHYSICS". In the Keynote Address. Positano Forum, 25th-27th October 2019, Wilhelm Kempff House - Casa Orfeo, Positano, Italy.
- **Gichuyia, L. N.** (2017), "INDOOR OVERHEATING RISK: A FRAMEWORK FOR TEMPORAL BUILDING ADAPTATION DECISION-MAKING". Doctoral dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for a PhD in Architecture at the University of Cambridge. <https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.17146>
- **Gichuyia L.** and Steemers, K. (2017), "OVERHEATING RISK MANAGEMENT: A SYSTEM DYNAMICS APPROACH TO RECONCILING THE DEMAND FOR, WITH THE SUPPLY OF BUILDING PHYSICS INFORMATION FOR DECISION SUPPORT." Applied Urban Modelling Conference 2017 (AUM2017) Robinsons College, Cambridge, UK. 22 – 23 June 2017, Paper submitted.
- **Gichuyia, L.** (2017), "OVERHEATING RISK MANAGEMENT: AN INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT AND MODELLING METHOD FOR TEMPORAL BUILDING-ADAPTATION DECISION SUPPORT". Cambridge Future Cities Conference -18th July 2017, Jesus College, Cambridge, UK. Paper submitted.
- **Gichuyia, L.** (2015), "ARCHITECTS NEED TO ADDRESS THE 'WHOLE-LIFE' BUILDING PERFORMANCE CHALLENGE" The Architect magazine (8)

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## REFEREES

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References Available on Request.