

WANJIRU MBATIA

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Address: P.O. Box 8789-00300,
Ronald Ngala St., Nairobi, Kenya.

Date of Birth: 6th January, 1977

Nationality: Kenyan.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urbanism: Social-Spatial Justice and Public Participation.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- **2010-2016:** PhD in Human Geography (Urban Studies) from Université Bordeaux Montaigne.
- **2004-2006:** Masters of Arts [Planning] - Department of Urban and Regional Planning, School of the Built Environment, University of Nairobi.
- **1997-2001:** Bachelor of Arts [Economics & Geography]-Upper Second Class Honours, Departments: Geography and Economics, College of Humanities and Social Sciences [CHSS], University of Nairobi.

THESIS

- **PhD (2016):** Social Political Analysis of Urban Green Spaces in Nairobi: Perspectives on the (Re)Production And (Re)Construction Of Spatial Injustice In Use And Access Of Public Nature Reserves (Urban Protected Areas). Université Bordeaux Montaigne, France and University of Nairobi, Kenya.
- **Masters (2006):** Creating Child Friendly Urban Spaces: Incorporation of Children's Requirements in the Design & Planning of Low Income Residential Neighbourhoods'. Master's Project, Department of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Nairobi, July 2006.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **October 2008- Present:** Lecturer, University of Nairobi, Department of Geography & Environmental Studies. Lectures-*Urban Geography, Human Geography and Regional Geographies*.

- **October-December 2013:** Teaching Fellowship, Universite Bordeaux Montagne, Department of Geography. Lectured urban geo-politics course for the Masters in African Urban Dynamics students.
- **August-September 2008:** Part-Time Lecturer, Jomo Kenyatta University of Science & Technology, Department of Architecture & Urban Design. Lecture- *Introduction to Urban Planning*.
- **January-April 2007:** Teaching Assistant, Joint Reality Spatial Planning Studio. Guided undergraduate Architecture & Spatial Planning Students on their field work class, '*Architecture & Design in Extreme Environments*.'

PUBLICATIONS

- **Mbatia, Teresa (Forthcoming, 2017):** Contradictions of Public Participation in the Co-management of Karura Urban Forest Reserve. *International Relations and Diplomacy*.
- **Mbatia, Teresa (2015):** '[La protección administrativa del Parque Nacional de Nairobi. Viabilidad, futuro y estrategias para mantener una Zona Urbana Protegida.](http://www.novaafrica.net/index.php/articulos/134-zonaurbanaprotegida.1)' *Nova Africa Journal*. Publication del Centre d'estudis Africans i Interculturals (CEA). <http://www.novaafrica.net/index.php/articulos/134-zonaurbanaprotegida.1>
- **Mbatia, T.W. and Owuor, S.O. (2014)** [Prospects for Urban Eco-Tourism in Nairobi, Kenya: Experiences from the Karura Forest Reserve](http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajsd/article/view/111125). *African Journal of Sustainable Development*. Vol 4, No 3 (2014): Special Edition. <http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajsd/article/view/111125>.
- **Owuor, S & Mbatia, T (2012),** 'Nairobi.' In Bekker, S & Therbon, G (eds) (2012), 'Power and Powerlessness: Capital Cities in Africa.' HSRC Press, Cape Town, South Africa. <http://www.hsrcpress.ac.za/product.php?productid=2284>.
- **Mbatia, T (2011),** '*Green Spaces in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam: An Analysis of Uhuru Park and Mnazi Mmoja. Hekima*. *Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences*. Volume V, Number 1, 2011.

¹ Translation: The Protection and Management and Management of Nairobi National Park: Viabilities, Futures and Strategies of Conserving an Urban Protected Area. *Nova Africa*. A publication of the Centre for African Studies

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **2013- 2015:** Assistant Project Coordinator, Food Planning for Sustainable Metropolitan Areas (FOODMETRES) project, Nairobi Case Study. <http://www.foodmetres.eu/case-studies/nairobi-case-study/>
- **2012- 2014:** Urban National Parks in Emerging Cities (UNPEC), An Urban Protected Areas (UPA) project. <http://english.upa-network.org/> in Developing Countries, Nairobi National Park Case Study.
- **2011-Ongoing:** PhD Research on 'Social-Political Perspectives in the Production and Construction of Urban Green Spaces in Nairobi: Implications for Social-Spatial Justice. <http://www.theses.fr/s50190>
- **2009-2010:** Governing African Cities Programme- Participant Researcher- Utilization & Management of Urban Public Parks in selected East African cities: Comparative Case Studies of Dar es Salaam and Nairobi. Facilitated by CORUS East Africa and the French Institute for Research in Africa (IFRA).
- **June-September 2007:** Research Assistant-Impact of Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plan [LASDAP] on Participation, Service Delivery and Poverty Reduction. Research Triangle Africa, Nairobi. Commissioned by the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) to Mpeereza Associates and Research Triangle Africa (RTA).
- **October 2005-June 2006:** Masters Research Project- Creating Child Friendly Urban Spaces: Sustainable Incorporation of Children's Requirements in the Design and Planning of Low Income Urban Residential neighbourhoods.
- **July 2001-January 2002:** Data Collection Assistant, Physical Mapping Exercise for the Kibera Informal Settlement Upgrading Programme. Physical Planning Department -Ministry of Lands & Settlements.

REPORTS

- **Participation, Service Delivery and Poverty Reduction,** 'A Study on the Impact of Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plan [LASDAP] - September, 2007².
- **Community Supported Urban Upgrading Best Practices,** 'Experiences & Findings from Nairobi & Kisumu Kenya'. A Study Tour Report presented to Voluntary Services Overseas [VSO] UK - August, 2007³

²Provided content and editorial inputs into the writing of the report, submitted to the Ministry of Local Government, Kenya.

³ Prepared this report while working for Research Triangle Africa

- **Supporting Community Development Initiatives:** Action Plans for the development of a Children's Home and HIV/AIDS Resource Centre for a rural community. Report Presented to a Belgian Trust, Hope for Kabondo-April 2007.

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

<p>March 2016: <i>An Analysis of Conservation Interventions to Preserve the Ecosystem of Nairobi National Park: Viabilities, Futures and Strategies of Conserving an Urban Protected Area.</i> Ecosystem Dynamics, Conservation Practices and Land Use in East Africa: Resilience in East African Landscapes (Real) ITN Workshop, British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA) Nairobi.</p>
<p>October 2015: <i>Eco-Gentrification of Urban Green Spaces in Nairobi: Contradictions of Public Participation in the Management of Karura Urban Forest Reserve.</i> Centres and Peripheries-Rethinking binaries in Kenya and East Africa the 3rd BIEA PhD student conference. Nairobi, 30th – 31st October 2015.</p>
<p>September 2015: <i>An Analysis of Conservation Interventions in The Management of Nairobi National Park.</i> International Conference on Biodivercities 2015: Villes et parcs naturels: construire une nature urbaine? Cities and natural parks: building an urban nature? Marseilles, 17-18 September, 2015.</p>
<p>July 2015: <i>Eco-gentrification of a Public Urban Forest in Nairobi: Contradictions of Public Participation in the co-management of Karura Urban Forest Reserve.</i> 6th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS). Paris, 8-10th July, 2015.</p>
<p>June 2015: <i>Experiences from Local Agricultural Food Chains: The Case of Innovative Urban Agricultural Practices in Nairobi.</i> FoodMetres Project meeting and seminar on Pathways to Sustainable Food Chains on the occasion of the Expo 2015 Milano. Milan, Italy. 9th and 10th June, 2015.</p>
<p>April 2015: <i>The protection and management of Nairobi National Park: Viabilities, futures and strategies of conserving an Urban Protected Area.</i> Arees protegides, biodiversitat i comunitats: aprenent de les experiències de conservació a l'Àfrica". Barcelona, Spain, 14th-16th April, 2016.</p>
<p>October 2014: <i>Innovations in Urban Agriculture in Nairobi, Kenya: The Case of Makadara Sub-County.</i> Annual FOODMETRES Project Meeting, London, UK.</p>
<p>June 2014: <i>Sustainable Impact Assessment (SIA) and Knowledge Brokerage (KB) sessions on Innovations in Urban Agriculture in Nairobi, Kenya.</i> Food Planning for Sustainable Metropolitan Regions (Foodmetres) Stakeholders Workshop. 26th June, Nairobi. Workshop Facilitator</p>
<p>April 2014: <i>An Analysis of Conservation Initiatives in the Protection and Management of Nairobi National Park.</i> Biodivercities Conference 2014. Rescaling National Parks and the City.</p>

Cape Town, South Africa.

April 2014: *Methods for Studying Innovations in Urban Agriculture in Nairobi.* **Foodmeters knowledge brokerage workshop meeting. London, UK.**

October 2013: *Overview of Urban Agriculture in Nairobi, Kenya.* **FOODMETRES Project Meeting. 24th and 25th October, 2013, Munchenberg, Germany.**

October 2012: **Biodivercities Conference, Rio 2012. Urban Protected Areas: Issues, Actors and Spaces. Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro.** *Urban Green Spaces and Eco-tourism in Nairobi: The Case of Nairobi National Park.*

June 2012: *Preservation and Management of Nairobi National Park in the Emergent Nairobi Metropolitan Region: Viabilities, Futures and Strategies.* **Sustainable Communities Course (Aalto University Professional Development) - 2012 Urban Environmental Management: A Tool Kit for Supporting Sustainability. 7th June- 17th June 2012, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand.**

May 2009: *The Role of Universities in Promoting Research & Philanthropy within the Region.* **1st East African John Hopkins Regional Conference.**

October & November 2008: *Concept Paper for Spatial Analysis of Urban Greenspaces in Nairobi.* **East African Summer School. Methodological training in humanities and social sciences. MSTC-DC Centre, Arusha, Tanzania. 24th October to 4th November, 2008.**

August 2007: *Creating child friendly urban spaces: integrating children's requirements in the planning and design of urban residential neighbourhoods.* **Research Results Transfer Workshop for 2006 Urban & Regional Planning Master's Thesis. Organised by Centre for Training And Integrated Research For ASAL Development (CETRAD) At Utalii Hotel. 16th - 17th August, 2007.**

OTHER SEMINERS & WORKSHOP ATTENDED

- January 2012 : La Ville Compétitive à Quel Prix ? Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, 19, 20 et 21 Janvier 2012.
- April 2011: Slum Upgrading in Nairobi: Challenges and progress in Implementation of projects. Alliance Française, Nairobi.
- Septembre 2010 : Recherches et Débats : Réinventer L'Afrique. Université de Bordeaux. CEAN-IEP de Bordeaux
- August 2009: Sustainable Communities Course, Bridging the Gap between Research & Action'. *Mentored Course Participants.*
- June 2008: Participant and subcommittee member of the National Urban forum held at the Kenya School of monetary studies on 26th and 27th June, 2008.

COMPUTER PROFICIENCY

- Proficient in Word, Excel, Power-point and Publisher.

LANGUAGES

- Fluent in English and Swahili; Basic French.

INTERESTS

Gardening, Art, Camping, Reading and Travelling.

REFEREES

1. **Prof.E.H.O.Ayiemba**, Professor Geography, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi. P.O. Box 301970-00100, Nairobi. Mobile No: +254-733-463-954
2. **Prof.Bernard Calas**, Professeur de Géographie, Université Michel de Montaigne Bordeaux 3. Domaine Universitaire.F33607 Pessac Cedex. Email Adress : Bernard.Calas@u-bordeaux-montaigne.fr. Mobile: +33786534074.
3. **Dr.Sam Owuor**, Senior Lecturer in Geography & Chairman, Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi. P.O. Box 301970-00100, Nairobi. Mobile No: 0733-741275 samowuor@uonbi.ac.ke
4. **Mr. Grace Lubaale**, Strategic Advisor, Kenya Urban Sector, Unhabitat, Nairobi. P.O. Box 1300-00100, G.P.O. Nairobi. P.O. Box 30030, GPO, Nairobi, 00100, Kenya. Tel: (254-20) 7621234 (Operator) / 7 623120 (Information Services Section). Personal Mobile No: +254-722-783-698. Email: glubaale@yahoo.com, glubaale@gmail.com, grace.lubaale@unhabitat.org
5. **Mr. George O. A. Onyiro**, Senior Human Settlements Officer, UNHABITAT. P.O. Box 1300-00100, G.P.O. Nairobi. Mobile No: 0733-836863. E-mail: george.onyiro@unhabitat.org

