

CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Dr. Gloria Ajami Makokha
Religion: Christian
Designation: Lecturer (Literature), Kenyatta University, Kenya
Address: P. O. Box 43844 - 00100 Nairobi
Literature, Linguistics and Foreign Languages Department
Kenyatta University
E-mail address: makokha.gloria@ku.ac.ke
ajamiglo@gmail.com



CAREER OBJECTIVES:

- To utilize my full potential in an Institution of Higher Learning to enable the institution meet its stated objectives.
- To excel in a challenging position in a reputable Institution of Higher Learning where I can learn, implement and fully utilize my talent, knowledge, expertise, proficiency and excellent communication and interpersonal skills for the benefit of the institution.
- To develop my management and administration skills in a leadership role.
- To pursue Postdoctoral Research Fellowships to enhance my academic qualifications in English, Literature, Disability Studies, Culture Studies, Administration and Management studies.
- To stay current, informed and relevant by attending workshops and seminars in my areas of interest.

PERSONAL PROFILE:

I am a determined, goal oriented, versatile and hardworking individual with a talent for conceptualizing, innovating, planning and executing ideas. My strengths include good inter-personal skills, ability to work effectively in diverse teams and excellent leadership, analytical and communication skills, both oral and written. Above all, I value professionalism and always strive to uphold the highest standards in my work.

FORMAL EDUCATION

University Education

- 2018 to 2022 :** Kenyatta University
PhD in Literature
- Thesis: Emigration in Selected Transnational Fiction by African Women Writers: A Study of Female Characters of African Descent
- 2012 to 2014 :** Aarhus University (Denmark)
Master of Arts, English (Literature)
- Thesis: The Construction of the African Woman in Colonial and Postcolonial Literature with reference to Adichie, Vera and Macgoye
- 2006 - 2010 :** Maseno University
Bachelor of Education Arts, (English/Literature) with IT (2nd Class Honours Upper Division)

Primary and Secondary Education

- 2002 - 2005 :** Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education
(The Sacred Heart, Mukumu Girls High School)
- 1994 - 2001 :** Kenya Certificate of Primary Education
(Xaverian Primary School)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University Level

- Jan. 2023 to date:** Lecturer (Literature) at Kenyatta University, Nairobi
- Aug.2024 to July 2026:** Postdoctoral Research Fellow (African Literary Metadata) at Uppsala University, Sweden
- Nov. 2017 to Dec. 2022:** A Tutorial Fellow (Literature) at Kenyatta University, Nairobi
- Nov. 2014 to Dec. 2017:** Part-Time Teaching (Literature) at Kibabii University, Bungoma, Kenya
- Nov. 2014 to Dec. 2017:** Part-Time Teaching (Literature) at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Kenya
- Sep. 2013-Dec. 2013:** Internship at Kibabii University, Bungoma, Kenya

Secondary School Level

Jan. 2016 to Oct. 2017: A Teacher of English/Literature at Cardinal Otunga Girls' High School, Bungoma

5/9/2011 – 18/08/2012: A Teacher of English/Literature at Kivaywa Boys High School- Matete

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

- 2026 to date:** Modern Language Association (MLA)
- 2025 to date:** British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA)
- 2025 to date:** Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS)
- 2025 to date:** International Society for the Oral Literatures of Africa (ISOLA)
- 2022 to date:** National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)
- 2016 to date:** African Literature Association (ALA)
- 2016 to date:** The Kenya Institute of Management (KIM)
- 2012 to date:** Kenya Oral Literature Association (KOLA)

SERVICE TO PROFESSIONAL BODIES

2023 to date: Secretary, Women's Caucus of the African Literature Association (WOCALA)

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

24/06/2026 to 25/06/2026: Silences, Stories, Scripts: Transcultural Perspectives on Mothers and Daughters in Literature Virtual Conference Organized by **CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE LITERATURE** at the Institute for Languages, Cultures and Societies, School of Advanced Study, University of London

09/06/2026 to 12/06/2026: CAPHE Krakow Communities of Perception International Conference at **JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, KRAKOW, POLAND**

Title of paper presented:

Khanga as Interface: *Majina*, hybrid sociality, and embodied self-observation in Coastal East Africa

28/05/2026 to 30/05/2026: African Literature Association (ALA) 51st Annual Conference at the **UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, USA**

Titles of papers presented:

Adaptation of *Khanga's Majina*: Dynamics of Cultural, Contextual and Performative Transformation.

and

WOCALA Roundtable: African Writers and Political Ideoscapes: Wangari Maathai's *Unbowed One Woman's Story* (2006)

26/03/2026: Locating Film in the Multiple Geographies of the Audiovisual Archive: A Symposium on Film and Archival Practices at Lecture Hall XI, Universitethuset, Biskopsgatan 3, **UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN**

Panel Chair: Session 1

12/03/2026: Materialities of Oral Cultures in East Africa: An Online Workshop Hosted by the African Literary Metadata Project at **UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN**

Organiser and Host

20/02/2026: International Mother Tongue Day 2026, Symposium at **KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, NAIROBI, KENYA (Virtual Presentation)**

Title of paper presented:

HERUFI KUBWA, SAUTI KUBWA: Khanga/Leso, The Cloth That "Speaks" in Capital Letters

19/09/2025: Forum for African Studies Seminar at **UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN**

Title of paper presented:

Digitizing *Jina*: Providing Visibility to the *Khanga*'s Oral Literary Messages
[Friday seminar 2: 19th September 2025 – Uppsala University](#)

27/08/2025 to 29/08/2025: ArtFest Conference held at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya on (Presented Virtually)

Title of paper presented:

Reshaping Supervision: A Note to Professor Oluoch Obura

09/07/2025 to 12/07/2025: International Society for the Oral Literatures of Africa (ISOLA) Conference

at the **UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA, ABUJA, NIGERIA**

Title of paper presented:

Digitizing *Jina*: Providing Visibility to the *Khanga*'s Oral Literary Messages

01/07/2025 to 05/07/2025: Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS) conference at the **UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, NAIROBI, KENYA**

Title of paper presented:

Traversing Borders: Migration, Identity, and Economic Displacement in Chika Unigwe's *On Black Sisters' Street* Within the Context of Global South-North Mobility

25/06/2025 to 28/06/2025: African Literature Association (ALA) 50th Annual Conference at the **UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, NAIROBI, KENYA**

Titles of papers presented:

Reclaiming Nature: Ecological Spaces and Resistance in Wangari Maathai's *Unbowed*

and

Ecological Explorations in African Literature and Culture: Reading *Unbowed* and *Vanishing Herds*

20/06/2025: Celebrating the Life and Works of Prof. Ngugi wa Thiong'o at **TAIFA HALL, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, KENYA**

04/03/2025 to 07/03/2025: Pedagogical Skills Training held virtually by the Centre for Teacher Professional Development and Excellence (TPDEX) at **KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, KENYA**

26/11/2024 to 27/11/2024: Workshop on West African Literary and Cultural Metadata at **UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN**

Title of paper presented:

Digitizing *Jina*: Providing Visibility to the *Khanga*'s Oral Literary Messages

04/09/2024: Workshop on Street Preaching as Performance: Aesthetics, Form, and Genre, jointly hosted by the African Literary Metadata project (ALMEDA) at Uppsala University and the Centre of African Studies at Copenhagen University, at **UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN**

10/07/2024 to 13/07/2024: Planetary Fiction: African Literature and Climate Change’ Seminar at THE UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Title of paper presented:

Narratives of Environmental Contestation: Intersections of Tradition, Modernity and Activism in Henry Ole Kulet’s *Vanishing Herds* and Wangari Maathai’s *Unbowed*

23/05/2024 to 25/05/2024: African Literature Association (ALA) 49th Annual Conference at the UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE, KY, USA

Title of Paper Presented:

Cannibalising the African Immigrant Woman: Human Trafficking as Represented in Selected Texts by Chika Unigwe and Amma Darko

29/01/2024: QMS Refresher Training at the Graduate School Building, Seminar Hall Two, KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, KENYA

24/07/ 2023: TVET Curriculum & Occupational Standards Curriculum Workshop at KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, KENYA

24/05/2023 to 27/05/2023: African Literature Association (ALA) 48th Annual Conference at the UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE-KNOXVILLE

Title of Paper Presented:

Homing and Un-Homing: A Gendered Experience of African Women in the Diaspora in *Americanah*; *Behold the Dreamers*; *Beyond the Horizon* and *On Black Sisters’ Street*

A panellist in the Women’s Caucus of the African Literature Association (WOCALA) Roundtable discussion entitled:

Women in Self-Publishing: New Frontiers in African Writing

03/05/2023: Teaching Practicum Advisors Induction at KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

02/12/2022: The 44th Kenyatta University Postgraduate Seminar at KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

A Presentation of PhD Research Thesis Findings Entitled:

Emigration in Selected Transnational Fiction by African Women Writers:
A Study of Female Characters of African Descent

10/11/2022 to 13/11/ 2022: National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, at **THE HILTON MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA U.S.A**

Title of Paper Presented:

Yvonne Vera's *The Stone Virgins*: A Representation of Women's Presence in Zimbabwean Politics

20/02/2022: Training for Module Writers (Online), **KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**

18/05/2022 to 21/05/2022: African Literature Association (ALA) 47th Annual Conference Online

A panellist in the Women's Caucus of the African Literature Association (WOCALA) Roundtable discussion entitled:

Emigration and the Diaspora

26/05/2021-29/05/ 2021: African Literature Association (ALA) Annual Conference (Online)

Title of Paper Presented:

Self-Censorship: Yvonne Vera and the Politics of Zimbabwe

19/02/2021: International Mother Language Day Conference at **THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE AND CULTURE, KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, NAIROBI, KENYA**

Title of Paper Presented:

Mother languages and Other Languages: Navigating Covid 19 through East African Poetrimusical Craftsmanship

13/09/2019: International Conference on Advanced Research in Humanities and Social Sciences at **THE KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES, NAIROBI**

Title of Paper Presented:

Struggle for Survival: Female Masculinisation as presented in Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's *Coming to Birth* and *Victoria and Murder in Majengo*

23/05/2018 to 26/05/2018: African Literature Association (ALA) Annual Conference at **THE MARIOTT, WARDMAN PARK, WASHINGTON DC, USA**

Title of Paper Presented:

Through Ecofeminist Eyes: JM Coetzee's *Disgrace*

14/06/2017 to 17/06/2017: African Literature Association (ALA) Annual Conference at **YALE UNIVERSITY, USA**

Title of Paper Presented:

Mothers, Daughters and Gendered Violence during the Biafran War in Nigeria and the Post-Election Violence in Kenya

24/06/2015 to 26/06/2015: Kenya Oral Literature Association (KOLA) Annual Conference at **KIBABII UNIVERSITY, KENYA**

Title of Paper Presented:

Indigenous Oral Poetry for Biodiversity Preservation and National Integration

27/07/2015 to 28/07/2015: Pedagogical Skills and Training Workshop at **KIBABII UNIVERSITY, KENYA**

WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

- Member, Organizing Committee of the 'Locating Film in the Multiple Geographies of the Audiovisual Archive: A Symposium on Film and Archival Practices', funded by Riksbankensjubileumsfond, held on 26th March, 2026 at Lecture Hall XI, Universitethuset, Biskopsgatan 3, **UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN**
- Organizer and host of the Materialities of Oral Cultures in East Africa: An Online Workshop on 12th March, 2026 under the auspices of the African Literary Metadata Project at **UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN**

DATA DISSEMINATION

23/12/2025: Data dissemination of my postdoctoral research findings at **KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, MOMBASA CAMPUS, KENYA**, funded by the British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA), an Impact Grant Award

Title of Presentation:

Beyond Speech: Enabling Visibility of the *Jina* as an Oral Cultural Form in Kenya's Coastal Region

COURSES ATTENDED

Sep to Dec. 2025: Supervising Doctoral Students Course at **UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN**

PUBLICATIONS

Makokha, G. A. (2026). Enabling Visibility of the Jina as an Oral Cultural Form in Kenya's Coastal Region. British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA) Blog Post: [Enabling Visibility of the Jina as an Oral Cultural Form in Kenya's Coastal Region | British Institute in Eastern Africa](#)

Makokha, G. A. (2024). Cannibalising the African immigrant woman: Human trafficking as represented in Amma Darko's *Beyond the Horizon* and Chika Unigwe's *On Black Sisters' Street*. *Hybrid Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies*, 6(1). <https://doi.org/10.58256/k8gas404>Section: <https://doi.org/10.58256/k8gas404>

Makokha, G. A., Muhia, M., & Obura, O. (2022). Beautiful dreams: Deconstructing discourses of redemption in Darko's *Beyond the Horizon* (1995), Unigwe's *On Black Sisters' Street* (2009), Adichie's *Americanah* (2013) and Mbue's *Behold the Dreamers* (2016). *Hybrid Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies*, 4(3). Retrieved from <https://royalliteglobal.com/hybrid-literary/article/view/932>

Makokha, G. A., Muhia, M., & Obura, O. (2022). No longer Green: Female characters of African descent as sex workers in Chika Unigwe's *On Black Sisters' Street* (2009) and Amma Darko's *Beyond the Horizon* (1995). *Research Journal in Advanced Humanities*, 3(4). Retrieved from <https://royalliteglobal.com/advancedhumanities/article/view/891>

Makokha, G. A. (2021). Navigating diaspora: An experience of female characters of African descent in selected novels by African female writers. *Research Journal in Advanced Humanities*, 2(1). Retrieved from <https://royalliteglobal.com/advanced-humanities/article/view/554>

Gloria Ajami Makokha & J.K.S Makokha (2020) Through Toundi's Lens: First Person Narration and Its Thematic Significance in Ferdinand Oyono's *Houseboy* (1966) *The Cactus Journal of Theatre and Visual Arts*, Vol 3, Issue 1, pp. 1-13, September, 2020

Gloria Ajami Makokha & Justus Makokha (2020) Between Globalization and Localization: Aesthetic Manifestation of Globality, Reflexivity and Social Change in Daya Pawar's *Baluta* (2015) *Hybrid Journal*

of Literary and Cultural Studies, <https://royalliteglobal.com/hybrid-literary/article/view/3/1> Vol 2, Issue 2, pp. 1-13, January, 2020

Maurice Simbili Mwichuli & Gloria Ajami Makokha (2020) Struggle for Survival: Female Masculinization as presented in Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's *Coming to Birth* and *Victoria and Murder in Majengo* *Journal of Postcolonial Writing and World Literatures*, <https://royalliteglobal.com/world-literatures/article/view/49> Vol.1, Issue 1, pp. 4-14, February, 2020

Gloria Ajami Makokha (2019) Three Regions, One Message: A Comparative Analysis of Poems From Africa, The United States of America and British Guiana *International Journal of Current Research* DOI: <https://doi.org/10.24941/ijcr.36754.09.2019> Vol. 11, Issue, 09, pp.7400-7403, September, 2019

Gloria Ajami Makokha (2015) The African Woman In ***Coming to Birth***: A Critical Analysis of Kenya's Liberation as Depicted by the Woman's Liberation in Society *Educational Research Journal* (ISSN: 2141-5161), DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14303/er.2015.014> Vol. 6(1) pp. 1-12

Gloria Ajami Makokha (2014) Portrayal of the African Woman in ***Half of a Yellow Sun*** *Journal Research in Peace, Gender and Development (JRPGD)* DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14303/jrpgd.2014.041> Vol. 4(6) pp. 111-120

Nyambane Fredrick Monanti^{1*}; Zakayo Amayi²; **Ajami Gloria**³ & Minyikha Lilian⁴ (2015) Indigenous Oral Poetry For Biodiversity Conservation and (Inter) National Integration, *International Journal of Innovative Social Sciences & Humanities Research* (ISSN: 2354:-2926) Vol.3 (2) pp60-68

ACADEMIC PRIZES

- Full Funding by the English Department, Uppsala University to attend and present a paper at the African Literature Association (ALA) 51st Annual Conference at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA from 28th - 30th June 2026
- Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the African Literary Metadata (ALMEDA) Research Project in the Department of English, Uppsala University, Sweden, August, 2024 - July 2026, Funded by the European Research Council (ERC)

Project Title: **Rethinking Ephemeral Oral Cultural Forms in East Africa: A Study of The Coastal Regions of Kenya and Tanzania**

- Full Funding by the English Department, Uppsala University, for a Research trip to **Stichting Pieter Fentener Van Vlissingen Archives in Helmond, Netherlands** from 19th – 24th October, 2025

- Full Funding by the African Literary Metadata (ALMEDA) Project, Uppsala, Sweden, to attend The International Society for the Oral Literatures of Africa (ISOLA) Conference held in University of Abuja, Abuja, Nigeria on 9th -12th July 2025
- British Institute in Eastern Africa's Impact Grant Award, May, 2025
- Full Funding by The University of Johannesburg to attend the 'Planetary Fiction: African Literature and Climate Change' Seminar, in Johannesburg, 10th - 13th July 2024
- The African Literature Association (ALA) Travel Grant Award, 2023
- Tutorial Fellowship in Literature at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Nov. 2017 - Dec. 2022
- M.A Full Scholarship at Aarhus University, Denmark under the Platform for Stability, Democracy and Rights: 2012-2014

OTHER SKILLS

27/12/2024: Talk Show Host of Sankofa African Affairs Gender Based Violence Discussions, A Focus on East Africa Webinar:

Topic: **Engaging African Union's February 2025 Convention on Violence Against Women and Girls: Can You Hear Us Now?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3rwnzOzB4k>

20/12/2024: Talk Show Host of Sankofa African Affairs Gender Based Violence Discussions, A Focus on Westa Africa Webinar

Topic: **Addressing Social and Gender Based Violence for Collective Social Security and Development in Africa**

[Sankofa African Affairs GBV Discussions GMT20241220 175934 Recording 640x360 1](#)

REFEREES

On Request