

CURRICULUM VITAE

1.0 PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Esther Katheu Mbithi, Ph.D.
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Languages: Kikamba, Kiswahili, English, French, German



2.0 QUALIFICATIONS

2.1 Academic Qualifications

- 2007: University of Nairobi: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Literature.
Area of specialisation: Stylistics and Literary techniques.
Thesis: *The Aboriginal Woman's Voice in Canadian Literature: Beatrice Culleton and Jeannette Armstrong* (Published 2010 ISBN 978-3-8383-6784-2).
- 1993: Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada): Master of Arts (M.A.), English.
Project: "The Politics and Aesthetics of Contemporary Kenyan Literature: Ngugi wa Thiong'o and *Petals of Blood*."
- 1992: Willis Business College (Ottawa, Canada): Diploma in Business Administration and Property Management. An extensive course which covered the key areas of Marketing, Human Resource Management, Computerised Accounting and Financial Management.
- 1990: University of Nairobi: Bachelor of Arts (Literature and French).
- 1989: Goethe Institut Nairobi: Kleines Deutsches Sprachdiplom (KDS), a diploma in German Language administered on behalf of the University of Munich.
- 1985: Limuru Girls' School: Kenya Advanced Certificate of Education (KACE).
- 1983: Limuru Girls' School: Kenya Certificate of Education (KCE).
- 1979: Buru Buru Primary School Certificate of Primary Education (CPE).

2.2 Professional Courses

- 2013: Centre for Teaching Excellence and Evaluation, Kenyatta University.
Training on Teaching Methodology.
- 2011: Training on pedagogy for foreign teachers of Chinese language, literature and culture. In Beijing, China, courtesy of the Confucius Institute of Kenyatta University.

2008: Diplôme Approfondie de Langue Française (DALF C1). Specialized training offered to graduate teachers of French in Kenya through the Alliance Française de Nairobi.

2.3 Other Courses

2003: Infotech Training Centre: Web Design Specialist Certificate.

2002: CIMPA (Connected Internet Meeting Planners' Association) conference to update members' skills and facilitate networking.

2001: Corbin Ball Seminar: "How to Survive and Thrive on the Internet."

2000: Kenya Utalii College: Environmental Management. Offered to Senior Managers in the hospitality Industry.

3.0 EMPLOYMENT HISTORY / WORK EXPERIENCE

Jan 2010-the present: Department of Literature, Linguistics and Foreign Languages
Kenyatta University (Main Campus)
Senior Lecturer

2003 Jan-Dec 2009: Teacher (English, Literature and French) at secondary school and College levels, initially on part-time basis and eventually accepting the challenge of a full-time position as **Headmistress, Laiser Hill Academy**.

1993 May-2002 Dec: Tour Operator, travel and tourism industry. Much time spent in key Marketing roles and functions. Prepared documents in English, French and German. Represented the organisation at the EIBTM in Geneva, Switzerland.

1986 Jan-1993 Mar: Worked in entry level positions in various service industries, including working as a **teacher of English** at Karura Mission School, and assisting in the mediathèque of the Alliance Française.

4.0 ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

July 2014-July 2018: Chairperson, Literature Department. Served the limit of two terms.
Key achievement: Doctoral programme through coursework, examination and thesis developed and approved by the university senate.

2013-2014: Served as Deputy Director, Centre for Refugee Studies and Empowerment (CRSE).

Jan 2010-Jan 2012: Examinations Co-ordinator, Literature Department.

5.0 POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION

5.1 Master of Arts (Literature)

1. Paul Khaemba Wanyonyi, C50/CE/13222/2005, 'Representation of Cultural Tension and Conflict among the Maasai in Ole Kulet's works: A Postcolonial reading of *Blossoms of the Savannah* and *Daughter of Maa*.' **Graduated in June 2012.**
2. Maurice Simbili Mwichuli, C50/CE/ 13886/ 2009, 'Aspects of Alienation in *The Price of Living* (1983), *Water Under the Bridge* (1991) and *Eve of the Storm* (2010) by Yusuf K. Dawood.' **Graduated in July 2014.**
3. Julia Njeri Karumba, C50/CE/26824/2011, 'Historical Consciousness and Character Formation in Yvonne Owuor's *Dust*.' **Graduated in August 2017.**
4. Grace Gathoni Karimi, C50/CE 15172/2008, 'Syntactic Choices in Jared Angira's Poetry: A Study of Selected Poems.' **Graduated in August 2017.**
5. Alfred Oyaró Omwenga, C50/CE/26829/2011, 'Strategic Silences in Abdulrazak Gurnah's *Pradise* and *Desertion*.' **Graduated in August 2018.**
6. Felicitas Nkechi Otuonye, C50F/26694/2013, 'Cynthia Hunter's Female Protagonists: A critical analysis of three selected Texts.' **Graduated in Dec 2019.**
7. Stephen Onchwati, C50/CE/25659/2014, 'The Absurdity of Love: An analysis of *In the Name of our Fathers* by Abdirazak Y. Osman and *A Sunday in the Pool in Kigali* by Gil Courtemanche'. **Graduated in July 2023.**

5.2 Doctor of Philosophy (Literature)

1. Evans Odali Mugarizi, C82/7666/2000, 'The Worldings of Ruganda's Plays.' **Graduated in August 2018**
2. Jeremiah Mutuku Muneeni, C82/31615/2015, 'Gender Ideology and Feminist Aesthetics in contemporary writing of African Women: A New Historicist approach.' **Graduated in July 2021.**
3. Emmanuel Dogbey, C82F/37217/2017, 'A Literary Study of Invectives in Selected Works of Bidi Setsoafia, H. K.' **Graduated in July 2023.**
4. Leah Anyango Okombo, C82/29427/2014, 'Selfhood and Character Development: a study of agency in selected texts of African Literature.' **Graduated in December 2024.**

6.0 CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

6.1 Funded Research

August 2025: Chairperson of the ArtFest organising committee. The ArtFest was an epic festival of the arts whose theme was "**Art, Identity and Transformation in a globalised world.**" The innovative conference took place on the main campus from 27th – 29th August 2025. Presented a research paper "Culture by Nature: an Eco-critical reading of Francis Imbuga's *Aminata* and *The Green Cross of Kafira*."

January 2022: Workshop on 'Uncommon Trends' at University of Vienna, sponsored by the Government of Austria. Paper presented: "What is '*she*' like? A reading of research articles that focus on female characters in the fictional works of female authors."

2017 - 2021: Joint researcher in KU-VC's Research Grant: "Transitioning from academia to industry: job application letters and curriculum vitae as the weak link."

May 2018: Workshop on 'Encountering Development in Postcolonial Literature' at University of Vienna, sponsored by the Government of Austria. Paper presented: " 'When many people together do one small thing...': a reading of *Unbowed: One Woman's Story*. "

July 2016: SHSS return airfare to attend 17th ACLALS (Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies) triennial conference at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Paper presented "Inclusions and Exclusions: a reading of *Unbowed: One Woman's Story*. "

September 2014: DAAD sponsored Workshop in Berlin, Germany. Theme: Movements. Paper presented "What did you Not say? Narrative strategies in Yvonne Owuor's *Dust*."

June 2013: DAAD sponsored Workshop at Kenyatta University as part of the on-going North-South academic exchange between the Free University of Berlin, the University of Cape Town and Kenyatta University. Theme: Transnationalism.

August 2011: DAAD sponsored Workshop on Teaching Decolonisation and Postcoloniality held at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Seminar paper presented: "Post Colonial Spaces – Brave New World."

6.2 Others

December 2023: East Africa Art meet and meat Extravaganza in Emali, Kenya. Contribution: the artistic representation of selected stories in Kikamba; discussant in the plenary session.

August 2023: Mashariki 6 Literary and Cultural Studies conference at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. Paper presented: "Backwards into the future: A comparative study of Rebeka Njau's *The Sacred Seed* and *Mirrors of My Life*."

February 2022: International Mother Language Day Celebrations at Kenyatta University. Reading, in Kikamba, of a creative piece based on historical fact: "*Kĩĩma Kĩ-nyaa*."

May 2021: Organised, with co-researchers, a workshop at KUCC to disseminate findings of VC's research grant project: "Transitioning from Academia to Industry: Job Application Letters and Curriculum Vitae."

February 2020: International Mother Language Conference at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. Paper presented: "The Creative Genius in Mother Language."

August 2019: 4th EALCS (Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies) conference at the University of Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. Paper presented: “Why and to where does Ajany run? Culture and femininity in Yvonne Owuor’s *Dust*.”

July 2019: 18th ACLALS (Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies) triennial conference at University of Auckland, New Zealand. Paper presented: “Encountering development in postcolonial fiction: a reading of *Blossoms of the Savannah*.”

February 2019: International Mother Language Conference at Kitui Campus, Kenyatta University. Paper presented: “Something Strange Here; Where Mother Language Meets Literature.”

August 2017: 3rd EALCS (Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies) conference at the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. Paper presented: “ ‘The obituary of Simiyu Barasa written by himself’: a critical reading.”

December 2015: 2nd African Urban Youth Language (AUYL) Conference at Kenyatta University. Paper presented “How Students of Literature in Kenyan universities Communicate in Writing.”

April 2015: Conference at Strathmore University. Theme: English for Effective Communication.

December 2014: Conference at Pwani University. Paper presented “Language Policy and the teaching of African Literature in Kenya.” Also session chair.

September 2014: Workshop in Berlin, Germany. Theme: Movements. Paper presented “What did you Not say? Narrative strategies in Yvonne Owuor’s *Dust*.”

August 2014: From Asmara 2000 to Nairobi 2014. An international conference hosted by the Kenyatta University Centre for African Studies: Session rapporteur.

September 2013: East Africa @ 50 International Conference hosted by University of Nairobi, Kenya. Paper presented “Writing the Nation: post genocide Rwandan Literature.”

June 2013: Organised and hosted a workshop at Kenyatta University as part of the on-going North-South academic exchange between the Free University of Berlin, the University of Cape Town and Kenyatta University. Theme: Transnationalism.

November 2011: International Conference on the Teaching of French (Language, Literature and Culture) in the Multilingual Context of East Africa, held at Kenyatta University, Nairobi.

August 2011: Workshop on Teaching Decolonisation and Postcoloniality held at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Seminar paper presented: “Post Colonial Spaces – Brave New World.”

July 2010: Multilingualism and Education Conference held at Kenyatta University. Paper presented: “Language Policy and Creative Writing in Kenya.”

May 2009: Seminar paper presented at University of Nairobi: “The Significance of the character of Safie in *Frankenstein* for readers in the twenty-first century.”

7.0 RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

7.1 Articles in refereed journals

December 2024: “What is ‘she’ like? Reflections on Indigenous Experiences of Gender and Feminism in the Study of Literature in Kenya and Canada.” Peer-reviewed research article in *Wiener Zeitschrift Für Kritische Afrikastudien/Vienna Journal of African Studies* STICHPROBEN 47/2024. 105-132.

<https://stichproben.univie.ac.at/en/>

December 2024: Co-author of “Language Policy and the teaching of African Literature in Kenya.” Peer-reviewed research article in *SAUT Multi-disciplinary Journal of Education*. Vol. 3 (1). 1-14

<file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/N4dKXSe9myeyuFbYcjzil8P4eKxXYMYnRIDAHWIZ.pdf>

November 2022: “The ‘rural-urban’ mix in the use of prepositions and prepositional phrases by students of literature in Kenyan universities.” Peer-reviewed research article in *Multilingual Margins: A journal of multilingualism from the periphery*. Vol. 9 No. 1. 74-82. <https://doi.org/10.14426/mm.v9i1>

December 2021: “When many people together do one little thing ...”: a reading of Wangari Maathai’s unbowed: one woman’s story. Peer-reviewed research article in *Graphos* Vol. 23 No. 3. 90-104.

<https://periodicos.ufpb.br/index.php/graphos/issue/view/2738>

September 2021: Co-author of “Why and to where does Ajany run? Culture and Femininity in Yvonne Owuor’s *Dust*”. Peer-reviewed research article in *Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies*. Vol. 8 Issue 1-2. 81-91.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/23277408.2021.1939936>

September 2021: Co-author of “Literary Study of Invectives in Selected Works of H K Bidi Setsoafia”. Peer-reviewed research article in *Journal of Marketing and Communication* 4 (1), 45-66.

<https://stratfordjournals.org/journals/index.php/journal-of-marketing/article/view/893/1059>

- March 2021: Co-author of “The Beauty of Insult among the Ewe people”. Peer-reviewed research article in *Hybrid Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies* 3 (1).
<https://www.royalliteglobal.com/hybrid-literary/article/view/415>
- February 2021: Co-author of “Transmutation and Temporality: Shifting Figures of African Women in Jennifer Makumbi’s Historical novel Kintu”. Peer-reviewed research article in *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation* Vol 4 No. 2. <https://al-kindipublishers.org/index.php/ijllt/issue/view/97>
- April 2018: Co-author “Female Characters Contesting Maasai Traditional Cultural Practices and Materialism in H. R. Ole Kulet’s *Blossoms of The Savannah and Daughter of Maa*”. *European Journal of English Language and Literature Studies* Vol.6, No.3, pp.7-17, April 2018. www.eajournals.org
- February 2017: “The Significance, for readers in the twenty-first century, of the character of Safie in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*.” A peer-reviewed article published in *Littera Aperta* Vol. 3. <http://www.uco.es/litteraaperta/index.php/litteraaperta/issue/view/3>
- May 2016: “Unsettling dust, fifty years on.” A book review published in the *SAUT Multi-Disciplinary Journal of Education* Vol. 1(1). Mwanza: Faculty of Education St Augustine University of Tanzania. 103-104.
 Copy available at: www.creativewritingekm.com/unsettling-dust-fifty-years-on/
- October 2015: “Brave New World – a reading of *The Verdict of Death* and *The Unbroken Spirit*.” A peer-reviewed article published in the *Pyrex Journal of English and Literature*. <http://pyrexjournals.org/pjel/pdf/2015/october/mbithi.pdf>
http://academia.edu/65873610/Brave_New_World_a_reading_of_The_Unbroken_Spirit_and_The_Verdict_of_Death
- August 2014: “Multilingualism, language policy and creative writing in Kenya.” A peer-reviewed article published by Springer in *Multilingual Education* 2014, 4:19
<http://www.multilingual-education.com/content/4/1/19>

7.2 Books

- January 2025: Authored *Which Word? A simplified guide to English Grammar*. Bleeding Ink Scribes. Nairobi. ISBN: 978-9914-37-475-9.
- September 2010: Authored *The Aboriginal Woman’s Voice in Canadian Literature*, revised Ph.D. Thesis published by Lambert Academic Publishing. ISBN: 978-3-8383-6784-2.

7.3 Chapters in Books

- January 2024: Co-author of “Something Strange Here; Where Mother Language Meets Literature.” in K. Ngure, S. Kamau and M. Nzunga. *Hallowing Mother Language and Cultural Diversity in East Africa*. Pp 134-141.

December 2009: “Teaching Franco-phone Literature in Translation,” a chapter in book edited by Prof. Chesaina entitled *The Teaching of African Literature in the 21st Century*.

7.4 Others

October 2023: Review of Journal article: Ref.: Ms. No. REAL-2023-0008

‘Back home in the States’: The African’s quest for home in postcolonial Africa in *Chains of Junkdom* by Okiya Omtata Okiiti
Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies

July 2022: “A Most Beautiful Bride”. Short Story published in the anthology *Voices That Sing Behind The Veil*. ISBN 978-99889-15179
https://www.amazon.com/dp/9988915179/ref=cm_sw_r_ap_a_i_H1S2DE5R6GFQ_XNQ7SAZQ_0

May 2020: Review of journal article “Translation as Dismembering and Re-membering: Non-Acholi speaking Lawinos and the Expansion of Contested Spaces in Okot P’Bitek’s Song of Lawino” for *Postcolonial Text*.

January 2020: Review of conference paper “Contribution of Mother Language and Appropriate Educational Reforms to the Realization of Vision 2030” at the request of the IMLD 2019 Conference Committee.

August 2019: Review of a Book Chapter “Mau Mau Shifts in Portrayals of Kenya’s Anti-colonial Liberation War for Centre for Narratological Studies, University of Southern Denmark.

May 2017: Review of Book *Cultural Archives of Atrocity: Essays on the Protest Tradition in Kenyan Culture and Society* for Taylor and Francis.

March 2016: Authored ODeL module *ALT 319: Canadian Literature*. Published by Kenyatta University for Open, Distance and Electronic Learning (ODeL) students.

July 2015: Authored ODeL module *ALT 206: Creative Writing*. Published by Kenyatta University for Open, Distance and Electronic Learning (ODeL) students.

August 2012: Edited a World Health Organisation (WHO) report: *An assessment of the capacity of research and diagnostic laboratories in Nairobi*.

July 2011: Authored ODeL module *ALT 403: Modern European Literature*. Published by Kenyatta University for Open, Distance and Electronic Learning (ODeL) students.

March 2011: Authored ODeL module *ALT 200: East African Prose Fiction*. Published by Kenyatta University for Open, Distance and Electronic Learning (ODeL) students.

November 2010: Edited ODeL module *ALT 303: History and Theory of Literature*. Published by Kenyatta University for Open, Distance and Electronic Learning (ODeL) students.

November 2009: Edited *Laiserite*, the school magazine of Laiser Hill Academy.

2005-2009: Member, Editorial Advisory Committee, Carleton University Magazine, contributing an article for each issue.

May 2005: “My Magic Moment,” a short piece aired on the BBC Network Africa radio programme.

March 2004: “My Street,” a short piece aired on the BBC Network Africa radio programme.

8.0 LOCAL / REGIONAL / INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

8.1 Local

October 2025: Appointment as External Examiner in Literature, Murang’a University of Technology.

8.2 International

April 2020: Invitation to join Advisory Board of the Ghana Journal of Languages, Linguistics and Literature.

2005 - 2010: Member, Advisory Board, Carleton University Magazine.

8.3 University Committees and Boards

November 2021 to the present: Founding Patron of the KU Toastmasters Gavel Club.

December 2020 - Jan 2025: Co-ordinator, Postgraduate Studies Board, Literature Section, Department of Literature, Linguistics and Foreign Languages.

June 2019 to the present: University Editor, Kenyatta University.

September 2018 - April 2023: Member, Curriculum Committee, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

April 2016 - 2022: KU-KMA Coordinating Committee Member, School of Security, Diplomacy and Peace Studies.

July 2014 – Dec 2018: Founding Patron of the KU Writers’ Guild Club.

January 2012 to the present: Member, Academic Seminars Committee, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

September 2011 - Mar 2013: Member, Curriculum Committee, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

January 2011 - Dec 2014: Co-ordinator, DAAD sponsored programme of academic exchange between Free University Berlin (FUB), the University of Cape Town (UCT) and Kenyatta University (KU).

September 2010 to the present: Staff Mentor, Kenyatta University mentoring programme.

June 2010 to the present: Member, Curriculum Committee, Literature Section.

June 2010: Chaired Seminar for Master's graduands at School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

January 2010 to the present: Assisting to edit the Kenyatta University newsletter and other official university documents for literary presentation.

9.0 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

January 2024 - Feb 2025: Honourable Treasurer, Machakos Golf Club. Director between Jan 2023 and Feb 2025.

January 2023 to the present: CWA Formator, St. Paul's Chaplaincy and Parish

January 2022 – Jan 2024: Treasurer, Lady Golfers, Machakos Golf Club.

April 2019 - 2024: Key speaker/Mentor on Waumini Radio. Area of Specialisation: Study Habits; Academics and Career Preparation.

April 2019 to the present: Member, Board of Management, Mumbuni Boys School, Machakos. Serving as Vice-Chairperson since 2022.

January 2019 to the present: Treasurer, Kasimu Women Group, Machakos. Member since 2015.

February 2017 - 2021: Parent representative, Mumbuni Boys' Parents' Association (PA).

2010 - 2016: Treasurer, CWA, St. Paul's University Chaplaincy and Parish, Nairobi.

2006 - 2024: Key speaker in workshops for secondary school students. Area of Specialisation: Study Habits; Academics and Career Preparation.

October 1998: Organised and participated in the Hare Krishna “Food for Life” charity cycling expedition (300 participants).

1997 to the present: Member, Fanaka Women Group, Tala. Served as the secretary 1999-2016.

1984-1985: Deputy House Captain (while in Form V and Form VI).

1982-1983: Senior School Prefect (while in Form III and Form IV).

10.0 ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

February 2025 to the present: Chairperson, ArtFest Organising Committee.

August 2023: Presentation of conference papers at Makerere University, co-authored with postgraduate students.

February 2015: Presented to Kenyatta University Senate, and received approval for, new literature Ph.D. programme by coursework, examination and thesis, in whose development I had actively participated.

2019-to the present: Actively involved in the review of the literature undergraduate curriculum.

11.0 MEMBERSHIP TO PROFESSIONAL BODIES

February 2025 to the present: Member, British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA).

2013 to the present: Member, Modern Language Association (MLA). Serving as a Field Bibliographer 2017-2023.

2005 to the present: Member, Kenya Association of Teachers of French (KATF).

2005 to the present: Member, International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

11.1 OTHER MEMBERSHIPS

2017 to the present: Member, United Kenya Club, Nairobi.

2016 to the present: Machakos Golf Club, Machakos.

11.2 HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Reading, writing, driving, swimming, hiking and playing golf.



Kenyatta University ✓

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🎨 Dr. Esther Mbithi, Chairperson of the 1st ArtFest Local Organising Committee, warmly welcomed guests and participants to the Official Opening Ceremony at the Kenyatta University Amphitheatre.

A vibrant start to a festival celebrating creativity, culture, and artistry! 🎨 ✨

[#ArtFest2025](#) [#KUCreativity](#) [#OfficialOpening](#)

