

Curriculum Vitae

1.0 Personal Information

Name Mbugua wa Mungai
Director, Disability Services Kenyatta University
P.O Box 43844, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya.
Telephone 020810901 Ext 4457
E-mail address director-disability@ku.ac.ke

2.0 Academic Qualifications

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel (Aug.2001-October 2004) **PhD**, *Summa Cum Laude* (Comparative Folklore). Dissertation Title: “Identity Politics in Nairobi Matatu Folklore”

Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya (1994-1998): **M.A** (Literary Criticism).
Dissertation Title: Self and otherness in selected writings of Nadine Gordimer.

Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya (1990-1994): **B.A** (Honors).Literature and English.

3.0 Fellowship

Fulbright Visiting Research Scholar, Center for Folklore Studies, Ohio State University, September 17th 2008 –May 31 2009.

4.0 Work Experience

2010-Present Senior lecturer, Literature Department, Kenyatta University
2004-2010 Lecturer, Literature Department, Kenyatta University.
1998-2004 Tutorial Fellow, Literature Department, Kenyatta University.
May 1996-1998 Graduate Assistant, Literature Department, Kenyatta University.

5.0 Administrative Responsibilities

2017 (May—) Director, Disability Services, Kenyatta University
2010-2014 Chairman, Literature Department, Kenyatta University
2009-2010 Chairman, Literature Department Post Graduate Studies Committee
2005-2008 Departmental time tabling officer

6.0 Research Projects

2020-2022 Youth with disabilities’ lived experiences, aspirations and current livelihoods engagement in Homa Bay and Nairobi counties, Kenya: policy implications and direction.
(KU and Sighsavers project)
Ongoing An assessment of access to formal financial services and products among People with Disabilities in Migori and Nairobi counties, Kenya.
(KU and Sighsavers project)

7.0 Postgraduate Supervision

Completed

PhD

Mwairumba, Yuvenalis: "Identities and Spaces in Selected Writings of Black, Indian and White East African Writers, 1950s to 1980s." (2015)

Macharia, Oscar: "The Tragic Form in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's Fiction" (2016)

Banda, Kariuki Nicholas: "Character and Worldview in Selected Contemporary Queer Fiction From East Africa." (2016)

Mooka, Edward: "Presentation of Masculinities in Selected Kenyan Female-authored Novels." (2019)

M.A

Wahome, J. Kamau: "Allegories of (post)Apartheid: a Psychoanalytic Study of J.M Coetzee's *Disgrace*" (2007).

Mac Kemoli : "Aspects of alienation in Meja Mwangi's Selected Texts" (2007).

Ong'ang'a, Alfred Mogambi: "A Psychoanalytic Analysis of J.M Coetzee's Characters in *Elizabeth Costello* and *Slow Man*" (2008).

Wanja, Esther Kangangi: "The Representation of Patriarchy in John De Mathew's Popular Music" (2012).

Kimongo, David Mwangi: "*Mchongoano*: An Examination of Jokes in Nairobi" (2013).

Ndiang'ui Ndung'u: "A Commodification of Oral Literature Via Social Networks: A study of Kula Happy" (2014)

Lithumai, Peter Kaberia: "In-Group and Out-Group Use of Language Among Matatu Crew: a Case Study of Meru Town." (2015)

Ligaye Nyanjom, Zakaria: "Literature of Atrocity: the Aesthetic Representation of Four Mau Mau Historical Controversies in Selected 'Mau Mau' Prose Fiction." (2016)

Mukuyia Zaddock Oyoolo: "Templates of Wanga Socio-cultural Family Values in Thematic and Stylistic Analysis of Ali Akeko's Selected Popular Songs." 2017

On-going M.A

Macharia, Gatundu: "Masculinities in Dambudzo Marechera's Fiction: *The House of Hunger*, *The Black Insider* and *Black Sunlight*."

8.0

Participation/Attendance of Conferences/Workshops

- 8.1** 2022: -Wa Mungai, M. “Twenty Years after the Act: Hits and Misses in Disability Inclusion in Kenya.” Lecture, Abington College, Pennsylvania State University, November 28, 2022.
-Wa Mungai, M. “Advocating for Students with Disabilities at Kenyatta University.” Presentation at World Disability Rehabilitation Professionals Association Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka November 11th -12th , 2022.
Mwangi P. and Wa Mungai, M. ‘Interrogating Language as a Social Bridge Extended to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities: A Critical Discourse Analysis Approach.’ ISA-RC25 Society of Languages International Virtual conference, 15th-27th June, 2022
- 2021: Wa Mungai, M and Muhia, M. “Disability in two Kenyan Popular Films”. Paper presented at the World Disability Rehabilitation Professionals Association Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka November 10th-11th 2021.
- 2019: Wa Mungai, M and Kamau, A. “Unpacking A Socially Just Public Transport Model for Kenya.” Frederick Egbert Stiftung (FES), Nairobi. November, 2019.
- 2019: Universities Disability Inclusion Network Workshop, Tangaza University College, July 19, 2019. “The role of University Administrations in Disability Mainstreaming”
- 2018: Caucus on Disability Right Advocacy Stakeholder Review of the Kenya Persons with Disabilities Act 2003 Repeal Bill, Desmond Tutu Conference Center, Westlands Nairobi, 8 November 2018
- 2017: -Workshop for the Education and Training Sector Draft Policy On Education and Training and Implementation Guidelines for Learners With Disabilities Nakuru, 20th -22nd September 2017.
- 2015: -Mobilities and Textualities Workshop, University of Cape Town, 19th-30th May, 2015.
- 2014- Planning workshop for the Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa, 1886 to the present, University of Lagos, 5th-8th January 2014.
- 2013: -East African Literature and Culture @50 Conference, University of Nairobi, September 2013.
-Implementation planning workshop for the Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa, 1886 to the present, University of Sussex, 29th September-16th October 2013.
- 2012: -Teaching Decolonization and Postcoloniality workshop, University of Cape Town, October 2012.
-Africa-Centered Knowledge workshop organized by PERC, University of Cape Town, February 2012.
- 2010: -Keynote Speaker, Cadbury Workshop, University of Birmingham, 6th-8th May, 2010.
-Planning Workshop for the tripartite ‘Teaching Decolonization and

- Postcoloniality’ project between Kenyatta University, Free University of Berlin and University of Cape Town, held at the Free University of Berlin, 18th-20th October, 2012.
- 2009: “The Race in Culture”, a conference held during May 1st-2nd, Mershon Center, Ohio State University, USA.
- 2009: “Issues in Accessing Higher Education” Fulbright Scholars Conference held on 19th-21st March, 2009 Washington D.C. USA.
- 2009: The form of Value in Globalized Traditions held on 6th-7th March, 2009, Mershon Center, Ohio State University, Columbus, USA.
- 2008: Interrogating South Asian Masculinities Conference held on 3rd-7th November, 2008, Bellagio Conference and Study Center, Italy.
- 2008: African Studies Association 51st Annual Meeting “Knowledge of Africa: The Next Fifty Years” held on November 13-16, 2008 Chicago, Illinois USA.
- 2008: “The wellbeing of black men and masculinities in the United States and Africa”, a scholars network workshop held on 16th -19th May, 2008, Serena Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2008: “African youth development through art and technology: The role of African hip hop” conference, held on 13th-15th March, 2008, Harvard University, USA.
- 2007: Disability, Culture and Human Rights Conference, held on 13th-16th June, 2007, Lenana Conference Centre, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2007: Culture and Identity conference held on February 24, 2007, Lenana Conference Centre, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2004: Media and Identity Conference held on 4th-6th August 2004, Holiday Inn, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2003: Colloquium on Popular Culture held during November 27th-December 1, 2003, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2001: Annual American Folklore Society conference held during 16th-20th October 2001.

8.2 Presentation of papers at academic and professional conferences

Wa-Mungai, Mbugua: “Contours of sociality: Reading Nairobi roads”, paper presented at the Mobile Textualities Workshop held during 20-30th May, 2015, Department of English, University of Cape Town.

“Isn’t this a text, still?:Contingent textualities of Nairobi Matatu texts”, paper presented at the Mobile Textualities Workshop held during 20-30th May, 2015, Department of English, University of Cape Town.

Wa-Mungai, Mbugua: “Through a Folklorist’s Camera: Nairobi’s Young

Men in (Im)possible positions”, Center for Folklore Studies Annual Lecture held on 1st October, 2008, Merston Center, Ohio State University, USA.

Wa-Mungai, Mbugua: “Besieged masculinities: Nairobi’s matatu men”, paper presented at the Interrogating South Asian Masculinities conference held on 3rd-7th November, 2008, Bellagio, Italy.

Wa-Mungai, Mbugua: “Youth masculinities in Kenyan urban culture” paper presented at the Scholars Network on “the wellbeing of black men and masculinities in the United States and Africa” held on 16th -19th May, 2008, Serena Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

Wa-Mungai, Mbugua: “Youth-state dystopia: Hip hop culture as a model for social survival in Nairobi, Kenya”, paper presented at the African Hip-Hop conference held on 13th-15th March, 2008, Kennedy Center for Governance, Harvard University, USA.

Wa-Mungai, Mbugua: “Disability onomastics in Kenyan Cultures”, paper presented at the Disability, Culture and Human Rights conference held on 13th-16th June 2007, Lenana Court Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

Wa-Mungai, Mbugua: “Innovating AlterNative Identities: Nairobi *Matatu* Culture”, paper presented at the Media and Identity Conference held on 4th-6th August 2004, Holiday Inn, Nairobi, Kenya.

Wa-Mungai, Mbugua: ““*Kaa Masaa*, Dangle With Spiders”: The Myriad Threads of Nairobi *Matatu* Discourse”. Colloquium on Popular Culture held during November 27th-December 1, 2003, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Wa-Mungai, Mbugua & David A. Samper: “ ‘No Mercy No Remorse’: Nairobi’s *Matatu* Mode of Travel and Passengers’ Personal Experience Narratives” paper presented during the Annual American Folklore Society Conference held during 16th -20th October 2001, Anchorage , Alaska, USA.

8.3 Exhibition 2007:

17th May, 2007, “Matatu and the City”, a photo exhibition held under the Urban Art: Sanaa Noma theme, Godown Arts Centre, Nairobi, Kenya.

9.0 Research and Publications

9.1 Articles in referred journals

Wa-Mungai,M., (2008): Made in Riverwood: (Dis) Locating identities and power through Kenyan pop music; *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, Vol. 20, No 1 pgs 57-70.

Wa-Mungai,M.,(2007): Tusker Project Fame: Ethnic States, Popular Flows; *Journal Of East African Studies*, Vol. 1 No. 3 pgs 338-358.

Wa-Mungai,M.,(2005): Nothing but ogre tales: Problems in the Conception and Practice of Folklore in Kenya. *Indian Folklife*, No.19 pgs 20-24.

Wa-Mungai, M., Samper, D.A., (2006): ‘No Mercy, No Remorse’: Nairobi’s *Matatu* Mode of Travel and Passengers’ Personal Experience Narratives; *Africa Today* Vol.52, No. 3 pgs 51-81.

Maupeu, H., Wa-Mungai,M., (2006) *Les bars Gikuyu de Nairobi. Cahiers de etudes Africaines* No. 182 pgs 313-331.

10.0 Books

Wa-Mungai, M and Gona,G. (ed) (2014). *(Re)Membering Kenya* Vol 3: *Governance,Citizenship and Economics*. Goethe-Institut, Nairobi. ISBN 978-9966-028-50-01

Gona,G and Wa-Mungai,M. (ed) (2013) *(Re)Membering Kenya* Vol.2 : *Interrogating Marginalization and Governance*. Goethe-Institut, Nairobi. ISBN: 978-9966-028-40-2

Wa-Mungai M (2013). *Nairobi’s Matatu Men: Portrait of a Subculture*. Goethe-Institut, Nairobi.ISBN 978-9966-1553-5-1

Wa-Mungai,M. and Gona,G. (ed) (2010). *(Re)Membering Kenya* Vol. 1: *Identity,Culture and Freedom*. Goethe- Institut, Nairobi.

9.1 Chapters in Books

Wa Mungai,M.(2014): This is a Robbers’ System: Popular Musicians’ Readings of the Kenyan State. Brenda Cooper and Robert Morrel (ed) *Africa-Centred Knowledges*, James Currey,New York,ISBN 978-1-84701-095-7.

Wa-Mungai,M.(2010a) .Dynamics of Popular Transgression: The Speed Culture

of Nairobi *Matatu*. Danielle de Lame and Ciraj Rassool (ed) *Popular Snapshots and Tracks to the Past*. Royal Museum for Central Africa,Tervuren. ISBN 978-9-0747-5279-4.

Wa-Mungai,M.(2010b) *Dimmina: Matatu* Mobility as a Metaphor for Social Survival in Nairobi, Kenya. Koln International School of Design *et al* (ed) *Learning from Nairobi Mobility*, KISDedition, Cologne.ISBN:978-3-9812459-3-6

Wa-Mungai,M. (2010c) ‘Soft Power’.Popular Culture and the 2007 Elections. Karuti Kanyinga and Duncan Okello (ed) *Tensions and Reversals in Democrastic Transitions: The Kenya 2007 General Elections*.SID, Nairobi. ISBN 978-9966-786-13-9.

Wa-Mungai,M. (2010d) Iconic Representations of Identity in Kenyan Popular Cultures. Wa-Mungai,M. and Gona,G. (ed) (2010). *(Re)Membering Kenya Vol. 1: Identity,Culture and Freedom*. Goethe- Institut, Nairobi.

Wa-Mungai,M.(2009). Innovating ‘AlterNative’ Identity: Nairobi *Matatu* Culture. Kimani Njogu and John Middleton (ed) *Media and Identity in Africa*, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh, ISBN 13: 978-0748635221.

Wa-Mungai,M., (2008) Disability Rhetorics and Identity in Kenya. Kimani Njogu (ed), *Culture, Performance and Identity: Paths of Communication in Kenya* Twaweza Communications, Nairobi, ISBN 9966724419.

Wa-Mungai, M. (2007) ‘Kaa masaa, dangle with spiders’: The Myriad Threads of Nairobi *Matatu* Discourse. James Ogude and Joyce Nyairo (ed), *Urban Legends, Popular Culture and Popular Literature in Kenya*, Africa World Press,Trenton, N.J and Asmara, ISBN 1592214991.

Wa-Mungai, M. (2007) “ ‘Ismarwa!’ It is ours”: Popular Music and Identity Politics in Kenyan Youth Culture. Kimani Njogu and Garnete Oluoch-Olunya (ed) *Cultural Production and Social Change in Kenya* (2007),Twaweza Communications, Nairobi, ISBN 9966974377.

Wa-Mungai, M. (2007) “Bodily Contrariness”: Some Preliminary Questions on Disability and Leadership in Kenya. Kimani Njogu (ed) *Governance and Development: Toward Quality Leadership in Kenya*, Twaweza Communications, Nairobi, ISBN 9966974350.

Wa-Mungai,M. (2006). *Hidden Dollarz \$ Centz*: Working the Wheels of Nairobi *Matatu* Culture. Helen Charton-Bigot and Deyssi Rodriguez-Torres (ed) *Nairobi Contemporain: Les paradoxes d’une ville fragmentee*, Karthala: Paris and IFRA: Nairobi, ISBN 2-84586-787-5.

Wa-Mungai, M. (2005). Wahome Mutahi & Kenyan Popular Culture. Herve Maupeu and Patrick Mutahi (ed) *Wahome Mutahi's World*, TransAfrica Press, Nairobi, ISBN 9966-940-96-0.

Wa-Mungai, M.(2004) Gikuyu Birth and Death Rituals. Phil Peek and Kwesi Yankah (ed) *African Folklore: An Encyclopedia*, Routledge, New York ISBN 0-415-93933-1.

9.2 Research Reports

Basnet S, Mungai M wa, Chailous A, Okello G, Jolley E, Muuo S and Schmidt E. (2023). Lived experiences, aspirations and engagement in livelihoods of young people with disabilities in Kenya: A peer-led participatory research. Haywards Heath (UK): Sightsavers.

Angwenyi V., et al. (2023) .Financial Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities in Kenya: A Rapid Review and Qualitative Study Report. Nairobi: Sightsavers.

9.3: Other Publications

Wa Mungai,M., and Muhia,M. (Ed.), 2023. *Daughter of Nature and Other Poems*. Nairobi: Access Publishers.

9.3 Work-in-Progress

Wa-Mungai, M. “Representations of masculinities in Kenyan Popular Culture.”
Wa Mungai,M. “ Beyond Spectacle: Popular Culture’s Agency in Nairobi.”

10.0 National and International Recognition

10.1 National

2022: Expert Reviewer for Daystar University’s Graduate Certificate in Interdisciplinary Disability Studies

2019: Judge, Kenya Cultural Heroes Campaign, Gong Communications/British Council, 15th August 2019.

2019-2021: Member, Advisory Board, Our Lady of Lourdes Girls High School, Mweiga.

2018-Present: Founding Chairman, Joytown Foundation, Thika Kenya.

2012-2014: External Examiner, Literature Department, University of Nairobi, Kenya.

2010-2022: Member,Board of Management, Heni Secondary School, Nyandarua, Kenya.

2009-2016: Member, Board of Management, Joytown Secondary School, Thika, Kenya.

2008-2009: Reviewer, *Chemchemi* Journal

2007/2008: Member of the fundraising committee for Joytown Special Secondary School, Thika, Kenya.

10.2 International

2013-2014: External examiner, Literature Department, Makerere University, Uganda.

2013-2020: Member, International Advisory Board, African Articulations.

2013-2014: Nairobi coordinator, the Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa, 1886 to the Present (a tripartite research project involving the University of Sussex, University of Lagos and Kenyatta University).

2010: Invitation to deliver the Keynote Address at the Cadbury's Workshop, University of Birmingham, 6th-8th May.

2009: Invitation to deliver a lecture to the Center for African Studies at Ohio University, Athens, USA on 16th April.

2009: Reviewer for papers proceedings of the "Language in African Performing and Visual Arts," conference hosted by Yale University Program in African Languages (Oct 2-4, 2008).

2009: Guest speaker at the Exploring South Asian Masculinities Conference, held during 3rd-7th November at Bellagio, Italy.

2008/2009: Recipient Fulbright Scholarship (Research) tenable at Ohio State University, USA.

2005: Hebrew University Shlomiuk Prize for outstanding PhD dissertation in the Faculty of Humanities.

2002: American Folklore Society International conference travel grant.

2002: Harry Truman Institute, (Hebrew University) conference travel grant.

11.0 University Service

2017 (Jan.—): Member, Kenyatta University Publications Editorial Board.

2015: Member, Advisory subcommittee for the creation of a Youth and Sexualities project for Kenyatta University Television

2015- : Member, Board of the Kenyatta University Press.

2010-2015: Member, Board of the Directorate of Disability Services.

2009: Co-writing proposal for the establishment of a Directorate of Disability Services at Kenyatta University.

12.0 Professional Affiliations

2021- Member, Executive Committee, World Disability Rehabilitation Professionals Association