



Dr. Mbugua Wa Mungai

Department of Literature, Kenyatta University
P.O Box 43844, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya.

Telephone: 020810901 Ext 574

Cellphone :0713210159

E-mail address: matatuman71@yahoo.com

Languages:Gikuyu, Kiswahili and English

Senior Lecturer & Chairman,

Literature Department,

Kenyatta University,

Nairobi, Kenya.

2.0 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

2004-Present 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

Departmental time tabling officer (2005-2008)

6.0 Postgraduate Supervision

Completed

M.A

Ong'ang'a, Alfred Mogambi, C50/CE/102503/04 : "A Psychoanalytic Analysis of J.M Coetzee's Characters in *Elizabeth Costello* and *Slow Man*" (2008).

Wahome Joseph Kamau, C50/6540/03: "Allegories of (post)Apartheid: a Psychoanalytic Study of J.M Coetzee's *Disgrace*" (2007).

Mac Kemoli, C50/10240/2004: "Aspects of alienation in Meja Mwangi's Selected Texts" (2007).

On-going

M.A

Wanja, Esther Kangangi, C50/CE/12504/04:

Oira, Richard Nyagaka, C50/10743/06: "Socio-cultural and Economic Corollaries of Identity in Ken Kamoche's *A Fragile Hope*."

Omwansa Wycliffe Nyarang'o, C50/CE/102503/04: "An aesthetic analysis of *Okwaroka: An Abagusii Male initiation ritual drama*."

7.0. Participation/Attendance of Conferences/Workshops

- 7.1** 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.

7.2 Presentation of papers at academic and professional conferences

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, Mershon 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, Mungai: “Disability onomastics in Kenyan Cultures”, paper presented at the Disability, Culture and Identity conference held on February 24, 2007, Lenana Conference Centre, 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.

7.3 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.

8.0 Research and Publications

8.1 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.

9.0 Chapters in peer-reviewed books

Wa Mungai, M. 2013.Nairobi’s Matatu Men: Portrait of a Sub Culture.

Kimongo, D.M., Mwai W. and Wa-Mungai, M. 2012.Urban Youth Folklore Genres: Mchongoano, Lambert, Saarbrucken.

Wa-Mungai, M (2010). Iconic Representations of Identity in Kenyan Cultures. Mbugua wa Mungai and George Gona (ed) Remembering Kenya: Identity, *Culture, Freedom*, Vol.1, Nairobi, Twaweza Communications, ISBN 9966-7244-7-8.

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.

10.0 National and International Recognition

10.1 National

2008-2009 Reviewer, *Chemchemi* Journal

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

2008-Member, Board of Governors, Heni High School, Kinangop.

10.2 International

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.

Research Project

- **The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa:1880-Present**, a 5-year research collaboration between University of Sussex, University of Lagos and Kenyatta University (EU Project Number 323343)

11.0 Professional Affiliations

2002-present: Member, the American Folklore Society.

2009: Member, the International Society for Folk Narrative Research.