

Curriculum Vitae



PROF. OLUOCH OBURA
KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE, LINGUISTICS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES
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My Core Competencies

1. I have excellent communication and interpersonal skills with an ability to relate to staff at different occupational levels as well as from different cultures/ethnic backgrounds.
2. I am a visionary and result oriented leader with excellent organizational skills as well as logical and sound decision making ability.
3. I have the capacity to work under pressure, able to withstand constructive criticism and consider alternative perspectives with an aptness to make difficult independent decisions.
4. I possess the ability to inspire and encourage colleagues with a commitment to collegiality.
5. I have acquired over the years a high level of personal responsibility, professionalism and a strong sense of accountability, being firm, fair and transparent in management style.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, University of Munich, Germany (1984)

PGDE (German Language), Freiburg University, Germany (1982)

M. A. (Literature), University of Nairobi (1980)

B. A. University of Nairobi (1978)

Research Interests

- African Cinema and Film Studies
- Black Aesthetics in the Performing Arts
- Applied Theatre & Discourses of Development
- Higher Education Management and Quality Assurance
- General Research Methods in Humanities
- Gender Mainstreaming and Cultural Production in Africa

PRESENT POSITIONS

| ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATION POSITIONS | DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES |
|---|--|
| Professor of Literature, Theatre and Film Studies Kenya University 2002 - Present | Teaching, Research, Supervision, Examination of Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students |
| Chairman – Quality Assurance Committee Kenya University 2012 - Present | Oversee the audit of Academic programmes in Literature at Bachelors, Masters and PhD Levels |
| Member – Literature Curriculum Development Committee and Literature Postgraduate Studies Committee Kenya University 2015 - Present | Aligning the Academic programmes to CBC and Creating new academic modules; and Vetting of Postgraduate applications and Staff. |
| Member – Kenya University Senate (2000 – Present) | General running of the University Academic programmes; Auditing of the Administrative Sections; Advisory Board to the University Management. |
| Member – Appointments and Promotions Committee Kenya University 2002 – 2020 | Vetting of Academic and Administrative Staff for Hiring, Promotions and Appointments across the 15 Faculties |

PREVIOUS POSITIONS (KENYATTA UNIVERSITY)

| ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATION POSITIONS | DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES |
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| <p>Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Kenyatta University 2009 - 2010</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulating and providing policy guidelines on planning, development and management of academic programmes. • Preparing curricula/syllabuses, and rules and regulations governing the implementation of academic programmes. • Formulating guidelines for the effective management, implementation and evaluation of academic programmes. • Coordinating both continuous assessment and final examinations. • Guiding Chairpersons of Departments, Deans of Faculties, Directors of Schools or Institutes and Managers of Academic Centres on the running of academic programmes. • Working closely with other Deputy Vice-Chancellors on staff development, training and research programmes. • Ensure that the University Senate is properly advised in the development of academic programmes in conformity to ethical standards and legally recognized professional bodies. • Responsible for coordinating curriculum development to meet the human development needs of the country and the region. • Ensure effective accountability to the Vice-Chancellor for the proper management of the Academic Affairs Division. • Responsible for promotion and coordinating teaching and extension activities. • Maintain collaboration and linkages with both local and international institutions of higher learning for academics, research and innovation programmes. |

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| <p>Dean – School of Humanities and Social Sciences Kenyatta University 2006 – 2008</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversaw the establishment of research centres at School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS). • Promoted and facilitated lead-edge research, including collaborative and interdisciplinary research, in areas related to the goals of the SHSS. • Built and provided sufficient support for, a community of innovative researchers to enhance research capacity at the SHSS and to increase internal and external research opportunities for faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students. • Developed networks between the research centres and researchers in the field in the public and private sectors, locally, nationally and internationally. • Developed mutual beneficial linkages with industry in order to develop partnerships and collaborative research of mutual benefit. • Transferred knowledge to society through outreach (e.g. seminars, workshops, lectures, websites, conferences, publications) and, where applicable, through technology transfer (e.g. collaborative research; contract work; and commercialization of intellectual property). • Led strategic planning for the research centres to ensure that their objectives are aligned with the School’s Strategic Plan. • Oversaw the proper discharge of administrative duties of the research centre including supervising personnel, financial management, and operations. • Reported to donors and other stakeholders on funding and research outcomes. • Managed the research plan effectively and efficiently, ensuring that accepted standards of research and ethical behavior are met; |
| <p>Chairman – Department of Literature Kenyatta University 2002 – 2005</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the teaching and evaluation of undergraduate and postgraduate students • Managing the setting, moderating, administering, processing and marking examinations • Managing the academic advising and mentoring of undergraduate and postgraduate students. • Articulating the Vision and Mission of the University College and the Department. • Initiating, planning and conducting research. • Managing the developing of teaching and learning materials. • Managing the supervising of postgraduate students in research activities. • Participating in preparation of Department and Faculty development plans. • Heading the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of curricula in the Department. |

| PREVIOUS POSITIONS (OTHER UNIVERSITIES) | |
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| Deputy Principal Maseno University 1998 - 2002 | Planning of Academic programmes; Auditing of the Administrative Sections; Student Administration |
| Dean – Faculty of Arts Maseno University 1994 – 1997 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversaw the establishment of research centres at the Faculty of Arts (FAS). • Promoted and facilitated lead-edge research, including collaborative and interdisciplinary research, in areas related to the goals of the SHSS. • Built and provided sufficient support for, a community of innovative researchers to enhance research capacity at the FAS and to increase internal and external research opportunities for faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students. • Developed networks between the research centres and researchers in the field in the public and private sectors, locally, nationally and internationally. |
| Chairman – English Department Maseno University 1991 – 1993 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the teaching and evaluation of undergraduate and postgraduate students • Managing the setting, moderating, administering, processing and marking examinations • Managing the academic advising and mentoring of undergraduate and postgraduate students. • Articulating the Vision and Mission of the University College and the Department. • Initiating, planning and conducting research. • Managing the developing of teaching and learning materials. • Implementation and evaluation of curricula in the Department. |
| Senior Lecturer – English Department Moi University 1987 – 1990 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching and evaluation of undergraduate and postgraduate students • Setting, moderating, administering, processing and marking examinations • Academic advising and mentoring of undergraduate and postgraduate students. • Articulating the Vision and Mission of the University College and the Department. • Initiating, planning and conducting research. |
| Lecturer – English Department University of Nairobi 1984 – 1987 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching and evaluation of undergraduate and postgraduate students • Setting, moderating, administering, processing and marking examinations • Academic advising and mentoring of undergraduate and postgraduate students. |

External Examiner

- **Moi University**
- **University of Nairobi**
- **Kenyatta University**
- **Addis Ababa University**
- **University of Dar es Salaam**

COURSES TAUGHT AND AREAS OF SPECIALISATION AT KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

1. PHD LEVEL

- a. ALT 909 – SPECIAL TOPIC IN LITERATURE**
- b. ALT 905: ADVANCED TECHNIQUES OF LITERARY PRACTICE**
- c. ALT 902: ADVANCED THEORY**

2. MASTER OF ARTS LEVEL

- a. ALT 803 – STYLISTICS AND PRACTICAL CRITICISM**
- b. ALT 815 – CARIBBEAN LITERATURE**
- c. ALT 818 – THEATRE ARTS**
- d. ALT 814 – DRAMA IN AFRICA**
- e. CFT 805: CURRENT TRENDS IN THEATRE**

3. UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

- a. ALT 201 – EAST AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA**
- b. ALT 308 – AFRICAN DRAMA: A SPECIAL STUDY**
- c. ALT 309 – INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE ARTS**
- d. ALT 310 – THEATRE ARTS INTERMEDIATE**
- e. ALT 402 – DRAMA**
- f. ALT 410 – DRAMA IN EDUCATION**
- g. VTF 205 – STAGE DIRECTING**

RECENT POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION AT KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

PHD STUDENTS

- 1. Name:** Mr. Wallace Kamau Mbugua (C82/7020/2002)
Dissertation Title: A Critical Analysis of Conformity and Subversion in Gikuyu Children's Oral Poetry **(Completed and Degree Awarded in 2007)**
- 2. Name:** Ms. Judith C. Langat-Mutahi (C82/7020/2002)
Dissertation Title: Inventing Women: The Black Female Voice in the Post-Apartheid Writings of Farida Karodia **(Completed and Degree Awarded in 2011)**
- 3. Name:** Mr. Charles Kebaya (M88/23372/2012)
Dissertation Title: The Invention and (re)configuration of Space in Selected Kenyan Television Drama **(Completed and Awaiting Graduation in December 2016)**
- 4. Name:** Mr. Robert Wesonga (M88/25156/2012)
Dissertation Title: Intertextuality of Literary Texts and Corresponding Film Adaptations **(Graduated in 2017)**

MASTER OF ARTS STUDENTS IN DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES

1. **Name:** Mr. Victor Ouno
Thesis Title: Representation of Individual Will as the Agent of Social Transformation in Wole Soyinka's Novels
(Graduated from Maseno University, 2014)

2. **Name:** Ms. Anna Kula Miti (C50/11265/2004)
Thesis Title: Portrayal of Yoruba Metaphysical World in Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman* and *The Strong Breed*
(Completed in Kenyatta University in July, 2006)

3. **Name:** Ms. Mwihia Njoki (C50/CE/10242/2004)
Project Title: Characterisation and Change in Sembene Ousmane's *God's Bits of Wood* **(Completed in Kenyatta University in June, 2006)**

4. **Name:** Ms. Rachael Diang'a
Thesis Title: A History of Kenya Film: The Evolving Image of the African
(Completed in Kenyatta University in March, 2007)

5. **Name:** Ms. Anne Kinya (C50/6506/2003)
Thesis Title: An Analysis of the Dramatized Narrative of the Kenya Schools' and Colleges' Drama Festival
(Graduated from Kenyatta University, 2008)

6. **Name:** Mr. Emmanuel Tsikhungu Shikuku (C50/6455/2003)
Thesis Title: The Use of Myth in Grace Ogot's Prose Fiction
(Graduated from Kenyatta University, 2009)

7. **Name:** Mr. Daniel Knight Were (C50/6001/2003)
Thesis Title: The Appropriation of the Alienation Effect by Selected Theatre for Development Troupes in Kenya
(Graduated from Kenyatta University, 2009)

8. **Name:** Ms. Evelyn Nafula Ojiambo
Thesis Title: The Use of Myth in Grace Ogot's Prose Fiction
(Graduated from Kenyatta University, 2009)

9. **Name:** Ms. Sapiensa P. Obiero (C50/5829/2003)
Thesis Title: An Analysis of Kenyan Children's Responses to Drama: A Case Study of Five Selected Plays by Adult Playwrights
(Completed in Kenyatta University in December, 2010)

10. **Name:** Ms. Dorcas Jemisto Tuitoek (C50/CE/24437/2012)
Thesis Title: Zakes Mda's Social Vision for Post-Apartheid South Africa: A Study His Anthology of Plays, *Fools, Bells and the Habit of Eating*
(Thesis Submitted for Examination, 2016)

FOREIGN POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS UNDER SUPERVISION

- 11. Name:** Mr. Shehu Hamisu Abubakar (C50F/29186/2014)
M.A Thesis Title: Masculinities in Selected Works of Buchi Emecheta and Asare Konadu
(Thesis under preparation by student from Nigeria)
- 12. Name:** Mr. Moikan Senyi (C50EA/28089/2014)
M.A. Thesis Title: Social Values in Young Adults' Novels: A Study of Selected Works of Nahida Esmail
(Thesis under preparation by student from Tanzania)
- 13. Name:** Mr. Solomon Obidah (M88/21941/2012)
PhD Dissertation Title: The Dramatic and Theatrical Aesthetics of Izara Traditional Initiation Festival of Amo People of North-Central Nigeria **(Completed and Awaiting Graduation in December 2016 – Nigerian Student)**

Recent Book

- Mwai, Wangari & Oluoch Obura. *The Female Imagination: A Biographical Dictionary of East African Literary Artists*. Berlin: Lambert Publishers, 2010. ISBN-13.978-3838391885

Recent Peer Reviewed Articles

- Ouno, Victor Onyango, Arthur Luvai & Oluoch Obura. "Representation of Individual Will as the Agent of Social Transformation in Wole Soyinka's Novel." *International Journal of Advanced Research*.4 (11). 2016. ISSN. 2320-5407. Pg. 1292 – 1318.
- Dianga, Rachel and Oluoch Obura. "African Images in Kenyan Film as a Response to Colonial "Misrepresentations" in Charles Kebaya, Pamela Ngugi & Miriam Osore. Eds. *Language and Translation: Theory, Pedagogy and Practice*. Nairobi: Nsemia Publishers, 2016. Pg. 31-58. ISBN-13: 978-1926906478.

Forthcoming Book

- Obura, Oluoch & J. K. S. Makokha. Eds. *African Literature Research: Trends, Issues and Emerging Perspectives*. (Forthcoming 2021).

Conferences and Seminars

1. Kenya Oral Literature Association (KOLA) Workshop In Mombasa 2009
2. Regional Workshop on Social Science & Conflict Analysis – Khartoum Sudan 2009.
3. Attended workshop – Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Oldenburg/Berlin August 2007.
4. AICAD Workshop on Regional Resource Persons Workshop for translators and export trade promotion in Commercial grants from East Africa 'The Use of Performance Techniques' – July 2007

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL REFEREES

1. Prof. Paul K. Wainaina,
Vice-Chancellor
Kenyatta University
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vc@ku.ac.ke

2. Prof. Peter Amuka
Professor of Literature and Theatre
Department of Literature, Theatre and Film Studies
Moi University
P. O. Box 3900 - 30100
Eldoret
KENYA
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3. Dr. Purity Muthoni Nthiga
Chairperson,
Department of Literature, Linguistics and Foreign Languages
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