

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: **Dr. Benjamin M. O. Odhoji**

Place of Birth: Yala, Siaya County

Sex: Male

Marital Status: Married

Nationality: Kenya

DOB: May 02, 1960

PIN: A002029397D

#### **Address:**

Home – P. O. Box 14747 Nakuru.

Cell phone: 0724920253

E-mail Address: [Odhoji@yahoo.com](mailto:Odhoji@yahoo.com)

Languages: Fluent in Luo, Kiswahili, English; French for Reading Comprehension

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**Present position:** Lecturer in Comparative Literature

### QUALIFICATIONS

#### **Academic:**

**PhD** Emory University, Program in Comparative Literature, Atlanta, Ga. 2000,

*\*Dissertation:* “Restorying” the Margins: Patterns of Self-Representation in Contemporary Black South African and African American Autobiographies.

**MA** University of Nairobi, Department of Literature, 1992

*\*Thesis: "A Literary Artist's Understanding of Freedom: A Study of Existentialist Influences in the Short stories and Poems of Taban lo Liyong."*

**BA** University of Nairobi (Literature and Sociology) 1987

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

- Member of the African Literature Association ( ALA )
- Member of the African Studies Association (ASA)
- Member of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)
- Member of the Association of Third World Studies (ATWS)
- Member of the Collaborative Center for Gender and Development ( Nairobi , Kenya )
- Member of East African Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (EAACLAS)
- Associate member of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)
- Research Associate for the Kenya Oral Literature Association ( KOLA)
- Member of the Modern Languages Association (MLA)
- Associate research fellow for SAFUNDI: Comparative USA/South African Studies
- Associate peer-reviewer for the International Journal of Peace and Development Studies (IJPDS)

**RESEARCH AREAS:**

**PAST PROJECTS:**

- "Traditional Bases of Sex-differentiation in Power relations and Control of Resources," Contesting Social Death: Essays on Gender and Culture. KOLA, 1994..*
- "Field Research and the Teaching of Folk Tales in Kenyan Schools."*

KOLA/British Council,1992

-The Annual **Okot p'Bitek Memorial Arts Festival**, Egerton

University, Njoro (July) - Research papers presented:

1993: "Prophets of the Devil? Taban Lo Liyong and his Latin American Ancestors"

1992: "Images of the Emperor in East African Fiction: A Fanonist Interpretation"

1991: "Salient Features of Traditional Luo Nyatiti Songs: The Case of Ojwang'

Nyangore, Lucas Odote, & Ogwang Lelo"

### **CURRENT /ONGOING PROJECTS**

- Texts of Terror and Horror: Testimony as Narrative of Survival for HIV/AIDS Trauma in Kisumu city.
  - Kenyan and African American self-referential narratives
  - African Poetics & Politics of Identity
  - Homelessness at Home: Francophone and African American autobiographies
  - Victorian Women's Travelogues in colonial East Africa
  - A Concise Guide to Understanding Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings of the Luo People of Kenya

### **RESEARCH INSTITUTES: PROFESSIONAL COURSES, RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS/AWARDS (Evidence – web links):**

2003: Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, Center for Comparative Literature and Society (CCL&S), Columbia University, New York

<[http://www.columbia.edu/cu/societyoffellows/events\\_spring03.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/societyoffellows/events_spring03.html)>

2001: Ford Foundation Research Associate ship, Five Colleges Women's Studies Research Center (FCWSRC), Mount Holyoke College (2001-2002)

<<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/comm/csj/101201/calendar.shtml><http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/comm/csj/101201/calendar.shtml>>

2001: Praxis series – Professional Assessments for Beginning Teachers (Test date:

11/11/01, ID: 02553484. English Lit (163pts) Essays (170pts) Boston MA

2000: Certificate of Attendance – Basic course in Conflict Resolution facilitated

by CCR Kenya chapter Nov 27 – 28, 2000  
1999: Teaching Associate Merit Award, Emory University  
1999: Comparative Literature Dissertation Award, Emory University

1999: Emory Graduate School Summer Funding Award for Research Abroad

1996: W. B. Yeats' Society Grant: (Attended the 37th W. B. Yeats' International Summer School - Sligo, Ireland)

1995: Fulbright Scholarship for Doctorate Studies, Emory University, Atlanta (1995-2000)

1992: Kenya Oral Literature Association (KOLA) Research Grant (1992) Research project on social construction of gender, Oral narratives of Alego- Masumbi

### **Other Qualifications:**

1995: Certificate awarded for *Introduction to PC and Access 2.0* by the Information Technology Division, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

1984: National Youth Service, Gilgil – Certificate of Basic Pre-University Service Training (April - August)

1981-82: Cardinal Otunga High School (Mosocho) – Kenya Advanced Certificate of Education (KACE)

1977-1980: St. Mary's School, Yala – Kenya Certificate of Education (KCE)

1970 – 1976: Anyiko Primary School, Yala – Certificate of Primary Education (CPE)

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### **UNIVERSITY TEACHING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

2009 **Current Position:** Lecturer, Department of Literature, **Kenyatta University**.

Teaching Courses: Literature courses offered at Kitui Campus

2006-2008; 2003 – 2004: Visiting Adjunct Professor, English Department,

**Yancheng Teachers University**, Yancheng, Jiangsu China

Courses: Mass Media & Communication; Business English; Western Literature; Poetry; Literature Research Methods

2005: Visiting Assistant Professor **Eastern Mediterranean University, TRN**

### **Cyprus**

Courses: The Novel: Analysis and Teaching; Semiotics & Media Studies; Concepts in Literary Studies

2003: Post-Doctoral Graduate Adjunct Lecturer, Center for Comparative Literature

& Society (CCL&S) **Columbia University, NY**

Spring Course: 20thC Non-Western World Women Writers.

2001 - 2002: Adjunct Lecturer, English Department, **University of**

**Massachusetts, Amherst, MA**

Spring 2002 Course: African American Department /English Department/ Course:  
\_Narrative Trends in Recent African American and Black South African Autobiographies

\_Fall 2001: Women's Studies Program: Course: WOST 292B: Politics of Identity

<http://www.umass.edu/wost/courseguide/fall2001/wost.htm>

1995 – 2000: Graduate Student Teaching Assistant, **Emory University, Atlanta, GA,**

*Department/Course:*

Comparative Literature Program: Introduction to Literary Studies

Interdisciplinary Studies in Culture and Society (IDS): Politics of Identity

Institute of African Studies (IAS): African Literature – History, Myth, and Tradition

English Department: American Literature since 1865.

1990 – 2001: **Lecturer**, Department of Literature, **Egerton University,**

Njoro–Kenya

Courses: African American Literature; African Literature; Kenyan Prose Fiction; Caribbean Literature; Oral literature; Latin American Literature; Theories of Literature; North American Literature; African Diaspora Literature; 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> C European Literature; and Classical Literature – From Ancient Greece to the Age of Enlightenment.

**High School:** TSC No. 299368

2005: St. Cecilia's Girls' High School, Nyahururu – Graduate Teacher of English

/Literature

1990: William Ngiru Secondary School, Kiambu –Graduate Teacher,

English/Literature

1989 – 1990: Lwak Girls' High School, Nyilima – Graduate Teacher

English/Literature

### **ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

2011 – Deputy Dean of Students, Kitui campus

- Associate, Management Team, Kitui campus

2009 – Current: Coordinator, Literature Department Programs, Kitui

Campus, Kenyatta University

### **Previous:**

2006 – 2008: Assistant Coordinator, English/Literature Programs, Yancheng

Teachers' University, Jiangsu, China

1990 – 2001: As **Lecturer**, Egerton University, Njoro

-Co-founder of the Department of Literature (with Prof. C. L. Wanjala)

-Acting Chairman of the Department

-Co-founder, Department of Literature, Laikipia College Campus

-Departmental Senate & Board of Under-graduate Representative

-Coordinator, Seminars/Publications Committee

-Founder & Patron, *Oasis* – Journal of Literature Students, Laikipia Students

-Coordinator – Okot p'Bitek annual Memorial Arts Festival, Egerton University.

1987: Editor in chief, *Mwangaza* Journal of Literature Students Association, (University of Nairobi; See vol. 1No. 2)

## **POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION**

Masters Students' Supervision: **On-going:**

Welimo Margaret Otota - C50/CE/11134/06: Search for Identity: Barack Obama's *Dreams from my Father*

Amutabi R. Lillian – C50/CE/11015/06: Narrative Structure in Chinua Achebe's Children's books

Other previous supervisory engagements at Egerton and Yancheng Universities

## **CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS: Papers Presented**

2011: Kenya Library Association - Training of Trainers Workshop. Nairobi –Chiromo Campus, Feb 02 –Feb 05.

2010: "African Oral Traditions and Intellectual Property Rights" International Society for Oral Literature of Africa (ISOLA) –Forthcoming, July 15-20, Mombasa-Kenya

2009: "Oral Literature & the Crisis of Cultural Consciousness: The Challenges of the

New Communications and Information Technologies" Paper presented at the KOLA Symposium on 'Digitalization of Oral Literature' at the University of Nairobi Research Center, Diani, Mombasa. November 4-8<sup>th</sup>

2007: "Poetics of Victorian Women's Self-Referential Writing in Colonial Africa"

British Women Writers Conference – University of Kentucky, 2007

2005: "Exilic Self-fashioning and the White Woman's Burden: British Women

Travelers' Self-referential Writing in Colonial East Africa." *Mobilis in Mobile*: International Conference in Travel Writing, Department of Literature, University of Hong Kong, July 11-16, 2005

2005: "Exilic Self-fashioning: The White Woman's Burden in Colonial East Africa"

ACLA Conference, Philadelphia, Pa., March 2005

<http://www.adpcl.org/JuliesACLAPage.htm>

2005: "Homelessness at Home: African American and Franco-phone African

Women's Autobiographies" Georgia Southern University Conference, Savannah,

Ga. February 2005

2003: "Exilic Self-fashioning: White Women's Self-referential Writing in Colonial

East Africa" Heyman Center, East Campus, Columbia University, NY. March 6

[http://www.columbia.edu/cu/societyoffellows/events\\_spring03.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/societyoffellows/events_spring03.html)

2001: "The Law of the Father in Mother Tongue: The S(ub)lime in African Oral

Narratives." Five Colleges Women's Studies Research Center (Oct 30, 2001).

1999: "Forms of Self-expression and Representation among the Luo people of Kenya"

34th Annual Comparative Literature Conference, California State University,

Long Beach, (March 1999).

1999: Metaphors of the Self and Forms of Self-expression:

Aspects of African Self-definition and Self-Representation," Humanities Research Center,  
Rice University, Houston, Texas, (Feb. 1999)

<<http://culture.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=238>>.

1998: "Towards 'The Eleventh Commandment': Existentialist Trends in Taban lo

Liyong's Narrative Art" African Literature Association Conference, Austin, TX (March 25 -  
29th, 1998)

1995: Attended - The annual African Studies Association Conference (ASA), Hyatt

Hotel, Orlando, FL. Nov.03 -06

1994: "Approaching the Folk-Tale with a Gender Sensitive Lens." Paper presented at

Kenya Oral Literature Association (KOLA) Seminar, University of Nairobi – August, 1994.

1994: Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Clinic, KOLA, Kitabu House, June17-18



1994: People Oriented Frame-work Workshop, FEMNET offices June 29, 1994

1994: Trained at a seminar - The Visualization in Participatory Program (VIPP)

Facilitators' Training organized by UNICEF, Safariland Hotel, Naivasha-Kenya March 27th - 31st, 1994

1994: GST Team Workshop, Sports-view Hotel, Kasarani, Oct. 20-23, 1994

1993: Field work in Oral Literature: The Owuor Anyumba Model. Paper presented at

The Anyumba-Nandwa Memorial cultural Festival, University of Nairobi, Oct 07.

1993: GST Team workshop, Kunste Hotel Nakuru, July 14-17, 1993

1993: Gender Responsive Planning and Programming (GRPPS) workshop Green-hills

Hotel, Nyeri, July 14-17, 1993

1993: Trained as Gender Sensitization Trainer (GST) by African Women

Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), Machakos-Kenya, July 23rd - 25th, 1993.

1993: Facilitated the Gender responsive planning and programming sensitization

(GRPPS) workshop for UNICEF program officers at Mary Ward College, Nairobi-Kenya, June 20th - 23rd, 1993

1993: GST Planning meeting, Masinga Tourist Lodge, Machakos. Nov19-21, 1993

1993: Workshop, GST Team & CEDC – Workshop for Chiefs and Councilors,

Teachers' Center, Nairobi. Aug. 4-19, 1993

1992: “Modifiers of Sex-roles: A Study of Luo Proverbs

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

**Odhoji**, The Eleventh Commandment: Existentialist Trends in the Fiction of

Taban Lo Liyong. Lambert Academic Publishing, Germany (2012)

ISBN 978-3-659-10291-2

**Odhoji**, *Restorying the Margins: Comparative Recent Black Autobiographies from the United States and South Africa*

Lambert Academic Publishing, Germany (2011)

ISBN 978-3-8443-8212-9

**Odhoji**. *Victorian Colonial Women's Travelogues: Early British Colonial Rule in East Africa*. Lambert Academic Publishing, Germany (2010)

ISBN 978-3-8433-6217-7

**Book-chapters and Journal Articles** – (plus web links):

**Odhoji**. "The Body as a Figurative Code in Luo Popular Culture, Vernacular Literature, and Systems of Thought." *Postcolonial Text*, Vol 5, No 3 (2009)

ISSN 1705-9100|

<http://journals.sfu.ca/pocol/index.php/pct/issue/view/26>

**Odhoji**. Essay in *Delusions: Social Construction of Gender*, Edited by Wanjiku Kabira.

Nairobi: Femnet Publishers, 1994

**Odhoji**. "Traditional Bases of Sex-differentiation in Power relations and Control of Resources," *Contesting Social Death: Essays on Gender and Culture*. Eds. Wanjiku Kabira et. al, Nairobi : KOLA, 1997

ISBN 9966990259 9789966990259

**Odhoji**. "The Miriam Makeba Story" in *Journal of New Poetry*, NP 5 (2009),

ISBN: 9-789-7836-0352-6

[http://www.africaresearch.org/Es\\_1509.htm](http://www.africaresearch.org/Es_1509.htm)

**Odhoji**. "Restorying the Maternal Myth of Origin in *Zami* and *Makeba*" (April, 2008) in *Safundi: Journal of USA and South African Studies*, 9.2.

DOI: 10.1080/17533170802012295

<http://www.safundi.com/issues/9.2/default.asp>

**Odhoji.** Translated into Luo language - *The Nose* by Nikolai Gogol, Serialized in a Lolwe Post, (2006)

**Odhoji.** *Meaningless Lives: Poems on Trauma and Survival* (Unpublished)

**Odhoji.** Poems in *Echoes Across the Valley*. Eds. Arthur Luvai and K Makokha. Nairobi : EAEP, 2000.

**Odhoji.** "The Zero-sum Game called African Studies in the US ," *Souvenir: The African Experience 1* (2000)

**Odhoji.** "Poems" *Voices: The Wisconsin Review of African Literatures 1* (1999)

[http://african.lss.wisc.edu/all/voices/voices\\_frm2.htm](http://african.lss.wisc.edu/all/voices/voices_frm2.htm)

### Articles in Newspapers and Online Magazines

**Odhoji.** 2005 – “Um Dhano Koso Dhand Um” Translation of Nikolai Gogol’s “*The Nose*” in *Lolwe Mahia* vol2 No.2

**Odhoji.** 2002 – “Language of the Press Encouraging Violence”, *East African Standard*, Nov 21.

**Odhoji.** 2002: “Joka Ng’ato gi Timgi,” “Timbe mag Auka yamo” and “Chiemo m’irero kinde lweny” *Jaluo.com*

<http://www.jaluo.com/index102702.html>

<http://www.jaluo.com/wechemokadho.htm>

**Odhoji.** 1994: “Giant Footprint may lead to evolution Theory” *Daily Nation*, (May 02, 1994)

### Associate Peer Reviewer:

**Odhoji,** *International Journal of Peace and Development Studies*

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION:

April 20, 1997: Certificate awarded honors Kenya for participation at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual

International Festival, Atlanta, Ga.

- Listed in global Scholars Omni-biography:

<http://www.omnibiography.com/response.asp?cadena=o&exact=1&index=1&st=3>

-Jan 18, 2005: Syllabus publication in SAFUNDI – Journal of South Africa and USA Studies

- Associate member: United Nations University, New York (UNU) 2005 – to date

- Scholars at Risk International Network (SAR) 2005 – to Date

<http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/About-Us/Mission.php>

- Chair Person: Emory University Alumni - East African Chapter

<http://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/EMR/cpages/chapterpage.jsp?chapter=179>

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**Referees:**

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