

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Kimani Kaigai (PhD)

Lecturer

*Literature Department, Kenyatta University,
Nairobi, Kenya*

Email: kaigai.ezekiel@ku.ac.ke

PhD – Stellenbosch University

MA (UoN), BEd (UoN)

P.O. BOX 43844

Nairobi

00100

PERSONAL DETAILS

NAME	KAIGAI K. EZEKIEL
DATE OF BIRTH	12 th June 1978
SEX	Male
MARITAL STATUS	Married
NATIONALITY	Kenyan
ID NO	21071553
ADDRESS	P.O BOX 1324 KERICHO
E- MAIL	kaigaikim@gmail.com .
TEL	0721492166

EDUCATION BACKGROUND

UNIVERSITY

2011-2013

PhD – LITERATURE

Stellenbosch University
South Africa

2008-2010

MASTER OF ARTS (LITERATURE)

University of Nairobi

1998-2002

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (Arts)

University of Nairobi

SECONDARY 1993-1996

NDUNDU SECONDARY SCHOOL
P.O BOX 516
GATUNDU

PRIMARY 1984-1992

NDUNDU PRIMARY

P.O BOX 278
RUIRU

OTHER QUALIFICATION

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI:	Certificate in Guidance and Counseling. Curriculum Development Psychology of Human Development Education measurement and Education Special Education Psycho pedagogy (Psychology of Learning and Teaching).
VITEEC TRAINING INSTITUTE	Certificate in Computer Operations

PUBLICATIONS

PAPERS IN PREER REVIEWED JOURNALS

- “At the Margins: Silences in Abdulrazak Gurnah’s *Admiring Silence* and *The Last Gift*” in Special issue of *English Studies in Africa* Vol.56:1, (2013).
- **Abstract**
- This paper offers a reading of Abdulrazak Gurnah’s *Admiring Silence* (1996) alongside *The Last Gift* (2011) with the view to exploring the signification and significance of silence. Using narratology as the guiding framework, the paper investigates how the two novels use literary strategies to represent silence as a code of meaning and meaning making while simultaneously calling this process into question for both the reading audiences of the novel as well as the embedded audiences in the stories. Both novels show a marked degree of

interest in the question of silence as one way through which migrants navigate the intersection of their present and past lives. The stories deploy narratorial unreliability and use of multiple focalizations as modes of engaging with the characters' silence. An analysis of the significance of these strategies in the narratives opens up possibilities of appreciating the heterogeneity of the migrant experience as narrated in the two novels from different voice positions some of which paradoxically involve the silencing of that very experience.

Keywords: silence, focalization, omniscient narrator, migrants, representation, memory, Abdulrazak Gurnah.

‘What’s the use of stories that aren’t even true?’ (Rushdie 20)

- “Sexuality, Power and Transgression: Homophobia in Abdulrazak Gurnah’s *Memory of Departure*” *Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies* 1:1-2, (2014) 59-70.

Abstract

This paper offers a reading of Zanzibari-born, UK-based writer, Abdulrazak Gurnah’s debut novel, *Memory of Departure* in order to explore how the novel positions sexual activities that are seen as transgressive and how contestations over these bodily activities imply issues of power (ab)use. I examine how characters who engage in homosexuality and prostitution negotiate for

personal autonomy or gain leverage over others. The paper explores the ways in which Gurnah contributes to the conversation about the body and sexuality. I show how embodiment offers a nuanced optic through which to capture the way power hierarchies in *Memory of Departure* are exercised. The paper suggests that an exploration of narrative representations of the gendered body offers insight on how sexual practices become narrative sites for scripting and contesting agency. Further, the paper suggests that the novel utilises various aspects of characters' bodies - physical, sexual, erotic - as sites for inscribing and decrypting social, political, and economic tensions as well as fragmentations.

Keywords: Abdulrazak Gurnah, *Memory of Departure*, sexuality, homophobia, homosexuality, narrative representation, gendered body, prostitution

REVIEWS IN ACADEMIC JOURNALS

- **3RD JANUARY 2013:** "The phonic multiplicity of John De'Mathew" *Voicing the Subaltern: Literary Discourses in Popular Songs of John De'Mathew* by KanyiThiong'o, Lambert Academic Publishing, 2012 in SlipNet.
- **JULY 5th 2012:** "Rethinking Eastern African Literary and Intellectual Landscapes," edited by James Ogude, Grace Musila and Dina Ligaga, Africa World Press, 2012 in SlipNet.

WORKING AND FORTHCOMING PAPERS

MAY 2015: “Strategic Epistolarity: Subverting Victimhood, Confronting Marginality in Gurnah’s *Pilgrims Way*.” *Hekima:Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Vol. 6:2 (Forthcoming- April 2015)* Abstract

Through the lenses of, and discourses, on victimhood, this paper offers a reading of Abdulrazak Gurnah’s second novel, *Pilgrims Way* (1988)), in order to explore how, the main character, Daud resorts to writing himself out of oppressive racial circumstances in Britain through imaginary letters that are predominantly not sent to the addressees. By engaging Gurnah’s deployment of the epistolary form, and Daud’s use of the letter, I want to explore how the novel uses the letter to attend to the trauma of dislocation, and to show how the use of the letter form significantly addresses the metanarrative of colonialism, in which displacement is implicated. Daud, is a migrant from Zanzibar, who has his black skin as a constant reminder of his “migrant” position both to himself and his “tormentors”. Because Daud is ill-treated at work, and denied entry into or violently evicted from pubs and other social spaces on account of his colour, he develops a mode of speaking back to his victimisers which does not require physical confrontation. He thus resorts to watching the game of cricket and to creating heroes out of teams of black people, while at the same time he writes imaginary letters about the heroism of these teams as he recasts himself as an important figure in the society that demeans him.

Keywords: Abdulrazak Gurnah, Pilgrims Way, Epistolarity, the letter, Daud, Victimhood, Black Britain

- **SEPTEMBER 2015: TENTATIVE TITLE:** Praise as Subversion: A Musico-Literary Reading of Thomas Wasonga's *Tawala Kenya Tawala*(co-authored with Patrick Earnest Monte – Stellenbosch University)

CONFERENCES SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

1. THINKING AFRICA FROM THE CAPE- 2011 CONFERENCE AT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY.
2. JUDITH BUTLER AND THEODOR ADORNO SEMINARS AT THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT IN STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY.
3. KENYA EDUCATIONAL STAFF INSTITUTE
Certificate in Education Management
4. KENYA LITERATURE BUREAU
Challenges of Teaching English / Literature
5. KENYA EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
Evaluation and Testing of poetry and set texts
6. MERU NORTH DISTRICT DRAMA ASSOCIATION
Scripting & performance of plays, dances, verses and Oral Narratives.

AWARDS

1. 2006
EQUITY BANK OF KENYA
Award for Original Verse on Current and Emerging Economic Trends in Africa.
2. 2005
Eastern Province Provincial Drama Festivals:
Awards in producing the following for student competition:
 1. Choral verse
 2. Oral Narrative
 3. Solo verse.

SCHOLARSHIPS

1. GRADUATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FOR FULL-TIME DOCTORAL STUDY AT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

DR. KIMANI KAIGAI: MA SUPERVISION

MASTERS DEGREE IN LITERATURE

WORKING EXPERIENCE

2014 –PRESENT

LECTURER DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE- KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

2008-2013

Assisting in Lecturing during the Scholarship Tenures at University of Nairobi and Stellenbosch University

2003 – 2008

TEACHING WITH TEACHERS SERVICE COMMISSION (T.S.C)
GARBATULLA HIGH SCHOOL
P.O BOX 84
ISIOLO

RESPONSIBILITIES

H.O.D LANGUAGES

- Supervising & Coordinating Departmental Activities
- Developing work plan
- Guiding and Counseling students

2007

ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF KENYA
TRAINING OF POLLING CLERKS AND PRESIDING OVER ELECTION.

2002 -2003

TEACHING AT SHINER'S GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
P.O BOX 3286
NAKURU

NAME	REG. NUMBER	TITLE
ANDREW WAFULA NYONGESA	C50/CE/25838/2011	Postcolonial Migration and Strategies of Textual Resistance in Safi Abdi's Fiction
ALFRED OYARO OMWENGA, B.ED	C50/CE/26829/2011	Strategic Silences in Abdulrazak Gurnah's <i>Paradise</i> and <i>Desertion</i>
BIBIANA LUFU KOLA, B.ED	C50/CE/21424/2012	Representation of Double Discrimination of Asians During And After Apartheid In Selected Fiction By Indian South Africans Writers
IBRAHIM GICHINGIRI WACHIRA	C50/ CE/ 25437/ 2013	The Aesthetics of Discontent and Dissidence in Lesego Lampolokeng's <i>Blackheart: Epilogue to Insanity</i> and <i>Whiteheart: Prologue to Hysteria</i>

CAREER OBJECTIVE

To work in a challenging environment which requires creativity, dedication and systematic implementation of projects either as an individual or as a team and with minimum supervision

REFEREES

Professor Evan Mwangi
Northwestern University USA
E- mail. evan-mwangi@northwestern.edu

Dr. Tom Odhiambo
University of Nairobi
Literature Department
Email: odhiambotom@gmail.com

Dr. Tina Steiner
Stellenbosch University
English Department
Email: tsteiner@sun.ac.za