

## Curriculum Vitae

### 1.0 Personal Information

Name Mbugua wa-Mungai  
Date of Birth 13<sup>th</sup> April,1971  
Nationality Kenyan  
Address Department of Literature, Kenyatta University  
P.O Box 43844, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya.  
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Languages Gikuyu, Kiswahili and English

### 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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

2010-2014 Chairman, Literature Department,Kenyatta University  
2009-2010 Chairman, Literature Department Post Graduate Studies Committee  
2005-2008 Departmental time tabling officer

## **6.0 Postgraduate Supervision**

### **Completed**

#### **M.A**

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

Wahome Joseph 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).

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)

#### **On-going**

#### **PhD**

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

Macharia Oscar: "The Tragic Form in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's Fiction"

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

#### **M.A**

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

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

Obura, Emmanuel: "Space as Character in Meja Mwangi's Selected Fiction."

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

## **7.0. Participation/Attendance of Conferences/Workshops**

- 7.1 2015: Mobilities and Textualities Workshop, University of Cape Town, 19<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.
- 2014- Planning workshop for the Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa, 1886 to the present, University of Lagos, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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, 29<sup>th</sup> September-16<sup>th</sup> 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, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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, 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October, 2012.
- 2009: “The Race in Culture”, a conference held during May 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, Mershon Center, Ohio State University, USA.
- 2009: “Issues in Accessing Higher Education” Fulbright Scholars Conference held on 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> March, 2009 Washington D.C. USA.
- 2009: The form of Value in Globalized Traditions held on 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, Mershon Center, Ohio State University, Columbus, USA.
- 2008: Interrogating South Asian Masculinities Conference held on 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, Bellagio Conference and Study Center, Italy.
- 2008: African Studies Association 51<sup>st</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> May, 2008, Serena Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2008: “African youth development through art and technology: The role of African hip hop” conference, held on 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March, 2008, Harvard University, USA.
- 2007: Disability, Culture and Human Rights Conference, held on 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> August 2004, Holiday Inn, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2003: Colloquium on Popular Culture held during November 27<sup>th</sup>-December 1, 2003, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

2001: Annual American Folklore Society conference held during 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October 2001.

## 7.2 **Presentation of papers at academic and professional conferences**

Wa-Mungai, Mbugua: "Contours of Sociation among Nairobi Road Users." Textualities and Mobility workshop, Department of English, University of Cape Town, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

Wa-Mungai, Mbugua " 'Isn't this a text still?' Contigent Textualities". Textualities and Mobility workshop, Department of English, University of Cape Town, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015.

Wa-Mungai, Mbugua: "Through a Folklorist's Camera: Nairobi's Young Men in (Im)possible positions", Center for Folklore Studies Annual Lecture held on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup>-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 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> October 2001, Anchorage , Alaska, USA.

### 7.3 Exhibition

2007: 17<sup>th</sup> 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 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 Democratic 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 Dollars & Cents: 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**

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

2011-2013: External examiner, Community Studies program, St. Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya.

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

2009-Present: 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-Present: 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, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> May.

2009: Invitation to deliver a lecture to the Center for African Studies at Ohio University, Athens, USA on 16<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 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**

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: Writing the proposal that was adopted by Kenyatta University for the establishment of a Directorate of Disability Services.

### **12.0 Professional Affiliations**

2002-present: Member, the American Folklore Society.

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