East Africa at 50: A Celebration of Histories and Futures Conference

University of Nairobi, 10 – 12 September 2013

Programme

Tuesday, 10th September 2013

08h00-08h30: Registration

08h30-09h15: Conference opening/welcome addresses

09h15-10h10: Keynote address: “Swahili Literature and Cultural Mobility” Prof. Euphrase Kezilahabi, University of Botswana  ED2 (UoN)

10h15-11h00

Panel 1a

Ecocritical interventions

Chair: Anna Kula  
Venue: ED213

Reclaiming the Destroyed Shrines – An Ecocritical Analysis of Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s Muroji wa Kangogo – Mugo Muhia, Kenyatta University, Kenya

Towards an African Ecocentrism: Nature-human relations in Bukenya’s A Hole in the Sky and Okoiti’s Voice of the People – Eve Nabulya, Makerere University, Kenya

Panel 1b

Writing lives

Chair: Tobias O. Otieno  
Venue: KCC

The Intersection of the Self and History in Kenyan Autobiographies since 1963 – Dr. Jennifer Muchiri, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Women’s Experiences Re-Inserted into Literary History – A Case Study of Wangari Maathai’s Unboxed and Hillary Clinton’s Living History – Odhacha Pamela Ng’ong’a, Maseno University, Kenya

11h00-11h30: Tea/Coffee

11h30-13h00

Panel 2a

EA Literature and criticism

Chair: Dr. JKS Makokha  
Venue: ED 213

Stocktaking and Evaluation in Margaret Ogola's Mandate of the People – Anna Kula, Marist International University College, Kenya
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Nostalgia and the Limits of Global Homeliness in Dinaw Mengestu’s Novels—Grace A. Musila, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Edgy Edgars: The RestLess Youth in Suzanna E. Nelson’s *Nightmare along the River Nile*—Dr. Paul M. Mukundi, Kenyatta University, Kenya

Rewriting Socialism – Navigating the East African Swahili Novel for Half a Century after Colonialism – David Yenjela, University of Nairobi, Kenya

**Panel 2b**

**Narrating the Nation and its limits**

**Chair:** Dr. Alex Wanjala  
**Venue:** KCC

Exploring the limits of post-national identity in Kenyan literature fifty years after independence - Milton Obote Joshua, United States International University, Kenya

East African chronotopes and social roles – the grounds of political malaise – Prof. Annie Gagiano, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Shifting Landscape: from Colonial Rupturing to Neo-colonial Distortions - Jairus Omuteche, Masinde Muliro University, Kenya


13h00-14h00: Lunch

14h00-15h30

**Panel 3a**

**Chair:** Sinoxolo Musangi  
**Venue:** BIEA

**Musical histories I: The nation in song**

Reflections on an Era: Freedom Songs and the Liberation Movements in Africa – A Case of Kenya and South Africa – Dr. Priscilla N. Gitonga, Kenyatta University, Kenya; Prof. Velile Notshulwana, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa.

“Revitalizing the Kalenjin Ethno-popular Music: the Significance of African Continental Consciousness”

Daoud Rotich, Kenya Oral Literature Association

Heroes and Villains of Uhuru: Orality, History, Identity and Transnationality on the Borderlands of Northern Kenya – Dr. Fugich Wako, Egerton University, Kenya

15h30-16h00: Tea/Coffee
16h00-17h00
Panel 4a

Mediating war and peace
Chair: A. Terah Ambala
Venue: BIEA

The Journalism of war: Kenyan media and violence - Nicholas Anyuor, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Experimenting Peace Journalism on Kenya Television Network's Diaspora Voices in the 2013 Elections— Dr. Fredrick Oduor Ogenga

Panel 4b

Writing Somalia
Chair: Dr. Tina Steiner
Venue: ED 213

Somalia: A Literary Perspective of 50 Years of Socio-Political Consciousness of the Bantu Jareer Community – Mohammed Eno, Omar A. Eno and Mubarak O. Taj al Sir, St. Clement’s University/ Portland State University/ADNOC Technical Institute

Poets as Muses of Migritude – Prevalent Images of Contemporary Somalia in the Poetry of Ali Jimale Ahmed and Mohammed Eno – Dr. JKS Makokha, Kenyatta University, Kenya

17h30: Writers in Conversation: Panel I
Venue: KCC

Wednesday 11th Sept 2013

08h30-10h30
Panel 5a

Writing violence
Chair: Dr. Godwin Siundu
Venue: ED 213

Ruptured Bodies/Raptured Minds: The Narrative (in)capabilities of the Mutilated Body in The Last King of Scotland – Nic van der Merwe, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Representations of Vulnerable East African Childhoods - Dr. Edgar Nabutanyi, Makerere University, Uganda

Writing the Nation – Post-Genocide Rwandan Literature – Dr. Esther Mbithi, Kenyatta University, Kenya

Producing East African Geographies – The Shadow of the Rwandan Genocide in the Kenyan Literary Journal Kwani?— Kate Haines, University of Sussex, UK

Panel 5b

Swahili debates
Chair: Dr. Solomon Waliaula
Venue: KCC

Insights into the Role and Function of Kiswahili as a Lingua Franca in Kenya – Rose Mavisi and Florence Miima, Catholic University/Kenyatta University, Kenya

The Veneration of the Prophet through Qasida: A Performative Analysis of the Hamziyyah during the Lamu Maulidi Festival – Dr. Tom Olali, University of Nairobi, Kenya
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Language, Socialisation and the Misrepresentation of Kenya’s Literary Scene – Prof. Kithaka wa Mberia, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Oral literature and nationhood — Raya, Timammy University of Nairobi, Kenya

10h30-11h00: Tea/Coffee

11h00-13h00

Panel 6a

Performance traditions
Chair: Dr. Fugich Wako
Venue: ED 213

Changing spectres: Interweaving loops in Kenyan Theatre - Emmanuel Shikuku, Freire Universitat, Germany

The Kenya National Drama Festivals and East African Popular Culture – Prof. Monica Mweseli, Kenyatta University, Kenya

The Written Against the Oral: Aesthetic Feudalism in Kenya since 1968 - Japheth Peter Muindu and Gladys Kimara, Kabianga University, Kenya

Performing while Waiting in the Spaces of Informal Work – The Case of the Kenyan Jua Kali Mechanic – Dr. Joseph Basil Okong’o and Dr. Solomon Waliula, Moi University/Maasai Mara University, Kenya

Panel 6b

African Languages
Chair: Dr. Tom Olali
Venue: KCC

African Literature - Place, Language or Experience? – Lencer Achieng Ndede, University of Nairobi, Kenya

The Resurgence of Interest in African Languages – A Case of Mother-tongue Use in Kenya – Dr. Lillian A Achieng and Dr. Vicky Khasandi, Egerton University; Laikipia University, Kenya

Mutirri - Reclaiming the Dusty Little Road at Kamiriithu - Macharia Mwangi, Kenyatta University, Kenya

David vs Goliath: Indigenous Languages and Official Language Policy in East Africa – Prof. Chege Githiora Kenyatta University, Kenya

13h00-14h00: Lunch

14h00-15h30

Panel 7a

The States of the East African State
Chair: Dr. Edgar Nabutanyi
Venue: BIEA

‘I wish to quote myself in my Message to Your Excellency’: A Presidential Diplomatic Correspondence between the U.S. and Somalia (1974–76) – Sinoxolo Musangi, British Institute of Eastern Africa

East Africa’s Postcolonial Citizenship Crisis - The Tanzanian Exception? – Jacob Akoko Akech, Makerere University, Uganda

Tribal Values, not Tribal Numbers, Count — Prof. Taban Lo Liyong, University of Juba, South Sudan

Panel 7b
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**Social anthropologies**
**Chair:** Emmanuel Shikuku  
**Venue:** EDU 213

- The Rise of a Begging Nation – The Discourse Patterns of Soliciting Offers Amongst Street Persons in Isiolo Township, Kenya – David Asule Mukoba, Laikipia University, Kenya
- The Samburu Traditional Communicative Ornamentation – Identity and FGM – Dr. Vicky Khasandi, Evelyn Mahero, Francis Ndegwa, Laikipia University; Egerton University, Kenya
- Jigger, the Symbol of Shame: Relationships of Stigma Communication, Shame and Health Seeking Behaviours of *Tungiasis* Sufferers in Kenya — Stephen Gichuhi Kimotho, Daystar University, Kenya

**16h15 -17h00**
**Keynote address II:** Dr. Susan Kiguli, Makerere University: “The Term ‘Orature’: Its Origins, Practice and Potential”  
**Venue:** ED 2

**17h30:** Writers in Conversation – Panel II: KCC

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**Thursday 12th Sept 2013**

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**08h30-10h30**

**Panel 8a**
**Critical trends and approaches**
**Chair:** Dr. Fred Mbogo  
**Venue:** ED 213

- In Search of Afrikology: Epistemological Case Studies From East Africa - Ronald Elly Wanda – Marcus Garvey Pan-African Institute, Uganda
- Where is Cultural Studies in Kenya 50 years on? – Dr. Tom Odhiambo, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Literary Awards and Cultural Production – Doseline Kiguru, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- Globalism, Cosmopolitanism and their Effects on the Language of Kenyan Literature — Dr. Alex Wanjala, University of Nairobi, Kenya

**Panel 8b**
**Crime, the city and cinematic insights**
**Chair:** Dr. Tom Odhiambo  
**Venue:** KCC

- Re-Imagining Nairobi City-scape Through the Feature Film: An Example of *Nairobi Half-Life* – Marciana Nafula, Kenya Oral Literature Association
- Themes in Kenyan Film: Seasons and Reasons – Dr. Rachel Diang’a, Kenyatta University, Kenya
- Trauma Aesthetics in Documentary Films about Atrocities of the Lord’s Resistance Army in Northern Uganda – Dr. Okaka Opio Dokotum, Kyambogo University, Uganda

**10h30-11h00:** Tea/coffee

**11h00-13h00**
Panel 9a

Writing Gender

Chair: Prof. Annie Gagiano
Venue: ED 213

Beyond Equity: Alternative Political Leadership and the rise of the Aminatas - A gender perspective of Imbuga’s play, Aminata - Samuel Furaha Gandi, University of Nairobi, Kenya

The Politics of Gayism, Gender and Morality in Adong Lucy Judith’s Just Me, You and the Silence – Tobias Otieno Odongo, Moi University, Kenya

Que(e)rying girls and literary archaeology in Ugandan Short Stories by Doreen Baingana, Monica Arac de Nyeko and Beatrice Lamwaka— Prof. Pumla Gqola, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Mother Africa Trope and the Aporia of Maps in Farah’s Maps— Neema Eliphas, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Panel 9b

The serious business of laughter

Chair: Prof. Mbugua wa Mungai
Venue: KCC

Urban folklore – A literary analysis of mchongoano – David Mwangi, Kenyatta University, Kenya

Verbal Duels in Kenyan Primary Schools – A Case Study of Mchongoano in Nakuru Municipality Primary Schools – Innocent Wandabwa, Laikipia University, Kenya

Who have we been laughing at?: Discussing gender in Kenyan television comedy – Dr. Fred Mbogo, Moi University, Kenya

Taking Margins to the Centre: A critical analysis of XYZ show and the social political hegemony in Kenya – Violet Oduor, Kenya

Panel 9c

Engaging Oral literatures

Chair: Dr. Okaka Opio Dokotum
Venue: KCC Gallery

Tracking the Language Debate in the 21st Century – Prof. Helen Mwanzi, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Centering the Peripheral – 50 years of Oral Poetry in Africa – Dr. Joseph Muleka, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Documentation of Kenyan Oral Literature and Traditions – Prof. Chris Wanjala, University of Nairobi, Kenya

13h00 – 14h00: Lunch

14h00-15h30

Panel 10a

Media histories

Chair: Jacob Akoko Akech
Venue: ED 213

Youth Generated Media and the Contested Public Space in Kenya – Eddie Ombagi, University of Kabianga, Kenya
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Advertisements and Social Imaginaries in Popular Kenyan Women’s and Youth Magazines – Prof. Bodil Folke Frederiksen, Roskilde University, Denmark

Chronicling the Kenyan broadcasting landscape: a legacy of elitist self-preservation, political profiteering and the ‘big tribe’ syndrome – A. Terah Ambala, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Panel 10b

Musica: Bongo, Benga, Genge and Zilizopendwa
Chair: Dr. Priscilla Gitonga
Venue: KCC

From Bongo to Benga – Makarios Wakoko, Laikipia University, Kenya

From zilizopendwa to Genge and Bongo Flava: Contemporary East African Popular music and the construction of Identity – Vincent Odhiambo Oduor, University of Nairobi, Kenya

‘Going to America’: Contemporary Kenyan Pop Music as a Discourse on Modernity— Prof. Mbugua wa Mungai, Kenyatta University, Kenya

15h30: Closing remarks and future plans
Venue: ED 213