

UON – New Website Questionnaire
C.V

1. Christopher Lukorito Wanjala (Popularly known as Chris Wanjala) reveals himself, in his poems, short stories, novels and his literary criticism, as a critic of affectation, deeply aware of the description of rural culture by modernity.
2. Staff Number: C10/2396
3. Title: Professor
4. Email: cwanjala1944@yahoo.co.uk
5. Telephone: 0722 501 372
020 244 384
5. Literature Department, Egerton University (1990 – 2000), Director Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi (1983 -1985).
6. Qualification: PhD (Literature)
B.A. Hons (Literature)
7. Area of Specialisation
East African Literature
8. Interests
South African Literature
Japanese Literature
Oral Literature of Kenya
Theory of literature
Performing Arts
Creative Writing (Poetry, Drama)
9. Extra Responsibilities
 - a. Appointed as a coordinator, staff development and Seminar Committee by the Principal, College of Education and External Studies on 28th June 2005 as per College Strategic Plan 2005 – 2010.
 - b. Appointed Co-ordinator, Technical Committee for drafting Kenya Cultural Policy for the Department of Culture, Ministry of Gender Sports, Culture and Social Services on the 24th of February 2004 (Ref. No. CSS/DC/5/41 Vol 26). He remains a member of that committee to the present.
 - c. Member, Board of Directors, Kopiken
 - d. Chairman, Bureau of Political Research and Analysis (B.U.P.R.A)
 - e. Chairman, KENFAA
10. On Going Research

a. Literature and Culture Bomas of Kenya

Detailed Descriptions

Major Research Works.

b. Creative Writing

Ingwe: The Oral Literature of the Abaluyia. This is a project Chris L. Wanjala has carried out from 1980 to the present. He is concerned with the oral literature of the Bantu speaking people who live between Nzoia River and the Mount Elgon. They have land which is adequately watered by streams and rivers. The fertile land gives the Abaluyia plenty of food. The capes are populated by the people who were called *Wakaavirondo*. He is concerned with the community which is described by C. W. Hobley as a 'powerful tribe called the *Ketosh*, in descent very much the same as the Wa – Wanga but with a strain of the Hamitic Blood.' (81). He says, "They were not on good terms with Mumias people and the tribe contained many wild spirits." (81). Hobley tells the story of his hostile encounter with the Bukusu. The groups come from Uganda and the rest of Western Kenya. Hobley attacked Lumboka, a Bukusu walled village. Babukusu stood their ground but were overpowered and eventually the walled village was taken and burnt. They fled to Chetambe's Fort and engaged the intruders into an epic battle. The Kabra's were great allies to Babukusu up to this day.

11. Job Title: Professor of Literature

12. Staff Category

Academic: Director of Nakhatama Research and Literary Agency (Consultancy Firm) Head Office: Krishna Mansion off Moktar Daddah Street, opposite Jeevanjee Gardens 2nd Floor Suite No. 35, P.O.Box 5644 00100 Nairobi G.P.O)

13. Inaugural Lecture, June 19, 2003, "The Growth of a Literary tradition in East Africa," Delivered at the University of Nairobi, 8.4.4. Building, Main Campus, University of Nairobi.

14. Interviews with writers on English Service, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation
Literary Giants.

15. Past Research

The Growth of a Literary Tradition is a subject Chris Wanjala has toyed with all the years he has been teaching at University Level (1972 – 2005) until it reared its full ugly head in June 19, 2003, when he delivered his inaugural lecture referred to in the same way.

16. Conferences

Attended the LSL Festival 11 – 28 December 2006. It was organised by *Kwani?*

Organized several interdisciplinary conferences on the literature and coutures of the abaluyia. Between 3rd and 5th December 1982, Chris Wanjala and Simiyu Wandibba organized a symposium on the proposed Chetambe Cultural Centre at Bungoma Tourist Hotel. The delegates visited fort sites in Bungoma District. They discussed the viability of the Chetambe Cultural Centre, the best way to go about it, and they types of facilities to be included. The proceedings of the Conference were published in a book entitled: *Cultural History* by G. S. Were Press.

Attended the Kola Workshop on the environment. Chris Wanjala read a paper on the relationship between East African Literature and the environment. The main objective of his paper was to contribute towards the revival of African civilisation and the establishment of the African Renaissance. He demonstrated the relationship between East African Oral Literature and the environment and showed how the environment has enriched East Africa's verbal art, and how oral literature can compliment conservation efforts.

13 – 14 December 2005 Chris Wanjala attended First ordinary session of All Conference of Ministers of Culture, Kenyatta International Conference Centre, Nairobi Kenya.

Attended Kwani Literary Festival, 11 – 28 December 2006, Heron Hotel, Alliance Francaise, Club Afrique , Nu Metro Media Store, British Council, Allen Bobbe Bistro, Paa ya Paa Art Gallery, Bookshop Yaya Centre 8.4.4. Building , Main Campus, University of Nairobi.

I chaired a talk show on Literary Giant for Stanley Gazemba, the author of *The Stone Hills of Maragoli* (2003) and M.G. Vassanji, the author of the *The Gunny Sack* (Winner of the Commonwealth Prize for first work of fiction, Africa Region) , *The Book of Secrets* (1993) and *The In-Between World of Vileam Lall* (2003).

Attended a Conference on 18th July 2000 on “The Authority of Memory in Narrative,” ISFNR July 2000 Conference (17 – 22 July 200) and presented a paper on *Kumuse Texts*. The conference was hosted by Literature Department Kenyatta University, P.O.Box 43844, Nairobi, Kenya.

Human Rights and the Writers Freedom: A paper was presented at the symposium organized by The Historical Association of Kenya, Asis Hotel, Sesian Road in Eldoret, Rift Valley Province, Kenya, 29th – 30th April 1995 from 9.00 a.m to 6.00 p.m under the theme, ‘Development in Africa since the 1960’s.’

17. Publications

Central and East Africa – A Personal Overview

By Chris L Wanjala with Alex Nelungo Wanjala
University of Nairobi, Kenya
Copyright 2005 *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, SAGE Publications
<http://jcl.sagepub.com>
London, Thousand Oaks, and New Delhi)
Vol 40(4): 253-0265. DOI: 10.1177/0021989405060478

Abstract

Ever since Professor G. D Killam of the University of Guelph edited *The Writings of East and Central Africa* (1984), and the conferences that lead to the changes in the English syllabi of Secondary Schools, nothing has brought the writers, booksellers, librarians, literary critics, journalists, and intellectual property lawyers of the region together more than book fairs which take place annually in Harare, Zimbabwe and Nairobi, Kenya. Names like Ali A. Mazrui, Njabulo Ndebele, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, David Rubadiri, Charles Mungoshi, Chejerai Hove, Micere Githae Mugo, which one sees on book covers suddenly stick into one's mind as one meets their owners at either the Zimbabwe or Nairobi International Book Fairs. During the years under review (2000 – 2004), Jared Angira, the internationally known Kenyan poet and chairman of the Kenya Organisation of Writers Association (K.O.W.A) could be seen with Dr. Jack Mapanje, the famous Malawian linguist and poet, at the International Book Fair almost every day. At the meetings under the aegis of the East African Book Development Association (E.A.B.D.A), a consortium comprising of the National Book Development Councils of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. As constituent bodies, these councils and the organisers of the book fairs in Nairobi and Harare argue that the challenges facing all the stakeholders of the books is the fight against the monster of illiteracy. A nation that has to operate satisfactorily in the twenty first century has to be a reading nation. It must celebrate the book. In conclusion, the highlights of East and Central Africa (2000 – 2004) are meetings of stakeholders in the book world at book fairs, with the colloquia that take place around reading culture in Africa as a major theme. Deliberate efforts were made by publishers, book sellers, and educationists to promote a reading culture in the region, sometimes with an undue emphasis on creating reading materials for schools at the expense of producing works of creative writing. The fast democratization of the societies in the region is likely to create yet greater interest and more recognition of the usefulness of the written word in the development of the countries of the region.

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM VITAE
(January 29th, 2007)

Name: Christopher Lukorito Wanjala

Qualifications **B A Hons , PhD Professor of Literature**

Address: Department of Linguistics and Literature
University of Nairobi

Personal Private Box no 5644

00100 Nairobi G P O

Telephone: 254-02 – 78 31 96 (home)

Email: cwanjala1944@yahoo.co.uk

Date of Birth: 4th April, 1944

Citizen: Kenyan

Marital Status: Married

Languages: English, Lubukusu, Kiswahili

EDUCATION

1971: B.A., Honours; Literature, Department of Literature,
University of Nairobi.

1978: Ph.D., East African Literature, University of Nairobi

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- 7 May 1998 Appointed, at the 162nd Senate meeting, to Chair a Sub-Committee to investigate examination results of students whose failure rate in the University was 25% and above. Sub-committee's findings were tabled, and adopted for further action.
- 1994 – 2000 Senate Representative, Egerton University Council
- 1991 Chairman, a Committee of enquiry into the establishment of a student Government at Egerton University.
- 1990 – 2000 Professor of Literature, Chairman, Department of Literature Egerton University, Njoro
Created a Department of Literature in November.
Prepared B.A. and M.A. Literature syllabuses.
- 1982 – 1983 Acting Director, Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi.
- 1985 – 1990 Associate Professor, Department of Literature, University of Nairobi.
- 1983 – 1985 Director, Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi
- 1981 – 1985 Senior Research Fellow, Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi.
- 1974 – 1981 Lecturer, Department of Literature, University of Nairobi
- 1973 – 1974 Assistant Lecturer, Department of Literature
- 1972 – 1973 A Part Time Lecturer with special tasks of teaching East African Literature and Modern Poetry

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Ingwe: Oral Literature of the Abaluhya: (Forthcoming)

Faces at Crossroads, Edited, Nairobi. East African Literature Bureau: 1971

Standpoints on African Literature, Edited, Intro. Angus Calder Nairobi.
East African Literature Bureau: 1973

Singing with the Night, Edited, Nairobi. East African Bureau: 1975

The Debtors, Edited, Nairobi. East African Literature Bureau: 1977

Attachments to the Sun, Edited with Dougal Blackburn, Alfred Horsfall et. al., London. Edward Arnold: 1978.

East African Prose and Poetry, Authored, Nairobi. Nairobi University Press: 1987.

Joliso. East African Journal of Literature and Society, Edited, Nairobi. East African Literature Bureau. Vol. I, 1, 2, 1973; Vol. II, 1, 2, 1974.

The Season of Harvest, Authored, Nairobi. Kenya Literature Bureau: 1978

Editor in Chief, *Egerton Journal*

For Home and Freedom, Authored, Nairobi. Kenya Literature Bureau: 1980

The Egerton Companion to East African Drama (Completed but not published).

Notes of the Harvest Season (Under preparation).

Notes on Grace Ogot's Land Without Thunder for O-levels, Authored, Nairobi. Nyange Publishers: 1982.

Articles and Book Chapters

“East African Autobiographies and Biographies”, “Drama in East Africa”, and Anthologies – East Africa”, in *The Companion to African Literatures in English*, James Currey Publishers/Indiana University Press (Forthcoming: Early 1999).

“Discovering New East African Poets”, *Busara* II, 2 (1969), 43-45. An extended version of it in E. Gachukia and S. K. Akivaga (eds.), *Teaching of African Literature in Schools*, Nairobi [Kenya Literature Bureau, 1978], 77 – 90

“The Growth of a Literary Tradition”, in *Criticism and Ideology*, edited by Kirsten Petersen [Uppsala: The Institute of African Studies, 1988] 67-80; also in *Journal of Eastern African Research and Development* (1981), 2.

“Culture and the Nation State”, in *Bottlenecks to National Identity: Ethnic Co-operation Towards Nation Building*, Edited by Jude J. Ongong’ a and Kenneth Gray [Nairobi Masaki Publishers, 1989], 9 – 16

“Literature in our Time and the University”, in *Trends in and Future of University in Kenya in the 1990s and Beyond*, Edited by Wanjala-Kerre and Kenneth Gray [Nairobi: Masaki Publishers, 1990].

In 1985, collaborated with the Italian Cultural Institute in Nairobi on the issue of the Magazine *Sinchron*, dedicated to Africa and Kenya in particular, published by Agip Petroli of Milan Italy.

“La Litteratura Dopo L’Indipendenza”, in *Synchron* Numero 5 – Anno 4 Dicembre 1985, 53 – 65.

“Twilight Years Are the Years of Counsel and Wisdom”, in *History and Culture in Western Kenya: The People of Bungoma District Through Time*, Edited by Simiyu Wandibba [Nairobi: G.S. Were Press, 1982] 78-90.

“Imaginative Writing Since Independence: The East African Experience”, in *The East African Experience: Essays on English and Swahili Literature Second Janheinz Jahn Symposium*, Edited by Ulla Schild [Sonderdruck: Dietrich Reiner Verlag, 1980] 9-24.

“Kenya and Japan in the 21st Century” Special Contribution in *Mikono* Nairobi (1990) First Issue, 1-5. Interviewed in the same issue 25-26.

“The East African Writer and Society”, in *Kenya Historical Review* (1974), II, 1, 22-27.

“The New Jerusalem in African Literature and Literary Criticism”, *Literature Review* Edinburgh, Scotland (1980) 25, 26.

“The East African Writer and Society”, in *Kenya Historical Review* (1974) II, 1, 22-27.

“The New Jerusalem in African Literature and Literary Criticism”, *Literary Review* Edinburgh, Scotland (1980) 25, 26.

“Culture, the African Writer and Alienation”, in *Maktaba: Official Journal of the Kenya Library Association* (1977) IV, I, 22-27

“Culture Events in East and Central Africa”, *Busara* (1973), V, 2, 70-76

“Theatre and Politics”, *African Perspectives*, (September – October 1977), I, 30-38.

“Cesaire’s Responsibilities as a Poet”, in *Thought and Practice: The Journal of the Philosophical Association of Kenya* (1974), I, 1, 59-72

“Fossilized Black Martyrs: A Study of *In the Fog of the Season’s End*, a novel by the late Alex La Guma”, in *Teaching of African Literature in Schools*, [eds.] E. Gachukia and S. K. Akivage [Nairobi: Kenya Literature Bureau, 1978], 201-215.

“Of Wealth, Marriage and Inheritance (A Working Paper, Unpublished)

“Regional Reflections in the Literature of Kenya”, in *Adjoining Cultures as Reflected in Literature and Language*, [eds.] John X. Evans and Peter Horwath [Phoenix: Arizon State University Press, 1983] 173 ff.

“African Literature and the Tyranny of Change”, in *Language and Literature*, Edited by Sandra Nandan (Suva, Fiji: The University of South Pacific Press, 1983), 336-352.

“The Major Trends and Events in East African Drama and Theatre”, Unpublished.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Chairman, Kenya Non-Fiction Authors Association (KENFAA)

Treasurer, KOPIKEN

Member, Kenya National Book Development Council

Member and founding Secretary General, Writers Association of Kenya (WAK).

Member and founding Chairman, Kenya Oral Literature Association (KOLA)

Member, Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS)

Chair, Regional Centre for Urgent Anthropological Research, Kenya, based at the Department of Literature, Egerton University – Chapter of Commission on Urgent Anthropological Research, Vienna, Austria.

Member, (from 23rd July 1986) The Kenya National Academy of Sciences

Reviews (Since 1969)

Numerous reviews in the daily and Sunday Papers, weekly magazines, radio and television eg. “A Re-union of Black Scholars and Artists”, in *Umma* 6:4-5, 7, 11-12 (on FESTAC '77), “The Varying Interests of Kenyan Writers” *Sunday Nation* 13 October 1977, p.12.

“In Memory of Elijah Masinde: A Prophet of Our Times”, *Kenya Times* 14.6.87

“Review, *Poems of Nature and Faith*, by J. S. Mbiti and *The Abandoned Hut* by Joseph Buruga in *Busara* (1969) II, 3, 43-45.

Book Review. *Poems, Ashes and Ambers* by Hossenjee Edoe and Anand Mulloo, Port Louis (Nice Printing) 1974 44pp.

“Review, R. N. Gecau, *Kikuyu Folktales*, in *East Africa Journal* (1971) VIII, 8, 40.

“Lonely and Diminished Men”, A Review of *Voices in the Dark* by Leonard Kibera in *Busara* (1970) III, 1, 56-59.

“Life’s Tense Irony”, A Review of *Tensions: Poems* by Richard C. Nturu, Dhana (1971) 1, 1, 56-58.

“Appropriate Style and Technical Competence”, Review of *Introduction to the African Novel in Dhana* (1972) 2, 1, Reprinted in *The Season of Harvest* (1978)

“A Bold Fearless Account of Kenya’s Recent Political History”, A Review of Joseph Karimi and Philip Ochieng, *The Kenyatta Succession*, Nairobi (Transafrica) 1980, 195 pages, in Nairobi Times.

“East and Central Africa”, Journal of Commonwealth Literature 8, 2:14-22

“The Tabanic Genre”, in *Standpoints on African Literature*, 1973, Nairobi (EALB) pp. 86-95

“A Persecuted Poet from the Far East”, A Review of *Cry the People and Other Poems*, by Kim Chi Ha in Maktaba (1976) III, 2, 67-72

“The Old and the New Do Not Match”, A Review of *Obi* by John Munonye, in Busara (1970) III, 1, 56-59

“The Silenced Satirist”, The Guardian, London, 6 March 1978.

The Mission of Writing and Humanist Commitment”. A Review of *Critical Perspectives on Amos Tutuola*, Edited by Bernth Lindfors, in Maktaba (1976) III, 2, 145-148.

“What is Literature to Kenyan Historians?” Weekly Review 7 Sept 1984, pp. 17.

“Mysterious Feminine Power Looms Over Male Innocence”, A Review of *Ripples in the Pool*, A Novel by Rebeka Njau in Maktaba (1976) III, 1, 149-150

“Literary Scholarship and its traditions in Kenya”. In this article we show that criticism of Kenyan Literature did not start with the analysis of novels, plays, short stories, and essays, written in English. It includes the story of the rich body of literature available in oral traditions and in Kenya’s indigenous languages. The article first appeared in the Daily Nation of Saturday, September 2, 1989, page 12.

“Portrait of a Writer.... A Pioneer in the Literary Field”, Sunday Nation 18 January (1978) p, 4.

“A Lesson from the Soviet Union”, A Review of Chingiz Aitmatov’s novel *Farewell Gul’Sary* in Busara (1971) II, 3, 44-49

“Ngugi and the National Language Issues”, Sunday Nation 5 August 1979

“Reaching Out to God without Religion”, A Review of *Understanding God the Modern Way* by Mohamed Mbwana. Found in a bound typescript, Institute of African Studies Library, Univeristy of Nairobi, Kenya, 1981.

“Where Is Ngugi”, in *Black Phoenix*, 2, 23-24

“Overseas Studies and Conferences. A Response to Professor Satoru Tsuchiya’s Essay ‘Modern East African Literature from Uhuru to Harambee’, *World Literature Today: A Literary Quarterly of the University of Oklahoma*: Autumn 1978, Review bound in the Institute of African Studies Library, University of Nairobi, 1991.

“1977: The Season of Literary Harvest”, *Sunday Nation* 1 January 1978 [on FESTAC 77 and Ngugi’s Publication of *Petals of Blood*].

“A Literary Supplement”, *Joliso* 1, 2:1-10

“Literature and Society: A View on Approach”, *Busara* 5, 2:70-76 Reprinted as “Literature and Society: What approach” in Wanjala, *The Season of Harvest* (1978)

“East and Central Africa”, *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 1975; 10, 2:16-24

“Alex la Guma: The Man’s Place in African Writing”, *Kenya Times Features* 21.5.86
Chairman’s Report, Regional Centre for Urgent Anthropological Research in Kenya, in *Commission on Urgent Anthropological Research Newsletter* No. 11, Wien 1993-1994 pp. 8-9.

“Dilemma that Ngugi Faced (on Choosing Publisher”, *Sunday Nation* 31 July 1977.

“In Search of a Revolutionary Hero: A Review Essay”, *Kenya Historical Review* 1977, 5, 2:389-95

Review of: Bernth Lindfors (ed.) *Critical Perspectives of Amos Tutuola*. Washington DC Three Continent Press 1975, 318 pages. Ezekiel Mphahlele, *Voices in the Whirlwind*, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Publishing House/Macmillan 1972, 215 pages; Chinua Achebe, *Morning Yet On Creation Day*, London Heinemann 1975, 103 pages, *Maktaba* (1976) III, 2, 145-148

“Poets with Borrowed Overcoats Can Still Retain their Personality; A Brief Study on *Reed in the Tide*, Poems by John Pepper Clark, London Londman 1968”, in *Busara* (1974) VI, I, 39-42

“New Novel by Ngugi. Keeps Him at Top”, *Standard* 15 Jul 1977, 12 Review of *Petals of Blood*

Invited Papers, National and International Conference, Since 1970

“New Humanism in Africa- Towards the Twenty-First Century”, A Paper presented at the Western Literary Conference on the Search of a New World Culture for the 21st Century, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington D.C., June 14-16, 1997.

Organized a Conference, “The Teaching of Literature in the University in East Africa”, 8 – 10 May 1997, FASS Boardroom, Njoro Campus, Egerton University, Njoro.

“Introducing New Knowledge in University Programmes”, Egerton University and ICRC Joint Consultative and Programme Seminar on the teaching of the IHL, 3 June 1998, Thomson’s Fall Lodge, Nyahururu, Kenya.

Participated in a workshop on Media and the Performing Arts, Facilitated by Mbalamwezi Players Society and the British Council, The British Council Auditorium, September 1997.

Attended the Proposal Writing Workshop at the Agricultural Resources Centre (ARC), Egerton University which was a part of the Agricultural Management Programme, 15-17 June 1994.

With Kivuto Ndeti, Kenneth R. Gray, as member of the National Planning Committee Organized, “The Second Scramble for Africa”, *The Third PWPA Continental Conference*, Nairobi Serena Hotel, 2-6 May 1990.

“Kenya’s Books”, Paper read at the Salone De Libro, Torino, Italy, and May 1989.

“The Impact of a Multi-Cultural Society in the Economy: A Kenyan Case”, “Paper read at the conference on “Towards a Global Economy: A Cross-Cultural Approach”, AISEC, Kenya-Italy, Pan-African Hotel, Kenya, July 1989.

“The Crisis Between Indigenous Culture and Western Education”, Part of the Preparatory Discussion of the National Paper for the Bangkok meeting on culture, Friday June, 16, 1989 Kenya Institute of Education, Nairobi, Kenya.

“How to Evaluate Our Art”, *Against Bearded Africans, Kenya Times* 8 May 1985. P.13.

“Karen, Blixen *Out of Africa* and the Issue of Race *Relations*”, *Against Bearded Africans, Kenya Times* 15.5.85 p.12.

“The Changing Traditions of Literature in Kenya and Italy”, a lecture which was delivered at the University of Nairobi on Wednesday 29th October 1986, at 5.p.m., during the Italian-Kenyan Week of Lectures (26th –30th October 1986). The aim of the lecture was to outline the literary traditions in Italian and Kenyan Literature, and to see how the study of them can be mutually illuminating.

“Words of Passive Happiness: Popular Literature in East Africa”, Paper delivered at the British Council Auditorium and Subsequently at Kilimo Hall, Egerton University, 1991. Paper developed from, “Kenyan Popular Literature”, Address to Kenya Press Club, City Hall, Nairobi, 15 June 1976. Reported in Press as “Lecture Hits At Books Ban, “*The Standard* 16.6.76; “What they Want in Easy Sex”, *Daily Nation* 16.6.76;

“The Portraits of Black Nationalists”, Seminar Paper No. 1, September, 1985, Department Of Literature, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya.

“Research Priorities in Literature”, Seminar on “Research Priority in Social Sciences,
“Organized by the National Council of Science and Technology, Silver Springs Hotel,
Nairobi, June 24-25, 1986.

“Literature, Material Culture, and Technology”, “Paper presented at the Seminar On Material
Culture, Mombassa, Kenya, July, 1982.

“The Growth of a Literary Culture”, Paper read at the First Symposium on Education and
Culture organized by the College of Education and External Studies, Kikuyu Campus,
University of Nairobi, October, 16-21, 1989. Offshoot of “The Growth of a Literary Tradition
in East Africa”, *Journal of Eastern African Research and Development*, 1981, 122-40.

“Culture and Development Since [Kenya’s] Uhuru”, “Lecture delivered as part of the Silver
Jubilee Anniversary Celebrations, Menengai Hall, Nakuru, Kenya, December 8, 1989.

Chris Wanjala and Atieno-Odhiambo, “Introduction to the Kenya Literary Experience”,
Book Exhibition Booklet for FESTAC ’77.

“Literature in Our Time and the University”, Paper presented at the Professor’s World Peace
Academy [P.W.P.A] Conference on “Trends and Future of University Education in Kenya in
the 1990s and Beyond”, New Stanley Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, December 8-9, 1989.

“Literature and Humanism”, and “Ikeda Prose and Poetry”, Kenya Oral Literature Association
(KOLA) Seminar on Comparative Literature, Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library, Nairobi,
Kenya, November, 8-11, 1989.

“The Growth of a Literary Tradition”, Paper read at the Second African Writers’ conference
in Stockholm (Uppsala, Sweden), April, 16-19, 1986

“Workshop for Chairmen of Department”, University of Nairobi, Silver Springs Hotel,
Nairobi, Kenya, July 27, 1989

“Culture and the Nation State”, Paper presented at the Third PWPA Eastern African Regional
Conference, Mombasa, Kenya, September 15-18, 1988. The Paper appears in *Bottlenecks to
National Identity* (Nairobi: Professors World Peace Academy, 1989), 9-16, including the
Rapporteur’s Report by Prof. A. Byaruhanga Akiiki.

“Myth in Kenyan Literature”, Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi, Nairobi,
Kenya, Paper No. 12, 1982.

“Ali Mazrui: A Pawn in the Hands of Young Critics: The Writer and Society in Africa”,
January 1980, Univeristy of Nairobi, Institute of African Studies, Paper No. 130.

“Culture and Development”, from the fulcrum of my lectures, as shown by my Address at the
Official Opening of the Seminar on Culture and Development in Nairobi on the 21st of
October 1986 at the Kenya Cultural Centre.

“The Stabilizing Role of *Bakitwika* in the Politics of Bungoma District”, A Paper Prepared for *Nakhatama Research and Literary Agency* (NAKR 3/96).

“Two Kinds of Artists in Bungoma Cultural Life”, Paper read at the Bantu Cultural Zone Seminar at Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, October 18-23, 1982

“The XVth International Congress, Metropolitan Phoenix, Scottsdale, Phoenix Arizona, Organized by International Federation for Modern Languages and Literature, August, 29 – September 1981.

“The Development of Literary Studies in the University in Our Time”, Discussion Paper on Literature and Culture, No. 1. Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

“The Traditional Artist in Society”, Discussion Paper on Literature and Culture No. 2, Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi, Kenya, 1982.

“The Anti-Social Characters: A Study in the Literature of Western Kenya”, Paper No. 3, Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya, 1982.

“Father and Children: A Study in the Literature of Western Kenya”, Paper No. 6, Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya, 1982

“Inter-Regional Seminar (Category VII) on Action-Oriented Research to Highlight Women’s Economic Contribution and the Decision-Making Roles, “Nairobi, Kenya, September 8-12, 1986

[With David Parkin, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) England] organized the International Seminar on the Transformation of African Marriage. Subtitle of Seminar: “Customary Models in a New Setting”. Seminar organized jointly between Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi and the International African Institute, London, U.K. Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, September, 10-12, 1984

“East Africa’s Traditional Cultural Expression”, Seminar Paper No. 167, Nairobi, Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi, 15 January 1985, Mimeo. 21 pp.

Organized, with UNESCO, Young Writers and Illustrators Workshop, February, 6-10, 1984

Hiroshima International Conference of Asian Writers, Hiroshima, Japan, July 26, August, September 1, 1983.

Bantu Cultural Zone Seminar, Nairobi, Kenya October, 18 –23, 1982.

Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS) meeting, Kampala, Uganda, December 1973-January, 1974

Meetings of the Permanent Bureau of the Afro-Asian Writers Union, Moscow, June 1974 and June 1975. Attended as Secretary General, Writers Association of Kenya.

“Windows in Bungoma Politics”, A Paper prepared for Nakhatama Research and Literary Agency NAKR 1/96.

“The Plight of Childless Mothers in Africa”, A Paper prepared for Nakhatama Research and Literary Agency NAKR 4/96

The East African Inspiration, A Proposal for an Intellectual Magazine, prepared with T.R. Odhiambo 1984-1985, later launched as Initiatives

“Civic and Social Aspects of University”, A public lecture delivered at the University as A Part of the Orientation Period, September 1986.

Editor’s Symposium organized by the Permanent Bureau of the Afro-Asian Writers Union, Beirut, Lebanon, December, 1975

Teaching of African Literature in Schools, September 1974 and August, 1980, Nairobi School, Nairobi, Kenya

Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS) Conference on Canadian Literature, University of Leeds, U.K., September, 1975

Book Exhibition, Uhuru Park, Nairobi, Kenya, Organized by the Text Book Centre, August, 1976.

“Imaginative Writing Since Independence: The East African Experience”, In Ulla Schild, ed, The East African Experience: Essays on English and Swahili Literature. Second International Janheiz Jahn Symposium on Modern East African Literature and Its Audience, Mainz, Frankfurt-Main, West Germany, April 23-25, 1977, Mainzer African Studies, 4 Berlin, Dietrich Reimer Verlag , Colloquium, FESTAC (Festival of African Cultures) February 1977, Lagon Nigeria.

Organized Writes Workshop under the theme “Writing for the Child”, for East African Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (EAACLALS) in Nairobi, Kenya, April 1979

32nd Frankfurt Book Fair, Germany, October 8-13, 1980

Organized Writers Workshop at the PAA YA PAA Art Galley, Nairobi, Kenya, April 18-20, 1980

Assistant Rapporteur to the Third Sub-Regional Meeting of the Permanent Secretaries Responsible for Culture in East, Central and Southern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, October 19-23, 1982, Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

“Decolonizing African Literature”, Paper read at a conference on “Africa in the Classroom”, Centre for African Studies. University of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign, April 9-10, 1992

“Babukusu; Their Wars and Woes, “Paper Read at “Writing The Luo”, Humanities Workshop, Centre for Cultural studies, Rice University Houston, Texas, U.S.A. 14-16 May, 1992

“The Management of Egerton University and the Chronic Closures that Bedevilled It: To the Sub-Committee of Council, Njoro, 18th January 1997”.

“Ulli Beier’s Men”, Unpublished.

“Women, Culture and Democracy”, Unpublished

“Mphahlele: The Urban Men of African Culture”, Unpublished.

**PUBLIC LECTURES ON LITERATURE, CULTURE, POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT
(1971 – PRESENT)**

-The Growth of a Literary Tradition in East Africa, Inaugural Lecture Delivered at the 8-4-4 Building, from 3.40 p m Main Campus, University of Nairobi, Thursday 19th June 2003.

- “The Kenyatta Legacy”, A Public lecture delivered at the FASS Theatre 2, FASS Complex, Egerton University, 19 October 1998
- “Promoting African Writers in the New Age”, Lecture at a Literary Forum, 15 October 1997, Mzizi Arts Center, Sonalux House, Moi Avenue, Nairobi
- Secondary Schools, High Schools, Kenya
- Teachers’ Training Colleges
- Senior Civil Servants at the Kenya Institute of Administration Kabete, Nairobi, Kenya
- Soka Gakkai International, Kobe Japan (July 1983)
- “East African Literature in its Cultural Background”, A Public Lecture Delivered at the University of Nairobi, ED II, 27 March 1979
- Goethe Institutue, Nairobi, 1973-1991
- Asahi Hall, Tokyo, Japan, July 18, 1983

- International Christian University, Japan, July, 1983
- Soka University, Hochioji, Tokyo, Japan, July, 1990
- Tenuri, Japan (July, 1989) – Lecture to Japanese parents sending their children to Kenya
- International Indian Institute (III), Bombay, India, March 1990
- American Students’ Summer Programs in Kenya (in Nairobi, Kenya)
- 1995 Lectures on Creative Writing at the Praire Institute, Nakuru, Kenya
- 1996 Literary Biographies of East African Literary intellectuals.

GRANTS AND HONOURS

November 1971 one of the three students to hold Univeristy of Nairobi scholarships to study East African Oral and Written Literatures at the Graduate level.

Awarded Japan Foundation Fellowship (July 2- September 30, 1983). Accepted as a Visiting Scholar at Meiji University, Japan, under the regulation for the Acceptance of Foreign researchers at Meiji University.

In 1984 won a grant from the National Council for Science and Technology to study the Cultures of Western Kenya under the topic “Regional Reflexions in the Cultures of Kenya”

In 1990 won a grant from UNESCO, Paris, to conduct studies towards the Definition of the Non-Physical Cultural Heritage of Africa

I was invited to Japan to inaugurate the Soka University Africa Institute in July 1990 by the President of the University. I received a Soka Education Award in Tokyo, Japan, on the 13th of July, 1989, from the hands of President Daisaku Ikeda, SGI International

Received the Culture Award of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy in Nairobi, August 15, 1986, with the words: “In praise of your great contribution to scholarly research and your wide-ranging active participation in the movement for peace and culture aiming toward the twenty-first century of life- and to encourage your continued activities”.

Received the Literary Critic of the Year Award for 1986 from the Organizing Committee, Windy Entertainment Services for my contributions on literature and culture in the popular press in Kenya and the East African Region.

1991 received a research grant from Egerton University to write the biography of Lord Egerton of Tatton (1874-1958)

1995 received a grant from the office of the Vice-Chancellor, Egerton University to do articles for Mass Media

INTERVIEWS WITH LITERARY SCHOLARS AND COMMUNICATORS

Carol Sicherman, "Developments in Literary Study in Kenya since 1975: An Interview with Chris Wanjala (Unpublished)

Interviewed in Lindfors, Bernth, *Mazungumzo*, Interviews with East African Writers, Publishers, Editors and Scholars, Bernth Lindfors, Ohio (Center for International Studies, Papers in International Studies) Africa Series No. 41.

- The East African Standard Newspapers is preparing a bumper issue of its paper for the country's 40th Anniversary. The Paper on the 5th of September 2003 interviewed me on the developments in intellectual life in East Africa(since 1963)
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TEACHING

Principal Courses Taught at the University of Nairobi and Egerton University 1971 - 2003

Undergraduate Courses

- *East African Prose and Poetry
- Modern African Poetry
- *Critical Issues in East African Literature
- South African Literature
- Swahili Literature (Prose and Drama)
- *Litt. 112: Creative Writing I (Fiction & Drama)
- Litt. 124: Creative Writing II (Poetry)
- Litt. 223: African Literature I (Poetry and Drama from East Africa)
- Litt. 316: Popular Literature of the World
- Litt. 315: English Literature I
- Litt. 326; English Literature II
- Litt. 327: The Daisaku Ikeda Project
- Litt. 411: African Literature IV (Poetry from West and South Africa).
- Litt. 416: Japanese Literature
- Litt. 421: African Literature V (Prose from West and South Africa).
- RLT 404 West African poetry and Drama
- RLT 405 South African Poetry and Drama
- RLT 302 South African Prose
- RLT 301 East African Prose
- RLT 203 The Oral Literature of Kenya
- RLT 104 Theories and Concepts of Oral Literature
- RLT 102 Practical Criticism
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Graduate Courses

- Research and Methodology (GSI)
 - *Criticism of African Literature (GSI)
- * Indicates courses which I created. I was the Course Writer for the East African Literature: Prose and Poetry, Section A: Prose (BEL 102) published in 1987

Supervision of Students

Ph.D

Safia Nureldin, “Ngugi wa Thiong’o: A Study of His Artistic Vision and Craftsmanship: Ph.D., 1988 (awarded)

Njogu Waita, “Folk Media and Diffusion of Innovations: The Case of Central Province”, (ongoing)

Fugich Wako, “Of Villains, Victims and Heroes: A Multi-dimensional Critical Appraisal of Folktales among the Boran” (ongoing)

Wandera, S. P., “Taswira za Kijinsia Katika Hadithi za Abanyala” (Sexist Tendencies in Nyala Stories) (Ongoing)

M.A.

Samuel Kimaru, “In Pursuit”, a novel, M.A. 1990 (awarded)

Wafula, Richard Makhanu, “The Use of Allegory in Shaaban Robert’s Prose Works”, M.A., 1990 (awarded)

Senorinah Wendoh, “Style in Nurrudin Farah’s Fiction”, M.A., 1990 (awarded)

Outta, George Odera, “Art and the Revolutionary Content of Ayi Kwei Armah’s Novels (with special reference to *Two Thousand Season*”, M.A., 1990 (awarded)

Ntalindwa, Raymond, “Images and Symbols in Nurrudin Farah’s Novels”, M.A., 1988 (awarded)

Oloo, Nicholas, “Portrait of Struggle: Some Aspects of the Novels of Alex la Guma”, M.A. 1987 (awarded)

Kiai Gachanja, “Symbolism and Imagery: An Analysis of Bessie Head’s Fictional Works”, M.A., 1987 (awarded)

CO-ORDINATION OF RESEARCH

1996 - Maurice Egerton 1874-1958: *The Man and His Firms*

1983 – 1985 As Director, Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi. I was also the Director of the District Socio-Cultural Profiles Project jointly executed by the institute of African Studies and the Ministry of Finance and Planning. I co-ordinated multidisciplinary researchers from College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Health Sciences, Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences, Architecture and Engineering, Biological and Physical Sciences, University of Nairobi for the Project.

Was District Team Leader for KAJIADO District Socio-Cultural Profile Project, NAROK and MARSABIT. Reports on the districts are available at the Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi, and the Ministry of Finance, Treasury House, Nairobi, Kenya.

1981- Present Project on Regional Reflections in the Cultures of Kenya.

DUTIES OUTSIDE UNIVERSITY

From 1977 A Versatile Columnist for the East African daily and Sunday Papers

September 17, 1987 to May 1991 Appointed Board of Director, Kenya Airways. Traveled to New York; U.K.; Holland (Fokker Friendship Factory, Amsterdam); Toulouse; France; Bombay; Hong Kong; and Tokyo on Airline business

January 3, 1990-1996 External Examiner in English Literature, Chancellor College, Zomba, Malawi

September 1986-April 1991 Chairman, Kenya Oral Literature Association

1996 – Present Secretary General – East African Literary Congress

Director, Nakhatama Research and Literary Agency (NAKR).

WORK IN PROGRESS

- *Popular Culture in East Africa*
- *Oral Literatures of Western, the Rift Valley, Eastern Provinces*
- *The Land is Mine: A Novel*
- *Wherefore Do the Wicked Live? A Novel*

- *The Man Hanged*, a Political Novel
- *Musee's Beehive*, A Novel
- *Against Bearded Africans*: Chris Wanjala and *Other Men of Culture*. This project was first presented at a Seminar Paper at Kenyatta University College on 7th November, 1984.
- *Mango* (A Play)
- *Egerton Guide to African Literature*
- *Egerton (1874-1958): The Man and His Firms*
- *Introduction to Literary Criticism: An Approach to East African Literature*
- *Literature, Pluralism and Multiparty Democracy*
- *The Legacy of Henry Owuor Anyumba*
- *Voices from Nyalgunga*
- "Meja Mwangi and the Art of the Novel in Africa", Under preparation.
- "From Mwambu to Muliro: the Heroic History of Babukusu",
- With Ben E. Kipkorir, Simiyu Wandibba, *The Situation of Culture in Kenya*
- *Moi as a Man of Culture* Under preparation.
- "Offensives against My Enemies", Unpublished.
- "The Discrimination Against Widows' First Children After Levirate Marriages in Africa" in Nakhatama Research and Literary Agency (NAKR 2/96).
- "Christianity, Art, and Culture in Africa", Paper under preparation for the East African Arts Congress (1999).
- *Oral Literature in East Africa*
- *Children's Literature in Africa*

REFEREES

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