

Kimingichi Wabende

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Dr. Kimingichi Wabende is an experienced researcher in oral literature, Lecturer, Thespian, and Gender Expert who has worked both in the private and public sector. He is working as lecturer at the Department of Literature at University of Nairobi since 2004. He has vast experience in community training, project management and Participatory Educational Theatre. His PhD research focused on the growth and development of the oral narrative from traditional setting to the conventional theatre.

EDUCATION

- **PhD in Literature and Performance**, University of Nairobi, Kenya **2014**
Title: “From the Bukusu Fireside to The Stage: The Performance of The Oral Narrative in The Shifting Spaces”
Supervisors: Prof. Peter Wasamba and Dr. Simon Peter Otieno
- **MA Literature**, University of Nairobi, Kenya **2001**
Title: “Moulding a New Image: Gender Perspectives in Margaret Ogola's The River and the Source and Oludhe Macgoye's Coming to Birth”
- **BA Literature and Sociology** University of Nairobi, Kenya **1996**

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Lecturer, Department of Literature, University of Nairobi **2004-present**

- Teaching & Supervision of Oral Literature students in both Theory and Research
- Teaching & Supervision of Performance and Drama Students in Theatre Theory, Theatre for Development and Acting
- Director, University of Nairobi Free Travelling Theatre (FTT), organizing theatre calendar, and directing plays
- Supervision of MA and PhD Theses in Oral Literature, Performance and Drama
- Organizing Seminars, Workshops, and Conferences on behalf of the Department of Literature
- Ample experience in supervising Master's theses in the field of African (applied) theatre and oral literature

Lecturer, Creative and Performing Arts Department, Maseno University 2003-2004

- Teaching and directing plays, Exam's officer for the department

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Board member Kenya Cultural Centre (KCC)** **2007-2015**
Overseeing the running of cultural activities in Kenya and the Kenya National Theatre including the historical renovation of the Kenya National Theatre
- **Secretary, Kenya Oral Literature Association (KOLA)** **2008-2018**
KOLA is an organization dedicated to research and preservation of oral culture and its application. Organized National and Regional Conferences, Research Training, running of National Civic Education Program, Oral History Programs, Community Theatre using Oral Literature and administrative duties, Secretary to local Organizing committee for International Oral Literature Association (ISOLA 2010) held in Mombasa Kenya
- **Member of Taskforce on Identification of Cultural and Historical Sites in Bungoma County** **2014**
Researched and prepared a list of all historical sites in Bungoma County with cultural and historical importance, historical personalities among Bukusu, Sabaot, Tachoni, Teso and Batura and ways in which to preserve and sustain them
- **National Civic Education Program** **2002-2007**

Designed the civic education manual for 2007 elections sponsored by UNDP. Training of Trainers in National Civic Education Program Sponsored by UNDP, Training theatre groups in Kwale and Bungoma (Mountain Elgon District) in Participatory Educational Theatre (PET)

- **Team Leader in World Cultural Exchange Program, Osaka, Japan by Free Travelling Theatre, 2013**
Prepared cultural performances and led a team of 20 members of the University of Nairobi Free Travelling Theatre (FTT) for a one-month tour of Osaka, Japan

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Research coordinator National Oral Literature Digitization Program 2017-Present**

In collaboration with Ministry of Culture and key UNESCO office to collect and digitize Kenyan oral literature, the pilot project targeting the Maasai community completed

- **Oral Testimony on Development in Mt. Elgon District 1996-1997**

Sponsored by the Kenya Oral Literature Association (KOLA) and PANOS, London led to 2 book publications *Voices from the mountain: Kenya*, and *Voice from the mountain; personal life histories from Mt Elgon*

- **Oral History Programme in Kwale County 2011**

University of Nairobi in collaboration with University of North Caroline, Chapel Hill. Collecting oral histories from people displaced by mining and their coping mechanisms

- **Research on Female Genital Mutilation in Migori County PLAN International 2007**

Team leader coordinating team of 10 assistants researching FGM among the Kuria and impacts on education

- **Research on Early Pregnancy and School Drop Out in Luo Nyanza 2008**

Team leader on research focusing on early pregnancy influence on girls' education in Luo Nyanza

- **Oral Literature Research 20004 - Present**

Organizing University of Nairobi Literature and Performing Arts undergraduate and graduate students field research in Oral Literature in among Kenyan communities; Maasai, Kikuyu, Mijikenda, Luhya, and Luo

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

- 'Performing in the Cyber Space: The online Mchongoano Battles'. K Wabende. *Emerging Trends in Eastern African Literatures and Cultures* (2020).
- 'Restaging Oral Narrative in Civic Education'. K Wabende. *The Palgrave Handbook of African Oral Traditions and Folklore*, pp 959-974
- 'Applied Theatre as a Medium of Communal Communication: 'Access to Justice' Project in Kwale, Kenya'. K Wabende, JK Park. *The Palgrave Handbook of Global Arts Education*, 323-330

Journal articles

- 'Imagining The Kenyan Canaan Dream Journey in Cyber Space'. K Wabende. *Tydskrif vir Letterkunde* 58 (1), 118-126
- 'Making Sense of the Pandemic: Kenyan Covid-19 Jokes and Online Liveness'. *English Academy Review* 38.2 (2021): 46-59.
- 'Construction of Masculinity in Bukusu Community and Shifting Gender Dynamics in Urban Areas'. K Wabende. *Pathways to African Feminism and Development* 5 (1), 110-129
- 'Social Drama: Umulumbe Men Funeral Ritual Performance', Gloria Nwandu Ozor1, Otieno, Peter, Kimingichi, Wabende, Rotich, Daudi *International Journal of Language and Literature* December 2017, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 197-210

REFEREES

- Prof. Peter Wasamba, Literature Department, University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197, 00100, Nairobi, Tel: ++254 722 734 121
- Prof. D. H. Kiiru, Literature Department, University Of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197, 00100 Nairobi, Tel: ++254 723 383 066