

Notes on Contributors

Imali J. Abala is a professor of English at Ohio Dominican University where she teaches literature, creative writing, and college writing courses. She is an author of several books. Her most recent novella, *The Dreamer*, was nominated for the Jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature. She served as a co-editor for *In the Murk of Life*, a poetry collection by students from Kisii University about contemporary Kenyan life. Her other works have appeared in numerous anthologies and journals. She is a recipient Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship (2019).

Joshua Gisemba Bagaka's is a professor of quantitative research methods and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of academics, research, and innovation at KCA University, Kenya. He is also Professor Emeritus at Cleveland State University, USA. His research interests are in the utilization of hierarchical linear models (HLM) in analyzing school, teacher, and classroom effects on student learning outcomes and in utilizing HLM to identify the *value-added* indicators of school and teacher effectiveness. Professor Bagaka's served as the African Regional Research Fulbright scholar to Kenya during the 2010/2011 academic year.

Rachel J. Boit is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS), School of Health and Human Sciences at The University of North Carolina - Greensboro. She currently teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the Birth through Kindergarten program within the HDFS department and conducts research on early literacy development. Specific topic areas of research include, but not limited to: children and families from low-income communities; promoting literacy through home-school partnerships among refugee populations, and teacher-child relationships in cross-cultural contexts.

Mercy Dorcas Epiche is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and currently working in the Legal Services Department at KCA University, Kenya. She also teaches Introduction to Law and Public Procurement law at KCA University School of Business and Public Management.

Grace Jepkemboi is faculty in the Early Childhood and Elementary Education Program at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. She teaches courses in Child Development and Family Relations, Curriculum Development and Analysis of Teaching to students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Her research focuses on educating vulnerable and at-risk children, fostering diversity in education and history of early childhood education.

Faith Maina is a professor in the department of Curriculum & Instruction at Texas Tech University since 2015. Previously, she was a professor of the same department at the State University of New York, Oswego from 2000-2015 where she also held the position of McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program Director. Professor Maina is a teacher educator with special emphasis on Action Research and culturally relevant pedagogy. Her research interests include cultural and language diversity in the classroom, issues of culturally responsive teaching and preparing diverse learners for the STEM career pipeline. She is a recipient of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship (2018) and Fulbright Scholar (2011) awards.

Dr. Millicent A. Mokua is a Senior Lecturer, Department of Environmental Science, Egerton University, Kenya, Lead Auditor with Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) in Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001-2004); and performs Environmental Impact Assessment. She has

published on various topics which include; Fisheries Management, Environmental Management, Gender and Climate Change. Millicent has won awards including NORAD Scholarship, Research Grants (Egerton University) and CODESRIA Governance and Gender Institute. Her Research interests are “Resource Management,” “Gender Empowerment,” and “Environment and Development.”

Wanjala S. Nasong’o is Professor of International Studies at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, where he has taught for the last fifteen years. He is the immediate former Chair of the Department of International Studies at Rhodes College (2012–2017). Author, editor, and co-editor of numerous peer reviewed books and articles in refereed journals, Prof. Nasong’o has been honored with the Rhodes College’s Clarence Day Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity, and the Ali Mazrui Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence from the University of Texas at Austin.

Wycliffe W. Simiyu Njororai was born, raised and educated in Kenya. He graduated with a Ph.D. from Kenyatta University in 2001. He has taught at universities in Kenya (Egerton and Kenyatta University), Uganda (Kyambogo), and USA (Wiley and UT TYLER). Since fall 2012, he has been teaching at University of Texas at Tyler, where he currently serves as a Professor of Kinesiology. He has published over 120 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and proceedings. He is passionate about African Sport especially track and field as well as association football.

Dorothy A. Nyakwaka is a Senior Lecturer in the History Department and the Chairperson of the National Cohesion and Integration Committee, Egerton University, Kenya. She obtained her BED Degree at Kenyatta University (Kenya); MA Degree at Moi University; and PhD Degree at Egerton University (Kenya). She also holds various diplomas in Gender and Development, Governance, Conflict Management and Resolution. She has presented many papers at Local and International Conferences, and won various Awards and Fellowships including; Fulbright American Studies Institute, CODESRIA Governance and Gender Institutes. She has published on a wide range of topics which include among others; Gender and Regionalism.

Christopher Okemwa is a lecturer of Literature at Kisii University, Kenya. He is the founder and director of Kistrech International Poetry Festival in Kenya. He is a published author of many books, editor of several poetry anthologies, and literary journals around the world. He has translated several literary works of international poets from English to Swahili; participated at a poetry workshop in Northern Ireland sponsored by Poets’ House; and participated at the 20th International Poetry Festival in Medellin, Colombia (2010) sponsored by Prince Claus Fund. He was a guest poet at the 27th Biennale Poetry Festival in Liege, Belgium (2012); and the 3rd Spring and Poetry Festival in Istanbul, Turkey (2018); was a visiting poet at the International Poetry Festival of Hanoi (Vietnam) in 2019; and was a creative writing resident at Faber Writers’ Residency in Catalonia, Spain (2019).

Wycliffe Nyachoti Otiso is a holder of LLB degree from University of Warwick, LLM degree from University of Nairobi, and a PhD in Law and Political Science at the Universite de Pau et des Pays de L’Adour (UPPA). He is a qualified Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. Dr. Otiso is Chair of Public Law and Lecturer at Kisii University. He has taught constitutional, administrative and election law for 10 years. Other teaching interests include; public policy, law reform, social justice and legal

research. He has published papers and presented papers on; participatory governance, citizenship, security sector reform, electoral governance, access to justice, communal property and ethics.

Rose Ruto-Korir is currently the Director of the Institute of Open and Distance Learning, as well as an Associate Professor of Educational Psychology of Moi University, School of Education. She has been a university teacher-educator for the past 24 years with vast experience as a mentor of undergraduate, Master and Doctoral students, besides being a peer reviewer for Universities in Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, and Uganda. Her research interest include developmental psychology, early learning, the application of technology in learning.

Lewis Wamwanda is a poet and novelist, born in Eldoret Kenya. He is a student at Kisii University pursuing Bachelor of Education, in English and Literature. He is the Founder of The Writer's Pen, a literary organization and current editor of Global Poetry Library. He is author of *Reflections: An Anthology of poems* and *Yours Truly*. Some of his other works have appeared in *The Murk Of life*, *The shrills and Thrills* and *Stars and Scars*. His poetry has also been featured in Poetry soup, *Kistretch Magazine 7th Edition*, Spillwords, The Campus Magazine, World Global Movements, Arthut, The Giant Pen, and World of Dreams Poetry among others. He has participated in numerous poetry competitions, like Asian Literally Society, for which he won many awards and certificates.