

**CURRICULUM VITAE FOR Dr Jairus Mwenje Omuteche  
(PhD, Sunderland; MA & B.ED (Arts), UoN)**



Address:

Department of Language and Literature Education  
School of Arts and Social Sciences  
Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology  
P. O. Box 190-50100  
Kakamega  
KENYA

Mobile No.:

Email: [jairus.omuteche@gmail.com](mailto:jairus.omuteche@gmail.com)

**Or**

[jomuteche@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:jomuteche@mmust.ac.ke)

Nationality: Kenyan

Date of Birth: February 1976

### **PERSONLA PROFILE**

I am a Senior Lecturer in Literature with over 15 years teaching and research experience in High Education. I have taught Literature in the Department of Language, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology since 2010. Am currently the Chairperson of the Department of Language and Literature Education. My teaching and research mainly fall within Black Diasporic Literature, Popular Culture, Literary Communication, Postcolonial Literature, Folklore and Literary Theory. I also mentor postgraduate students who are interested for MA and PhD studies within these areas. For Outreach and Community service, am involved in Academic mentorship and career counselling for children in Primary and Secondary schools in Vihiga County.

### **CAREER SUMMARY**

#### **A. ADMINSTRATIVE**

- i. Chairman of Department, Department of Language and Literature Education, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology – September 2021-
- ii. Chairperson School Graduate Studies Committee, School of Arts and Social Sciences- July 2021- .
- iii. Head of the Literature Sub-section, Department of Language and Literature Education, October 2017 – September 2021.
- iv. Chairperson of the Departmental Graduate Committee, March 2014 –October 2017

#### B. ACADEMIC TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION

- i. PhD June, 2013 University of Sunderland, UK (PhD in Comparative Literature)
- ii. Masters Study September 2002 – March 2005 University of Nairobi (MA in Literature)
- iii. B.ED (Arts) September 1997 – November 2001 University of Nairobi (2/1)

#### C. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- i. Senior Lecturer , Grade XIII September 2019 MMUST
- ii. Lecturer, Grade XII September 2013 Masinde Muliro University
- iii. Assistant Lecturer, Grade XI January 2010 Masinde Muliro University
- iv. Part-Time Assistant Lecture Jan 2007 – Dec 2009 Masinde Muliro University
- v. Literature Tutor June 2005 – Dec 09 University of Nairobi and Marist College

## PUBLICATIONS

### A. Articles in Refereed Journals:

- i. Omuteche, Jairus. “Re-Orienting Identities in *Song of Lawino*: Okot P’bitek As a Critical Educator” In *The Nairobi Journal of Literature*, No. 9, Dec 2020. <http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/handle/11295/154778>
- ii. Omuteche, Jairus. “Social Transformations: Re-negotiating Identity in Plural cultural Space in Margaret Ogola’s *The River and the Source* and its Sequel”. In *The International journal of Humanities and Social Studies*, Vol 6, Issue 10, pp. 327-337, October 2018. Online. [www.theijhss.com](http://www.theijhss.com). ISSN 2321- 9203.
- iii. Kabaji, Egara; Jairus Omuteche and George Kasili. “Image of Motherhood in Bukusu Work and Celebratory Songs”. In *Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research*, Vol 2, Issue 3 March 2016. ISSN 2456-2971.
- iv. Omuteche, Jairus. “Case Study: Teaching two Caribbean Texts in Kenyan University”, in *Ariel: A Review of International English Literature (Special issue: Global pedagogy)*, Vol. 46, 1-2, pp. 211-238, January-April, 2015. ISSN: 0004-1327. Print.
- v. Omuteche, Jairus. “Historification and Kenya's Plural Identities: Re-reading Ngugi's Historiography”, in *Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies*, 2014, 1:1-2, 107-

- vi. Omuteche, Jairus. "Plot in the Manifestation of the Autobiographical Form in *Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela." *The Nairobi Journal of Literature*, No. 6. July **2010**. ISSN 1814-1706. Print.
- vii. Omuteche, Jairus. "*The Lion and the Jewel*: A Postcolonial Text Begging Some Feminist Questions". *The Nairobi Journal of Literature*, No. 5. March **2007**. Pp. 14-22. ISSN 1814-1706. Print.

#### **B. Editorship of University Level Scholarly Books:**

- C. Omuteche, Jairus and Kesero Tunai (Eds.) *Critical Readings on Eastern African Autobiography*. Glienicke, Germany: Gelda Verlag Publishers, **2016**. ISBN 978-3-941267-48-0. Print.

#### **D. Book Chapters in University Level Scholarly Books:**

- i. Omuteche, Jairus. "Imperialism and Globalisation in the Framing Diasporicity, Globalisation, Cosmopolitanism, and Journeys of Self-Becoming in Yusuf K. Dawood's Autobiography." In *Critical Readings on Eastern African Autobiography*. Edited by Jairus Omuteche and Kesero Tunai. Glienicke, Germany: Gelda Verlag Publishers, **2016**. ISBN 978-3-941267-48-0. Print. Single Authorship
- ii. Omuteche, Jairus. "Resisting Exclusion in African American Writing", in *Journal of African Literature and Culture: African Literature No. 12*, **2015** Ed. Chin Ce. Published by International Research Council on African Literature and Culture (IRCACL). Pp 57-76. ISBN: 978-1-329-08548-0.
- iii. Omuteche, Jairus. "The Global Underground and the Illegitimate Diasporas: Chika Unigwe's On Black Sisters' Street." In *Tradition and Change in Contemporary West and East African Fiction*, Issue of *Matatu Journal for African Culture and Society* No. 45, edited by Ogaga Okuyade. Amsterdam: Rodopi, **2014**. Pp. 263-294. ISBN: 978-90-420-3867-7. Print.
- iv. Omuteche, Jairus. "Diasporic Singularities and Global Cosmopolitanism." In *Writing Diaspora: Transnational Memories, Identities and Cultures*. Edited by Asma Sayed, pp. 114-139. Oxford: Inter-Disciplinary Press, **2014**. ISBN 978-1-84888-233-2. Print.
- v. Omuteche, Jairus. "Toni Morrison and Ngugi wa Thiong'o: Folklore and the Reconstruction of Identity." In *Journal of African Literature and Culture: Africa and Her Writers*, Tenth Anniversary Special Edition, No. 10, (December, **2013**), Eds. Charles Smith and Chin Ce. Published by International Research Council on African Literature and Culture (IRCACL). Pp. 157-179. ISBN: 978-1-84888-117-4. Pdf .
- vi. Omuteche, Jairus. "Identity and Belonging in the Novels of Ngugi and Vassanji". *Journal of African Literature and Culture, Contemporary Series*. No. 8, **2011** Eds. Charles Smith and Chin Ce. Published by International Research Council on African Literature and Culture (IRCACL). Pp. 79-102. ISBN 978-9783-50342-7. Pdf.

- vii. Omuteche, Jairus. "Margaret Ogola's *Place of Destiny* (2005): Empowering Women through Narration". In *East African Literature: Essays on Written and Oral Traditions*. Eds. J. K. S. Makokha, Egara Kabaji, and Dominica Dipio. Berlin: Logos Verlag, **2011**. ISBN: 978-3-8325-2816-4. Print.
- viii. Omuteche, Jairus. "Portrayal of Poverty in Creative Literature." *Drivers and Maintainers of Poverty in Kenya: A Research Agenda*. Chronic Poverty Research Centre, Kenya. Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi, IDS Occasional Paper No. 73. June **2009**. Eds. Njuguna Ng'ethe and Mary Omosa. ISBN 978-9966-786-09-0. Print.

#### **E. Introductions in Books**

- i. Omuteche, Jairus. "Introduction" to *A Dollo's House* by Henrik Ibsen, East African Educational Publishers, **2018**.
- ii. Omuteche, Jairus and Kesero Tunai. Introduction. In *Critical Readings on Eastern African Autobiography*. Glienicke, Germany: Gelda Verlag Publishers, **2016**. ISBN 978-3-941267-48-0. Print.

#### **F. University/ Tertiary/ Secondary Level Books:**

- I. Omuteche, Jairus. *The High Flier and Other Stories*. (Collected and Edited Short Story Anthology). Nairobi: East African Educational publishers, **2011**. ISBN 978-9966-25-804-5. Print.
- II. Omuteche, Jairus. *Study Guide to Ibsen's An Enemy of the People* (With Judith Jefwa). Nairobi: Jommo Kenyatta Foundation, **2009**. ISBN 9966-22-712-1. Print.
- III. Omuteche, Jairus. *Study Guide to Ngugi's The River Between*. Nairobi: Jommo Kenyatta Foundation, **2008**. ISBN 9966-22-659-1. Print
- IV. Omuteche, Jairus. *Notes on Macmillan's Half a Day and Other Stories*. Nairobi: East African Education Publishers, **2006**.
- V. Omuteche, Jairus *Notes on Velma Pollard's Home Stretch*. Nairobi: East African Education Publishers, **2005**. ISBN 9966-25-356-4. Print.

#### **G. Reviewed Conference Papers:**

- I. Omuteche, Jairus "Marked Identities and Diasporic Belonging in M. G. Vassanji's *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall*." In Published proceedings of the Colloquium on Citizenship, Identity, and Belonging in Literature, Film, Music and Theatre held at the Department of Literature, University of Nairobi on 27<sup>th</sup> July **2016**, Edited by Dr. Joseph Muleka. Pp. 13-19. ISBN..... Print.
- II. Omuteche, Jairus "Global Cosmopolitanism and Diasporic Singularities" In *Diasporic Choices*, Edited by Renata Seredyńska-Abou Eid. Oxford: Inter-Disciplinary Press, **2013**. Pp. 87-96. ISBN 978-1-84888-187-7. E- Book.
- III. Omuteche, Jairus "Rootedness and Globalisation: Identity and Belonging in M. G. Vassanji's *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall*." In *Border Terrains: World Diasporas in the 21st Century*. Edited by Allyson Eamer. Oxford: Inter-Disciplinary Press, **2012**. Pp. 157-166. ISBN 978-1-84888-117-4. E-Book.

## H. Scholarly Presentations at Conferences, Seminars, Colloquiums, etc.:

- I. Omuteche Jairus and Were Jacynter “The Push-pull Factors of Black Diasporic Living in Chika Unigwe’s *On Black Sisters Street*”. Presented at the Turkana University College 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Multidisciplinary Conference in May 2022.
- II. Omuteche Jairus. “Rootedness and Globalization in Vassanji and Adichie” Presented at the Turkana University College 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Multidisciplinary Conference in May 2022.
- III. Omuteche, Jairus and Jacqueline Kituu. “Dialogic re-construction of Covid-19 messaging through animation and popular music” at the Egerton University 14<sup>th</sup> Biannual International Conference in March 2022.
- IV. Omuteche, Jairus. “Subversive Fringes in Wole Soyinka Drama”, Presented at the Renaissance of African Cultural Elements: Arts, Music, Crafts, Language and Literature and Folklore conference Organised by The *Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC)*, on 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> December 2021.
- V. Omuteche, Jairus and Vincent Odhiambo. “Departure from Our Roots: Popular Cultural Production and Consumption in Kenyan Youth Fiction”, Presented at the Renaissance of African Cultural Elements: Arts, Music, Crafts, Language and Literature and Folklore conference Organised by The *Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC)*, on 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> December 2021.
- VI. Omuteche, Jairus and Vincent Odhiambo. “Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Fragmenting Youth Social Identities: Analysis of Selected Kenyan Fiction”. Presented at the 14<sup>th</sup> Multi-Disciplinary Conference at MMUST 19<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> May 2021.
- VII. Omuteche, Jairus and Atichi Alati. “The Ethnophilosophy of Olunyole Food Related Metaphoricity in the Perpetuation of Normative Conformity”. Presented at the 14<sup>th</sup> Multi-Disciplinary Conference at MMUST 19<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> May 2021.
- VIII. Omuteche, Jairus, Isabella Mutiko and Marciana Were. “Historical and Normative Images of Masters and Female Domestic Workers and their Contestations in Zukizwa Wanner’s *The Madams*”. Presented at The Joint KESSA-AISA-MMU 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Conference, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- IX. Omuteche, Jairus and Atichi Alati. “Aspects of Olunyole Language Aesthetics and Indigenous Mechanisms of Psychosocial Resilience”. Presented at The Joint KESSA-AISA-MMU 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Conference 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- X. Omuteche, Jairus. “Predatory Globalisation in Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s *Petals of Blood*”. Presented at The Joint KESSA-AISA-MMU 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Conference 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- XI. Omuteche, Jairus. “Signifying and Decentering as Strategies of Moral and Gender Codification in Abanyole Oral Narratives”. Presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Society for Oral Literature in Africa (ISOLA), 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021.
- XII. Omuteche, Jairus. “Effectiveness of Communication about Covid-19 through Animation and Popular Music”. Presented at the 2021 DAAD Scholars Virtual Conference, 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- XIII. Omuteche, Jairus “Marked Identities and Diasporic Belonging in M. G. Vassanji’s *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall*.” Presented at a Colloquium on Citizenship, Identity, and Belonging in Literature, Film, Music and Theatre held at the Department of Literature, University of Nairobi on 27<sup>th</sup> July **2016**.
- XIV. Omuteche, Jairus “The Mass Media and the Nature of Literary Criticism in Kenya.” Presented at The State of Literary Criticism in East Africa: A Colloquium held in Honour of Prof Chris Wanjala’s 70<sup>th</sup> birthday held at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology on 26<sup>th</sup> April **2014**.
- XV. Omuteche, Jairus “The Making of the Colonial Subject and the Emergent of Diasporic Subjecthood in M. G. Vassanji’s *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall*.” At the

Reflections on Moyez Vassanji: A Colloquium held at the University of Nairobi, Department of Literature on 20<sup>th</sup> January **2014**.

- XVI. Omuteche, Jairus “Globalisation and Negotiating Diasporic Identities and Belonging in Vasanji and Adichie.” At the African Studies Association of the UK’s (ASAUK) Training Workshop for Early Career Scholars held at The British Institute in East Africa on 20<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> September **2013**. Facilitated by Professor Chege Githiora, Institute of African and Oriental Studies and Editor, Journal of African Cultural Studies.
- XVII. Omuteche, Jairus “Shifting Landscape: From Colonial Rupturing to Neo-colonial Distortions – Re-reading Ngugi’s Historiography.” At the East African at 50: A Celebration of Histories and Futures Conference, held at the University of Nairobi, Department of Literature on 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> September **2013**. S
- XVIII. Omuteche, Jairus “Diasporic Singularities and Global Cosmopolitanism.” At 5th Global Conference: Diasporas – Exploring Critical Issues; An Inter-Disciplinary.Net Conference, Mansfield College, Oxford University, UK. 29th June **2012** – 1st July 2012, <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/at-the-interface/diversity-recognition/diasporas/conference-programme-abstracts-and-papers/session-4b-diasporic-fragments/>
- XIX. Omuteche, Jairus “Rootedness and Globalisation: Identity and Belonging in M. G. Vassanji’s *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall*”. At 4<sup>th</sup> Global Conference: Diasporas – Exploring Critical Issues; An Inter-Disciplinary.Net Conference, Mansfield College, Oxford University, UK. 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July **2011**. <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/at-the-interface/diversity-recognition/diasporas/project-archives/4t/session-8-revisiting-identities/>
- XX. Omuteche, Jairus “Shifting Image: Space-Place in the Representations of Identity and Belonging in Toni Morrison”. Presented at Culture Area Innovation and New Research Conference, University of Sunderland, UK. 14<sup>th</sup> May **2011**.
- XXI. Omuteche, Jairus “Oral Literature as A People’s Expressive Philosophy of Their World”. Kenya Oral Literature (KOLA) International Conference on Oral Literature and the Environment at Kisumu Sunset Hotel, Kenya. 8<sup>th</sup> September **2006**.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

1. Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC)
2. Kenya Oral Literature Association (KOLA)
3. International Society of Oral Literature Associations (ISOLA)
4. Postcolonial Studies Association (PSA)
5. International Research Council on African Literature and Culture (IRCACL)

## **SUPERVISION AND ACADEMIC MENTORING**

Thesis Supervisions:

<b>Student’s Name</b>	<b>Title of Thesis/ Year of Graduation</b>
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1. Fernandes Esadia Kasiera – “The National, Cultural and Personal Identity Struggles in Yvonne Adhiamo Owuor’s Texts”, MA 2021.
2. Kasili George Wanjala – “Construction of Images of Motherhood in Bukusu Work and Celebratory Songs”, MA 2016.
3. Faith Mutsune – “Systematic Shattering of Patriarchy in Margaret Ogola’s Selected Literary Texts”, MA 2017.
4. Sam Odhiambo Owino – “Disillusionment in Postcolonial Literature: An Analysis of Ben Mtobwa’s *Give me Money* and *Dar Es-Salaam by Night*”, MA 2017

### **Editorial and Peer Review**

- i. Reviewer for the Journal of East African Literary and Cultural Studies (Tailor and Francis)
- ii. On the editorial panel of the Horizon Research Publishing, USA (HRPUB)

### **Consultancy**

- i. Facilitated a Workshop on Episodic Analysis of a Dolls House and Tackling English paper 3 examination for Students and Teachers of St. Anne Nzoia Girls High School, Kakamega County on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019.
- ii. Facilitated Workshop on Practical Approaches to Teaching and Examining English Language and Literature. Held at Sinaga Girls High School in Siaya County on 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019.
- iii. Served as a consultant for Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development in the Evaluation and selection of Literature Set Books for High School in September **2016**

### **External Examination**

- i. Egerton University – Postgraduate
- ii. Maseno University – Postgraduate

### **Contributions to University Life (Administration and other Responsibilities)**

- i. Head of Department – Department of Language and Literature Education – August 2021 to Date
- ii. Member, University Dean’s Electoral Board, 2020-2021
- iii. Member, Ebungangwe Campus Task Force, 2018
- iv. Chair, School Graduate Studies Committee (SASS) – April 2021 – December 2021
- v. Head of Literature Sub-section – May 2017 – August 2021

### **Organisation of Conference and Seminar**

- i. Biocosmos Workshop on Intelligence Design – March 2022
- ii. Technical Committee Member in charge of Logistics in Mother Language Conference, February 2020
- iii. Organised and facilitated a Colloquium in Honour of Prof Chris Wanjala’s 70<sup>th</sup> birthday at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology on 26<sup>th</sup> April **2014**.

## **Involvement in Outreach and Community**

- i. Patron, Ebukhubi Development and Educational Empowerment – Main role is to mentor and motivate Class seven and eight pupils in Mundecheyo and Irumbi Primary Schools to improve their academic performance, have positive mind and set viable academic and career objectives.
- ii. Mentor, Academic Counsellor and Career Adviser for Wemilabi Primary School Class Seven and Eight
- iii. In collaboration With Ebunagwe Boys High School Alumni Association, adopted 4<sup>th</sup> Form class for Mentorship and advice for Motivation and Academic and Career Counselling.

## **Research Projects and Funding**

- i. Dictionary of Olunyole Culture and Folklore – Funded by Masinde Muliro Innovative Research Grant. Phase One: 2021 (KES 300,000). Phase Two 2022 (KES 150,000). PI; Dr Atichi Alati Co-PI – Ongoing
- ii. Modelling Crisis Communication during Covid-19 Pandemic. 2022 (KES 400,000). Co-PI; Dr Mudogo PI and Dr David Barasa Co-PI. – Ongoing

## **REFEREES**

**When requested**