MAY – JUNE 2015

1. DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

2. COLLOQUIUM AND SPECIAL LECTURE
   1. COLLOQUIUM ON NGUGI WA THIONG’O’S WEEP NOT CHILD
      Professor Ngugi wa Thiong’o visited the Department of Literature to sign the guest book and to meet with staff from both the Department of Literature and Sub Department of French. on 11th June 2015. He was accompanied by Prof. Enos Njeru, the Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Masumi Odari, the Chairperson of the Department of Literature, the Chairman of East African Educational Publishers Dr. Henry Chakava and the CEO Mr. Kiarie Kamau
During the meeting with staff from the Department of Literature and the Sub Department of French
After a courtesy call to the department, Prof Ngugi wa Thion’o attended a Colloquium organized by the Department at which Prof. Chris Wanjala and Prof. Henry Indangasi both from the Literature Department of the University of Nairobi as well as Dr. Garnette Oluoch-Olunya from Technical University of Kenya and Dr. JKS Makokha from Kenyatta University made presentations under the theme: “50 years of Weep Not, Child.” The Colloquium was attended by more than 80 staff, students and visitors including one of the most prolific women writers Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye and Mr. and Mrs. Elimo Njau from Paa ya Paa Arts Centre.

2. LECTURE ON NURTURING AFRICAN LITERATURE
Later Prof Ngugi wa Thion’o gave a public lecture in Taifa Hall titled: “Nurturing African Literature.”
During the Lecture, Ngugi presented with our Mwangaza Magazine.

LSA students from the department were trained and deployed as protocol officers during both events and they did a wonderful job.

3. **FAREWELL TO PROF. JEAN COREY**

The Department of Literature held a farewell party for Prof. Jean Corey from Messiah College, USA. She was a research affiliate in our department from 2\(^{nd}\) January – 8\(^{th}\)
June 2015. During her stay in the department, she gave a number of lectures to our staff and MA students.

4. PROPOSAL PRESENTATION

1. PH.D. DEFENCE

Gloria Ozor’s PhD proposal entitled “The Politics of Identity Construction and Gender roles in Umulumgbe “ODO” Masquerade Ritual Performance” was successfully defended at the Faculty level on 13th May 2015.

2. PH.D. PROPOSAL PRESENTATION

Alfred Mugambi Ong’ang’a presented his PhD proposal entitled “A Critical Analysis of Rhetorical Strategies in Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s Selected Fiction.” The presentation was attended by 23 staff and students. (Date: 17th June 2015)

3. M.A. PROPOSAL PRESENTATION

Nine MA students presented their MA proposals. The following is the list of the students who presented their proposals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Susan Kavaya</td>
<td>Negotiating Identities in Transnational Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alawia Chuoi Kai</td>
<td>Images Women in Nuer Oral narratives and their Significance</td>
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Farewell party on 29th May 2015
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<tr>
<td>Omori Kennedy Chui</td>
<td>Interrogating the Narrative Logic of Nigeria and Biafra in Chinua Achebe’s Autobiography, <em>There Was a Country: A Personal History of Biafra</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamau Peris Njeri</td>
<td>Form in Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s Short Stories “Secret Lives and Other Stories”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgina Nyamai</td>
<td>Characterization Techniques as Artistic Tools for Narrating Dystopia in George Orwell’s <em>Nineteen Eighty Four</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynder Oketch</td>
<td>Mukoma wa Ngugi’s riotous quester: <em>Nairobi Heat</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Kimotho</td>
<td>The Historical Film as a Viable Documentation of History: An Analysis of Films Made in Rwanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amos Burkeywo</td>
<td>Narration of Kenyan History Through Fiction in Yvonne Owuor’s <em>Dust</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Odero</td>
<td>Critical Examinations of Portrayal of Childhood in <em>Living to Tell the Tale</em> by Gabriel Garcia Marquez</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **MODULE WRITING FOR DISTANCE LEARNING**

4 of our staff, namely, Prof. Helen Mwanzi, Dr. Kitata Makau, Dr. Godwin Siundu and Dr. Kimingichi Wabende attended a four days’ workshop at Multimedia University of Kenya from 25th May to 28th May 2015 to develop modules for our new first year courses.

6. **LSA ACTIVITIES**

1. **LAUNCH OF MWANGAZA JOURNAL**

   The Mwangaza Journal that contains creative works and literary articles by the students taking literature was launched at the beginning of April 2015. The launch involved readings from the journal by the published authors. There were also speeches from alumni from the department who are working with the media.
2. **LSA ELECTIONS FOR 2015/2016**

   The Literature Students Association held a successful election on 22\textsuperscript{nd} May 2015 and the outgoing leadership handed over to the current on-session students. The elected leaders held their first meeting with the patron and chairperson of the department on 19\textsuperscript{th} June 2015.

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7. **LAUNCH OF UNTT**

   The University of Nairobi Traveling Theatre was launched to replace the Free Traveling Theatre. The launch was held in May 2015 at ED II. In attendance were the
staff and students from the Department of Literature. The Chief Guest was Prof.
Ephraim Wahome, the Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts who was representing the
Dean, Faculty of Arts.

8. KAZE NI TATSU LION FILM PROJECT

The movie “Kaze ni tatsu Lion” (The Lion Standing in the Wind) in which the
Department of Literature was involved in was premiered in Japan on 13th March
2015. In total, 18 students were hired as interns by Rakueisha, the Japanese film
Company and more than 100 students and staff from the Department acted as extras in
the film. The Department of Literature, in collaboration with Nippon Television
Network Corporation and Planet Media Cinemas, Nairobi are currently negotiating
the showing of the film in Kenya.

For further details of the film, please visit http://www.ntv.co.jp/english/pc/2015/02/6120.html
9. EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

1. SOKA UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE

Nuhu Masoud and Joy Gahenda have been selected to represent the Department for a five months’ exchange programme at Soka University, Japan from September 2015 to January 2016. They will be the fifth batch to be sent to Soka University Japan since 2010.

2. HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE

Boniface Chagara has been accepted to the Humboldt Exchange programme in Berlin, Germany. He will be there for 5 months from June to November 2015 writing his MA project in film studies.

10. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

1. The Chair, Dr. Masumi Odari and Mrs. Anna Mwangi were among the 6 students and 5 staff who represented the University of Nairobi during the Soka University Student Leadership Workshop held at Soka University, Japan from 30th March to 6th April 2015.
2. Dr. Masumi Odari and Mrs. Anna Mwangi were invited to Rakueisha Film Company, Japan to discuss the modalities of launching the film “Kaze ni Tatsu Lion” in Nairobi. During their stay, they visited Fukushima University, Toho Studio, Rakueisha Company, Nippon Television Network Company. They also met Mr. Takashi, Miike, the film director of the film.
3. Dr. Alex Wanjala presented a paper during the African Peace Research and Education Association (AFPREA) Conference held in Abuja Nigeria from 13th – 16th April 2015. The title of his paper was “Seeking Peace through the Narration of Trauma: Rebeka Njau’s The Sacred Seed.”

4. Dr. Alex Wanjala took part as English Interpreter during the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Pan African Parliament held from 18th – 20th May in Midrand, South Africa.

5. Dr. Alex Wanjala presented a paper entitled “Constructing a Future Language through Media: The Use of Sheng in Hapa Kule News” at the 41st Annual Conference of the African Literature Association held at University of Bayreuth, Germany from 3rd to 6th June 2015.

6. Dr. Godwin Siundu was invited to the Dhow Countries Music Academy, Zanzibar from 9th -14th June 2015.
7. Prof. Ciarunji Chesaina was invited to give lectures to teachers at Messiah College, USA on 16\textsuperscript{th} - 18\textsuperscript{th} June 2015.

11. STUDENT INTERNSHIP

SIGANA MOTO MOTO PROGRAMME

Twenty students were involved in the shooting of the television series as performers and production crew. This was collaboration with Cinematics Productions Company which awarded participation certificates to all the students who were involved in the programme.
12. WELFARE

After hearing the sad news of the Kikuyu Campus tragedy, members of staff contributed money for the victims of the tragedy and the Chair Dr. Masumi Odari together with LSA student leaders visited Kenyatta Hospital to give them moral support.

Francis Maina, a third year student in our BEd programme, passed away on 9th April 2015 following the Kikuyu Campus tragedy. Prof. Monica Mweseli and Mr. Osaaji Mumia represented the department during the burial service held in Muranga. LSA representatives also attended the burial service.

Frank Oruka, a second year student in the Department of Literature and also a member of the UNTT passed away on 3rd June 2015. Our UNTT students led by Dr. Kimingichi Wabende attended the burial service in Siaya County on 13th June 2015.
1.0 Introduction

The Department was very busy during the first quarter of 2015/2016. Here are some highlights of the activities and achievements for the first quarter.

2.0 STUDENT ENROLMENT

2.1 B.A. in Literature & BA in Performing Arts

The department has continued to offer the above courses to Module I and Module II students.

2.2 M.A. Programmes

The Department has continued to offer M.A. in Literature and M.A. in Theatre and Film Studies in both fulltime and school based programmes.

2.3 PhD Programme and Research:

2.3.1 List of Students working on their PhD Thesis

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<td>8</td>
<td>DOUGLAS MACHARIA MWANGI</td>
<td>Publishing outpost on the Kenyan Literary landscape: A critique of Busara, Mutiiri and Kwani?</td>
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### 4.0 DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

The Department has been able to sustain departmental seminars for sharing progress in research as well as mentoring young scholars. As from September-December, 2014, the Department maintained its monthly participation in international seminars. Members of staff have been able to travel to Universities in the USA, Africa, Europe and Asia presenting papers and networking with other scholars. This has put the Department of Literature and the University of Nairobi on the international academic map.
4.1 The Place of Literature in the Contemporary University Setting in Kenya

The Colloquium was held on 29th July 2015 in ED 213 and brought together scholars of literature, writers and other producers of literary cultural artefacts drawn from universities, cultural institutions and other related organizations to a discourse on the broad theme of The Place of Literature in the Contemporary University Setting in Kenya.

5.0 Professional and Staff Development

The Department aims to have a dynamic team of literary scholars with local and international recognition. The Department hopes to achieve this by supporting members of staff currently pursuing their PhD programmes to complete within two years.

5.1 Three of our staff are currently working on their PhD. They are:

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GPO Nairobi, Kenya                              Fax: (+254-020) 245566
Email: literature@uonbi.ac.ke                  Website: www.literature.ac.ke
6.0 INTERNATIONAL LINKS AND COLLABORATIONS

In the first quarter of 2015/2016 academic year, the Department enhanced its international profile by engaging with other universities in Africa, US, Asia and Europe, either to strengthen existing collaborations or start new ones. Among the links on course include:

- An MoU with Ministry of Sports, Arts and Culture
- An MOU with Rakueisha Company, Japan
- An MoU with the Ministry of Education
- An MoU with Universidade Pedagogica, Mocambique

The Department has also collaborated with other organisations and institutions including the Ministry of Sports, Culture Arts and Culture which will benefit students taking BA in Performing Arts and Theatre & Film Studies courses. There was also collaboration with Kenya Science Campus where we put up classes for Theatre & Film Studies.

7.0 LSA ACTIVITIES

7.1 Mwangaza Journal

The Mwangaza Journal that contains creative works and literary articles by the students taking literature was launched at the beginning of April 2015.
LSA editorial Committee is currently accepting any creative writing from students for their next edition.

8.0 Exchange Programes

8.1 SOKA UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE

Nuhu Masoud and Joy Gahenda left for Soka University, Japan for a five months’ exchange program. They are the fifth batch to be sent to Soka University Japan since 2010.

8.2 HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE

Boniface Chagara was studying under the Humboldt Exchange programme in Berlin, Germany came back safely. He was studying at Humboldt University ZU for 5 months writing his MA project in film studies.

9.0 INTERNSHIP

P.O. Box 30197-00100, GPO Nairobi, Kenya
Email: literature@uonbi.ac.ke
Telephone: (+254-020) 318262
Fax: (+254-020) 245566
Website: www.literature.ac.ke
9.1 Longhorn Publishers

Eunice Mugo, a third year student was offered internship with Longhorn Publishers from September to December 2015.

9.2 Broadcast Film and Music Africa

Michael Sulwe and Laiboni Kanyiri were offered internship with Broadcast Film and Music Africa from September to October 2015.

10.0 Publications

(a) Dr. Miriam Maranga-Musonye


(b) Prof. Peter Wasamba


Internationalization and Korean Studies in the University of Nairobi


Contemporary Oral Literature Fieldwork University of Nairobi Press 2015.

(c) Dr. Jennifer Muchiri


(d) Dr. Masumi Odari

P.O. Box 30197-00100, GPO Nairobi, Kenya
Email: literature@uonbi.ac.ke
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Promoting Peace through the Korean Children War Stories *When my Name was Kioko* and *Year of Impossible Goodbyes* The Nairobi Journal of Literature (Special Edition) Forthcoming 2015.

11.0 **Conferences attended and Papers Presented July – September 2015**

(a) Prof. Peter Wasamba

*Conferences Attended and Papers Presented*

*Funded Research Projects*


Overcoming Challenges in a Strange Research Locale: Reflections on Fieldwork Experiences in the Republic of Korea.”

(b) Prof. Henry Indangasi

*Editing*

The Nairobi Journal of Literature No. 8 (Special Issue),, A publication of the Department of Literature.

Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) articles for publication.

(c) Dr. Tom Odhiambo

*Conferences Attended and Papers Presented*

Organized The 2nd Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies Conference, Makerere University 20-22 August 2015

(d) Dr. Jennifer Muchiri

*Conferences Attended and Papers Presented*

The Detective Novel as an Allegory of Contemporary Kenya A paper presented during The 2nd Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies Conference, Makerere University 20-22 August 2015

(e) Mrs. Anna Mwangi

*Editing*
The Nairobi Journal of Literature No. 8 (Special Issue), A publication of the Department of Literature.

(f) Dr. Kimumichi Wabende

(g) Dr. Godwin Siundu
Histories as Fetishes: A Tale of Two Life Stories A paper presented during The 2nd Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies Conference, Makerere University 20-22 August 2015

(h) Prof. Alina Rinkanya
Identity and Hybridity in Kenyan Women’s Novels A paper presented during The 2nd Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies Conference, Makerere University 20-22 August 2015

12.0 International Conferences

The 2nd Eastern Africa Literary and Cultural Studies Conference entitled “Textualities of Space: Connections, Intricacies and Intimacies”

Dr. Tom Odhiambo, Dr. Jennifer Muchiri, Dr. Godwin Siundu, Dr. Kimumichi Wabende, Prof. Alina Rinkanya, Dr. Kitata Makau and seven M.A. students participated in the 2nd Eastern Africa Literary and Cultural Studies Conference held at Makerere University from 20 – 22 August 2015.
1.0 Introduction

Here are some highlights of the activities and achievements for the second quarter.

2.0 STUDENT ENROLMENT

2.1 B.A. in Literature & BA in Performing Arts

The department has continued to offer the above courses to Module I and Module II students.

2.2 M.A. Programmes

1) The Department has continued to offer M.A. in Literature and M.A. in Theatre and Film Studies in both full-time and school based programmes.

2) Those who graduated in December 2015 are as follows:

1. Barasa Denis Waswa C50/78981/2012
2. Kiburi Wakaguyu Wa C50/72847/2014
3. Odhiambo Tonney Hillary C50/70464/2013
4. Boiyo Amos Burkeywo C50/69781/2013
5. Puyaka Pkorir Philip C50/63561/2013
6. Makhakha Joseph Wangila C50/63702/2013
7. Keton Anne Lanoi C50/78982/2012
8. Wanjoji Samuel Wambugu C50/70520/2013
9. Oketch Lynder Christine Achieng C50/70466/2013
10. Anyango Bernard Francois C50/76340/2012
11. Chagara Boneace C50/72972/2014
12. Kaula Salome Katumbi C50/78472/2012
13. Owiti Tom Odhiambo C50/74582/2012

3) M.A. Project Proposal Presentation
The above presentation took place on 9\textsuperscript{th} December 2015 in ED 116. We had five students who presented their proposals.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>SAMVEL MWABU</td>
<td>Fragmentation in Nuruddin Farah’s novel \textit{Maps}</td>
</tr>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>ANGELINE ASIKO</td>
<td>Articulating female concerns using the short story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>JUSTUS KIPCHIRCHIR KEMBOI</td>
<td>Oral History and Preservation of Identity in \textit{Kintu} by Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>KEVIN MOSIGISI MORWANI</td>
<td>Historical Recasting of Female Agency in David Mulwa’s Prose</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>RUTH K OPENDA</td>
<td>Concepts of Identity in Dinaw Mengustu’s Novels \textit{All Our Names} and \textit{Children of the Revolution}.</td>
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\textbf{2.4 PhD Programme and Research:}

1) List of Students working on their PhD Thesis:

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<td>GORDIA, ROCKY IMBUKULEH</td>
<td>Trends in Oratory; A Study of Modern Approaches in Speech Writing and Delivery in Kenya</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>PAULINE KARIUKI</td>
<td>A Critical Appraisal of Children’s Literature in Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>GODFREY M. OMUTITI</td>
<td>Doctor-patient relationships and the quest for meaning of life: A study of the medical memoirs of Yusuf K. Dawood</td>
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2) 2015 PhD graduates

1. Douglass Macharia Mwangi C80/81701/2011
3) PhD. Proposal Presentation

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<td>GORDIAH ROCKY IMBUKULEH</td>
<td>The Elusive Nature of Reconciliation in Theatre of East Africa</td>
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<td>2</td>
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3.0 DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

The Department has held two main seminars in the second quarter of 2015/2016 academic year.

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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>24th November 2015</td>
<td>Dr. Miriam Musonye</td>
<td>Poetic Musings in a Transnational Context: A Reading of Ngwatilo Mawiyoo’s Blue Mother tongues</td>
<td>ED116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd December 2015</td>
<td>Prof. Nuruddin Farah</td>
<td>Celebrating Differences</td>
<td>ED II</td>
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4.0 STAFF MEETING

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27th October 2015</td>
<td>Staff Meeting with Internal and External Examiners</td>
<td>To Discuss exam results (April – October 2015)</td>
<td>ED 116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th December 2015</td>
<td>End of Year Departmental Party</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ed 116</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th December 2015</td>
<td>Handing over meeting</td>
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<td>ED 111</td>
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Prof. Wangari Mwai (External Examiner) giving her report

End of the year party

End of the year party
5.0 Professional and Staff Development

The Department aims to have a dynamic team of literary scholars with local and international recognition. The Department hopes to achieve this by supporting members of staff currently pursuing their PhD programmes to complete within two years.

5.1 The following staff are currently working on their PhD:

- Mrs Judith Jefwa
- Mr. Osaaji Mumia
- Mrs. Anna Mwangi
6.0 INTERNATIONAL LINKS AND COLLABORATIONS

The Department enhanced its international profile by engaging with other universities in Africa, US, Asia and Europe, either to strengthen existing collaborations or start new ones. Among the links on course include:

- An MoU with Ministry of Sports, Arts and Culture
- AN MOU with Rakueisha Company, Japan
- An MoU with the Ministry of Education
- An MoU with Universidade Pedagogica, Mocambique

The Department has also collaborated with other organisations and institutions including the Ministry of Sports, Culture Arts and Culture which will benefit students taking BA in Performing Arts and Theatre & Film Studies courses. There was also collaboration with Kenya Science Campus where we put up classes for Theatre & Film Studies.

10.0 EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

10.1 SOKA UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE

Nuhu Masoud and Joy Gahenda have been at Soka University, Japan since September 2015 on an exchange program. They are the fifth batch to be sent to Soka University Japan since 2010. Dr. Odari visited them during her private visit to Japan in November 2015.

11.0 INTERNSHIP

11.1 Longhorn Publishers

Eunice Mugo, a third year student was offered internship with Longhorn Publishers from September to December 2015.
11.2 Broadcast Film and Music Africa

Michael Sulwe and Laiboni Kanyiri were offered internship with Broadcast Film and Music Africa from September to December 2015.

12.0 VISITORS

12.1 Prof. Nuruddin Farah, Prominent Somali Writer (3rd December 2015)

Prof. Nuruddin Farah visited the Department of Literature and later on gave a special lecture titled “Celebrating Differences” in ED II.

Prof. Nuruddin Farah visiting the Department of Literature

12.2 Mr. Hidemichi Sato, Parliamentary Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (18th December 2015)
Mr. Sato and his team visited our department and had discussions with exchange students from Japan and Prof. Indangasi who was teaching at Soka University, Japan in 2002.

10.0 PUBLICATION

(e) Dr. Miriam Maranga-Musonye

(f) Prof. Peter Wasamba

Reflections of Two African Researchers on Oral Testimony Fieldwork in South Korea


Contemporary Oral Literature Fieldwork University of Nairobi Press 2015.

(g) Dr. Jennifer Muchiri


Reflections of Two African Researchers on Oral Testimony Fieldwork in South Korea

(h) Dr. Masumi Odari

Promoting Peace through the Korean Children War Stories _When my Name was Kioko_ and _Year of Impossible Goodbyes_ The Nairobi Journal of Literature (Special Edition) Forthcoming 2015.