



**MOI UNIVERSITY  
AFRICAN CLUSTER CENTRE**



# **SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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**MOI@40 WORKSHOP SERIES**

## **THEME: ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

**30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024  
Moi University, Eldoret**

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*Celebrating*  
**Moi University**



**ANNIVERSARY**

Our University, Our Future

*“An Inspiring Legacy. Embracing Technology and Innovation for Sustainability”* ”

Workshop Convenor:  
Prof. Mary Wahome  
Dean  
School of Arts and Social Sciences  
Moi University

## Foreword

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Moi University is a fitting occasion to interrogate the place of the arts, humanities and social sciences in the present age. The establishment of Moi University as the second university in Kenya was very deliberately sensitive to the historical conditions in late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Kenya and to the aspiration of Kenya's political leadership to propel the country out of the economic weakness that made it part of the third world. The development needs of a majority rural Kenyan population were the driving forces for the forging of the institution. Expectedly, in the light of the vision of its founding, which was undergirded by a belief in the instrumentality of education, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines were centered in the curriculum of the university. Even so, the crafters of the institution also understood that the arts, humanities and social sciences have an important role to play in the envisioned project of modernity. For this reason, they provided space for the inclusion of disciplines in the arts, humanities and social sciences in the university curriculum. The understanding seems to have been that by improving the human beings that make up the nation *as human beings*, that is, in their ethics, people skills, creative critical thinking, and so forth, these disciplines would contribute to the holistic progress of the country. A lot has happened to Kenya and the world since the mid-1980s when Moi University was established. The cold war ended, and a unipolar but intensely globalized world ensued. The digital age is matured. The world has survived a couple of global health pandemics and several other serious health events. The earth's climate is changing. Although rapidly urbanizing, Kenya is still characterized by economic weakness that firmly situates it in the category of developing nations. The country's political leadership is obsessively plotting ways to move it into a middle-income country. Over the same 40 years, the privileged position of STEM disciplines in discourses of appropriate education in the Kenyan context specifically but also globally has been consolidated – and this has been buttressed by the funding that has followed the various disciplines. This is the context in which the Moi University African Cluster Centre of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence is convening a two-day workshop that will critically revisit the discussion of the place of the arts, humanities and social sciences in the present age. The workshop will therefore be a forum where critical reflections on the career(s), uses and possible futures of disciplines in the arts, humanities and social sciences in the digital age.

## Program

Day 1 30.05.2024			
08:30 – 09:00	Registration		
09:00 – 10:00	Opening Ceremony Master of Ceremony: Prof. Mosol Kandagor		
	09:00 – 09:20	Screening of the Documentary <i>Moi University</i>	
	09:25 – 09:45	Screening of the Documentary <i>The SASS</i>	
	09:50 – 10:10	Introduction	Prof. Mary Wahome Dean School of Arts and Social Sciences Moi University
	10:10 – 10:25	Remarks	Prof. Kirimi Kiriamiti Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration, Planning and Strategy Moi University
	10:25 – 10:45	Remarks and Official Opening of Conference	Prof. Isaac Kosgey Vice Chancellor Moi University
10:45 – 11:00	Health Break		
11:00 – 11:50	Session 1		
	Room 1 Chair: Prof. Peter Simatei		
11:00 – 11:50	Keynote Address 1 Interdisciplinarity and Shifting Discourses in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in the Digital Age: Bridging Gaps, Creating New Opportunities and Possibilities <i>Maurice N. Amutabi</i> <i>Technical University of Kenya</i>		
11:55 – 13:05	Session 2		
	Room 1 Chair: Dr. Samuel Ndogo		

11:55 – 12:15	Paper 1 Peering into the future of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: Moi University's School of Arts and Social Sciences. <i>Mary N. Wahome &amp; Musi N. Philip</i> <i>Moi University</i>	
12:15 – 12:35	Paper 2 Theorizing on the Real World, Cultures and Civilizations through Social Sciences at Moi University: The Place of the School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS) <i>Paul Abiero Opondo</i> <i>Moi University</i>	
12:35 – 12:55	Paper 3 The power of Social Science, Arts and Humanities in Tech-centric Era <i>Eric R. Masese</i> <i>Moi University</i>	
12:55 – 13:10	Q&A	
13:10 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3	
	Room 1 Chair: Dr. Justine Sikuku	Room 2 Chair: Prof. Hassan Ndzovu
14:00 – 14:20	Paper 4 Afrocentrism and the Quest for Endorsement from Global North to develop Curriculum and Teach Medicine: Covid-19 lessons <i>Akinmayowa Akin-Otiko</i> <i>University of Lagos</i>	Paper 7 The Moi University School of Arts and Social Sciences and Forty Years of Successful Learning: Lecturers' Views of ICT Integration <i>Mary Kibigo and Magdalene Wafula</i> <i>Moi University</i>
14:20 – 14:40	Paper 5 Herbal Sauna: A survey of the melting pot of indigenous alternative medicine and its emergent social spaces in Eldoret, Kenya. <i>Kutol Kiprono, Simon Omare &amp; Mosol Kandagor</i> <i>Moi University</i>	Paper 8 Enhancing Data Accessibility and Interoperability in Repositories through Web Application Programming Interface (API) and Linked Open Data Approach <i>Leonard Kirui</i> <i>Moi University</i>
14:40 – 15:00	Paper 6 Examining the Efficacy of Technology-Based Pre-Retirement Counseling	Paper 9 Decolonizing AI for the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences in

	Programs in Facilitating Retirement Transition <i>Juliana Njeri Mugure</i> <i>Moi University</i>	Africa: An Ethical and Epistemological Discourse. <i>Philip N. Musi &amp; Mary N. Wahome</i> <i>Moi University</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Q&A	Q&A
15:20 – 16:35	Session 4	
	Room 1 Chair: Dr. Paul Opondo	
15:20 – 15:40	Paper 10 African Studies in Brazil: Humanities, National Identity, and the Struggle for Equality <i>Fábio Baqueiro Figueiredo</i> <i>Universidade Federal da Bahia</i>	
15:40 – 16:00	Paper 11 From Nation-Building to Nation Branding: African Literatures' Engagement with the Politics of the Nation. <i>Peter Simatei</i> <i>Moi Universities</i>	
16:00 – 16:20	Paper 12 Moi University Anniversary @ 40: Reflections on University Subjectification and its 'Pastoral Care' in the Post-Cold War World Order <i>Bramwel Matui</i> <i>Moi University</i>	
16:20 – 16:35	Q&A	
Day 2 31.05.2024		
08:45 – 10:05	Session 5	
	Room 1 Chair: Prof. Mary Lonyangapuo	Room 2 Chair: Prof. Fábio Baqueiro Figueiredo
08:45 – 09:05	Paper 13 The Enduring Relevance of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences through a Cultural Theory Lens <i>Kanda Brian</i> <i>Moi University</i>	Paper 16 Leveraging Digital Mobile Money Platforms for Basic Services in Informal Settlements in Kenya <i>Elizabeth Murey, Moses Beru &amp; Dennis Agui</i> <i>Moi University</i>

09:05 – 09:25	Paper 14 The Necessity of Philosophy <i>Makatiani E. Burache</i> <i>Moi University</i>	Paper 17 Adoption of Digital Transformation in the Resilience of the Tourism Sector <i>Bernard Gichana Ombati</i> <i>Moi University</i>
09:25 – 09:45	Paper 15 The Body as a Witness and as a Testimony of Trauma in <i>A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali</i> (2000) <i>Maryline Chepngetich Kirui</i> <i>Moi University</i>	Paper 18 Adaptation and Continuity: Exploring the Resilience of Eldoret’s Theater Artists in the Digital Age <i>Octavious Onyango</i> <i>Moi University</i>
09:45 – 10:00	Q&A	Q&A
10:00 – 10:15	Health Break	
10:15 – 11:30	Session 6	
	Room 1 Chair: Dr. Eric Masese	Room 2 Chair: Dr. Bramwel Matui
10:15 – 10:35	Paper 19 The Laugh Industry: Kenyan Stand-up comedy and speaking truth to power <i>Samuel Ndogo</i> <i>Moi University</i>	Paper 22 The Power of Babel: Investigating linguistic realities in a digital world in Kenya <i>Justine M. Sikuku</i> <i>Moi University</i>
10:35 – 10:55	Paper 20 Popular culture and the evolving digital activism in Kenya <i>Charles Kebaya</i> <i>Machakos University</i>	Paper 23 Communication Disconnect in Higher Education and Practice – Barrier to Societal Well-being: Case Study, Moi University. <i>Mary Lonyangapuo</i> <i>Moi University</i>
10:55 – 11:15	Paper 21 Popular Music Studies and the Question of the Impact of Scholarly Work <i>Tom Michael Mboya</i> <i>Moi University</i>	Paper 24 “We Regard Ourselves as Freelance Preachers”: The Feminization of Learning Institutions and Religious Activities in Kenya <i>Hassan Ndzovu</i> <i>Moi University</i>

11:15 – 11:30	Q&A	Q&A
11:35 – 12:55	Session 7	
	Room 1 Chair: Dr. Akinmayowa Akin–Otiko	
11:35 – 11:55	Paper 25 Strategic Leadership, Management Support and Commercialization of Research Output Among Universities in Kenya <i>Samson Kibii</i> <i>Moi University</i>	
11:55 – 12:15	Paper 26 Research Data Management in the context of humanities studies <i>Solomon Mutai</i> <i>Moi University</i>	
12:15 – 12:30	Q&A	
12: 35 – 13:10	Session 8	
	Room 1 Chair: Prof. Tom Michael Mboya	
12:35 – 12:55	Screening of the Documentary <i>Comedy and Canvas</i> by Migam Cherotich Kibet	
12:55 – 13:10	Q&A	
13:10 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 – 15:00	Session 8	
	Room 1 Chair: Prof. Tom Michael Mboya	
14:00 – 14:50	Keynote Address 2 Moi University as Desire <i>Peter Amuka</i> <i>Emeritus Professor of Comparative Literature</i>	
15:00 – 16:00	Closing Ceremony Master of Ceremony: Prof. Mosol Kandagor	
	15:05 – 15:20	Prof. Peter Simatei Director
	Remarks	



			Moi University African Cluster Centre Moi University
	15:20 – 15:30	Remarks	Prof. Mary Wahome Dean School of Arts and Social Sciences Moi University
	15:30 – 15:50	Remarks and Official Closing of Workshop	Prof. Isaac Kimengi Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics, Research, Extension and Students Affairs Moi University

## Abstracts

### Keynote Address 1

Interdisciplinarity and Shifting Discourses in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in the Digital Age: Bridging Gaps, Creating New Opportunities and Possibilities

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The purpose of this article is to interrogate previous disciplinary tensions that existed in arts, humanities and social sciences and how new opportunities have emerged in scholarly collaboration and corroboration through interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and shifting discourses on space, agency and voice in ways that promote celebration of diversity in the digital age. New ideas such as artificial intelligence and online platforms are promoting instant production of knowledge through digital and electronic peer process in the arts, humanities and social sciences in which manual processing has been pushed on the periphery. This has been made possible through expanding theoretical possibilities which have been created and necessitated by new prisms, lenses and parameters by more critical theories leading to pluralities in knowledge production without power and control by so-called mainstream. The contention of the article is that new scholarly horizons have been created leading to bridging gaps between and among disciplines, thereby creating new opportunities and knowledge spheres shaped by peeling of layers in previous studies and unpacking and deconstructing them in order to create new meaning, of originals, mimics and hybrids as part of human experience and existence. The article interrogates written and unwritten sources, as well as silences, which have created new scholarly windfall or bonanza where scholars have defied previous boundaries using new research approaches and designs which go beyond interviews, focus group discussions, questionnaires, observation, experiential views and mixed methods in order to engage alternative sources of knowledge creation which are not hegemonic but multidimensional. The article will show that vertical, horizontal and parallel frontiers of knowledge creation are erasing ambiguities and ambivalences previously present in nuanced and hierarchies of knowledge creation in various oppositional binaries of South and North, West and East and Developed and Developing in ways that that promote equity, equality and egalitarianism in knowledge production as partners. How do we invite scholars to deconstruct and eliminate hierarchies of knowledge by peeling off layers in order to create new possibilities of knowledge production in agriculture, anthropology, architecture, botany, education, engineering, geography, history, linguistics, literature, mathematics, sociology, zoology, among other disciplines? How do we create new possibilities in knowledge creation? These some of the questions this article will be interrogating.

## Keynote Address 2

### Moi University as Desire

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My assumption and understanding is that the creation of Moi University in 1984 was a statement to the colonial legacy in Kenya's system of education as inherited some two decades earlier when the union jack was replaced by the national flag. The University of Nairobi, the apex learning institution in Kenya, was being told that the country was ripe for a second university whose intellectual orientation would be scientific and technological. I remember submitting a one-page recommendation to the McKay Committee whose final report formed what Moi University should be. In my statement, I said the proposed university should establish an institute in which researchers would interrogate the humanities and all the sciences from various cultural perspectives. I did not ask whether my suggestion led to the formation of the School of Social, Cultural and Development Studies that was my first employer at Moi University. What concerns me was that a school intended to service all other schools ended up being renamed the School of Arts and Social Sciences thus sounding very much like a replica or an imitation of the University of Nairobi that Moi University was planned and designed to be different from. That is just one of the many ironies embedded in my narrative of the growths, formations and branches of the big tree called Moi University. How it started and the social, political, economic and even personal desires and expectations arising from its manifesto and the many resulting interpretations, constitute the many desires including what the institution should look like, how it should relate to the local, national and international communities and what kind of scholar and graduate should be moulded and produced. In the final analysis, the behemoth called Moi University is one massive irony full of sub-ironies: it is as postcolonial as it's colonial; it's as scientific and technological as it is humanistic and cultural. It is an expression of a desire to be and is a work in progress I attempt to narrate and critique.

## Paper 1

Peering into the future of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: Moi University's School of Arts and Social Sciences.

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Today, more than ever, inter-, intra- and multi-disciplinarity has taken center stage in research and development. Over the years, there's been emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses over the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. This paper will examine and explore the role of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in bridging the past, present and the future for a holistic society. The authors argue that the courses offered under the Arts, Humanities and the social sciences in our universities equip graduates with the ability to analyze and evaluate trends, understand and appraise human behavior, and anticipate future challenges. They further argue that the knowledge and skills acquired are instrumental in crafting effective policies, fostering social innovation, and navigating the ethical considerations of technological advancements. The paper discusses the centrality of these subjects in informing the future of any society. Students who have studied the arts, humanities and social sciences gain crucial perspectives on the human condition, learn from past mistakes, and develop critical thinking skills necessary for a complex world. This paper draws insights from the existential experience of Moi University's School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS). From its inception as School of Social Cultural and Developmental Studies (SSC&D) in 1987, to when it morphed into SASS in 2005, the School has had an experience that's worth a discourse. The COVID-19 pandemic affected all human activities worldwide including higher education institutions' teaching & learning, research and collaboration activities. Measures had to be taken to continue these activities. Moi University including SASS embraced technology enhanced teaching & learning and other academic activities such as oral examination for postgraduate students and virtual graduations. Curricula reviews in SASS now include adoption of blended learning and a focus on emerging issues such as SGDs, climate change, Vision 2030, Agenda 2063, the Kenya government's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda which includes digital superhighway and creative economy. The curricula are also embracing community engaged initiatives to blend theory with practice. Forging interdisciplinary partnerships and collaborations nationally and internationally is another key activity of SASS. All these initiatives are geared towards addressing local and international social and developmental issues. The paper therefore demonstrates that SASS courses can bridge the past, present and the future effectively in the digital age and beyond. The authors are of the opinion that by combining the analytical power of social sciences with the timeless wisdom of the arts and humanities, SASS can empower graduates and staff to become active participants in shaping a better tomorrow.

## Paper 2

Theorizing on the Real World, Cultures and Civilizations through Social Sciences at Moi University: The Place of the School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS)

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Ndlovu-Gatsheni (2017) asserts that the dawn of African political independence in the 1960s was accompanied by intensified struggles to transform/ Africanise/decolonise the university in Africa into an African university. At its deepest level, this struggle entailed formulating a new philosophy of higher education informed by African histories, cultures, ideas and aspirations as well as a fundamental redefinition of the role of the university. Claire Gallien (2020) has argued that since the 1990s, the postcolonial turn has had a profound impact on a large number of disciplines, including literary criticism, history, and translation studies. Although the J.B. Mackay Report (1981) was envisaged to create a pure-science based university, it turned out that the arts and humanities programs became very popular barely 4 years after the STEM established university. In this paper we outline the original goals of the curriculum of the new university, the coming of social sciences and how the study of the social sciences transformed the development of the new curriculum. What were the objectives of the social sciences? How has the teaching of social sciences affected Moi University? By centrally situating the study of arts and social sciences, Moi university has enabled thousands of our graduates to pursue various disciplines such as African literature, African history, political science, Kiswahili, Sociology, Philosophy and Geography thereby them wider understanding of the global village, the international political economy, the human mind and spirituality as well as the African indigenous knowledges. With digitization, these social science disciplines have contributed immensely to the development of consciousness, spirit of nationalism, Pan-Africanism and decolonization of epistemology. African voices have been harnessed through social sciences. Africa has played a big role in the world trade, world culture, and development of theories such as sage philosophy and Ubuntu, all of which have liberated our minds. But in studying these humanities, which tools and theories have been used? From the adoption of modernization theories, dependency, innovation, culturalism, nationalism, there has been the rise of post-colonial trajectories in the analysis of African academic environments. Have we therefore, produced critical thinkers in public administration, politics, teaching profession, cultural and development studies? The paper also justifies the significant place of social sciences and why we should pursue studies in arts and and humanities in the digital age. In its general introduction, the SASS programme was designed to expose students to a wide variety of historical and cultural knowledge so that they are able to understand the nature and importance of global interactions. Under the CBC, the programme aims at equipping students with research and analytical skills for the production and dissemination of knowledge.

## Paper 3

The power of Social Science, Arts and Humanities in Tech-centric Era

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In our contemporary, technology-driven world, the prevailing narrative often champions the exclusive focus on the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) as the primary path to societal progress and employability, relegating social sciences, arts, and humanities to the sidelines. However, contrary to this narrative, this paper contends that social sciences, arts, and humanities play a pivotal and indispensable role in the conceptualization, development, and implementation of scientific innovations. While STEM fields provide the technical expertise necessary for innovation, it is the insights gleaned from social sciences that births and contextualize these advancements within the fabric of society. Social scientists offer invaluable perspectives on how scientific innovations impact individuals, communities, and cultures, ensuring that technological progress aligns with societal needs, values, and ethical considerations. Similarly, arts and humanities disciplines provide avenues for critical reflection, ethical inquiry, and creative expression, enriching scientific research and humanizing technological solutions. By integrating insights from social sciences, arts, and humanities, scientific innovations transcend mere technical achievements to address the complex and multifaceted dimensions of human existence, ultimately fostering inclusive development and enhancing overall well-being.

Can cross cultural research be the panacea for reconfiguring African studies?

## Paper 4

Afrocentrism and the Quest for Endorsement from Global North to develop Curriculum and Teach  
Medicine: Covid-19 lessons

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With Covid-19 came an unofficial appraisal of Traditional Medicine in Africa. There was a huge implosion of knowledge and response to pandemic. This speaks to the issues and positions of Afrocentrism which requires Africans to develop and appreciate their achievements and civilizations, in engaging African concerns. With the number of Covid-19 related deaths in the whole of Africa, compared to the number of deaths in the global north, one would have expected to see a re-engagement with Afrocentric healthcare methods in Africa. However, Africa still looks to the global north for endorsement in developing tertiary curricula and teaching aids in the area of healthcare. This paper will examine the content of selected curricula from the University of Lagos, Nigeria and Moi University, Eldoret Kenya to identify African contributions to curricula development since the Covid-19 experiences. These institutions have been selected based on reputation and for comparative purposes. The content of the curricula will be compared to Traditional African methods of preventing and managing epidemics and pandemics. Data will be sourced from practitioners of traditional medicine through interviews in Lagos and Kenya and the curricula will be sourced from the archives of institutions. The study intends to propose a review and improvement on the existing curriculum and teaching methods of healthcare in tertiary institutions in Africa.

## Paper 5

Herbal Sauna: A survey of the melting pot of indigenous alternative medicine and its emergent social spaces in Eldoret, Kenya.

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The United Nation's Structural Development Goal (SDG) 3 aims at reducing mortality and improving global health worldwide. The benefits and services that African traditional Saunas provide to our health are largely unrecognized and unappreciated, but they have tremendous impacts on our wellbeing and daily lives. African traditional sauna is a small room used as a hot air or steam bath mixed with herbs for cleaning and refreshing the body. The advent of the Covid-19 saw the influx of various modern and indigenous attempts to fight the pandemic. This re-ignited the hitherto once dropped out modes of treatments that include the traditional use of steam bath from boiling herbs to treat ailments. The post covid-19 era, has witnessed an increased urge to maintain a healthy body among other concerns. Apparently, this has contributed into an upsurge of African indigenous herbal sauna rooms in urban setups that has attracted a variety of clientele. Seemingly, the herbal sauna attracts a mixture of participants of all walks of life ranging from the young, the aged, the middle aged, professionals, ordinary citizens, drawn from different cultural, political, socio-economic, religious, and academic backgrounds. In Eldoret town, Sauna has managed to attract citizens of neighboring countries and residents of other towns in western Kenya. The participants find themselves in herbal sauna room where interactions around alternative ways of staying healthy through the use of various indigenous ways including herbal sauna experiences are informally shared freely. A question arises, why do we have an upsurge for African indigenous sauna visits? This is a qualitative study that adopts the survey method to analyze the emerging social spaces ensuing from this indigenous alternative medicine sessions of herbal sauna visits. Using a case of selected Saunas in Eldoret town, the objectives of this study are; to find out the causes for upsurge of Sauna visits in Eldoret town, to determine the language the visitors of Sauna use to express their experiences, to investigate the role of indigenous African religion in herbal saunas in Eldoret and to do an exegesis of the emerging social space of the herbal sauna. Participant observation and interviews shall be used to draw relevant data for the study.



## Paper 6

### Examining the Efficacy of Technology–Based Pre-Retirement Counseling Programs in Facilitating Retirement Transition

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Technology-based pre-retirement counseling programs have emerged as innovative solutions to support individuals in preparing for the retirement transition. This research paper provides a comprehensive examination of the efficacy of these programs in facilitating retirement readiness and adjustment. The paper explores theoretical foundations, empirical research findings, user experience, ethical considerations, and future directions for innovation in technology-based counseling interventions. Key topics include the integration of positive psychology principles, cultural sensitivity, accessibility, privacy protection, and implementation challenges. By leveraging digital platforms, personalized interventions, and interdisciplinary collaboration, technology-based counseling programs offer promising opportunities to empower individuals to make informed decisions and navigate the retirement transition successfully. This paper contributes to the growing body of literature on retirement counseling by providing insights into the potential benefits, challenges, and future directions of technology-based interventions in supporting individuals' retirement preparation and well-being.

## Paper 7

### The Moi University School of Arts and Social Sciences and Forty Years of Successful Learning: Lecturers' Views of ICT Integration

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In the last few decades, educational systems in many developing countries have changed significantly under the influence of information communication technology (ICT). ICT is an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application. In Moi University, ICT has become an Integral part of education process at all levels of education. The role of lecturers is significant for information and communication technology (ICT) integration, because the use of ICT in classrooms depends on lecturers' attitude towards the concept. Previous studies have proved that ICT can help to motivate students engaging in social studies classrooms, enhance their learning and make their studies appealing (Berson, 1996). In essence, for successful ICT integration in the School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS), lecturers are required to have a positive attitude. Providing well – organized ICT lecturers training is essential in encouraging lecturers to view ICT positively. This research proposal will identify gaps of ICT integration in the faculty. However, to develop such a training, lecturers' opinions, concerns, and needs regarding ICT integration should first be identified. This research proposal will target 30 School of Arts and Social Sciences lecturers using simple random sampling. The findings of this research will be helpful to the University Management especially this time when we look forward to celebrating a historic event of 40 years since Moi University was inaugurated in 1984.

## Paper 8

### Enhancing Data Accessibility and Interoperability in Repositories through Web Application Programming Interface (API) and Linked Open Data Approach

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A study conducted by the Confederation of Open Access Repositories found that there are over 3000 next-generation repositories in a globally distributed network. The present data, especially in online institutional digital repositories, constitutes the largest worldwide database but lacks a well-organized infrastructure. Issues include inconsistent application of semantic structure and metadata, absence of cross-walks, poor user service, and the inability of libraries to leverage collective data on content and users. This deficiency in infrastructure technologies and non-compliance with Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Re-use (FAIR) principles make it challenging for machines to comprehend user-provided information. The proposed research intends to investigate the current digital repositories with an aim of developing a framework for a solution that enhances data accessibility and interoperability by employing a Web API and Linked Data approach. The objectives of the proposed study is to: assess the current accessibility challenges users and data providers face when interacting with digital repositories; analyze the technical and semantic barriers that hinder seamless data sharing and integration in the context of repositories; evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the existing frameworks in terms of data accessibility, interoperability, and user satisfaction and develop a framework for Web APIs and Linked Data that enables efficient data sharing and interoperability in repositories. A mixed research approach will be used for the study. A sample of repository users, as well as resource persons, key informants will be selected using probability based simple random sampling techniques. Purposive sampling will be used to obtain key informants. The scope of the study will be institutional repositories for public universities in Kenya and its generalizability, analysis of data access challenges, development of web API and linked data framework and comparing proposed approach with other alternatives. The research study is justified by the need to overcome current challenges in data accessibility and interoperability within repositories, due to differences in data formats, metadata standards, and access protocols. Primary data will be gathered by use of questionnaires and interview schedules. Online web analysis tools will be used to analyze web API performance and Interoperability in web repositories. Data obtained from the questionnaires will be analyzed descriptively and inferentially-by use of correlation and regression statistics. Statistical Package for Social scientists (SPSS) analysis software will be used to analyze data. Data from interviews will be analyzed thematically. Research findings from the study will be key in; enhance user experience and engagement, facilitate data-driven decision making, improve

collaboration and accelerate scientific discoveries, promote innovation and as well add knowledge to the field of information technology.

## Paper 9

Decolonizing AI for the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences in Africa: An Ethical and Epistemological discourse.

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The old adage that ‘history repeats itself’ comes to mind when one thinks of the introduction and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education, not just in Kenya, but in Africa generally. The development and deployment of AI often reflect the biases, prejudices and power structures of the societies that create them (Olufadewa et al., 2020), (Nguyen et al., 2023). At the advent of colonialism and its twin, evangelism, formal education was introduced to African. The content and the categories used to deliver it were foreign, mostly Eurocentric. These were successfully deployed to psychosocially and economically colonize the Africans, whose own content and categories were debased and relegated to primitivity. Equally, AI tools today depend on large deposits of data and algorithms to perform tasks that are otherwise thought to be the domain of human intelligence. They mimic human intelligence on an epic level. Suffices to note that of that data that is being utilized by AI, Africa’s contribution is barely 1% (Olufadewa et al., 2020). Arguably, when AI is deployed fully in education sector in Africa (which is unavoidable), the learners will again be exposed to content and categories that alienate them from themselves: digitalization. This paper endeavors to offer an epistemological and ethical discourse of the implementation and effects of AI in the education sector in Africa. Specifically, the paper will discourse on the epistemological and ethical implications of AI in Humanities, Arts and Social-sciences in African universities, so that we avoid re-colonization. It will discuss the short- and long-term consequences of AI to the disciplines in the above knowledge domains. Lastly, the paper will make recommendations, from a philosophical analysis, on how to safely deploy AI in the education sector in Kenya specially, and African in general.

## Paper 10

African Studies in Brazil: Humanities, National Identity, and the Struggle for Equality

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The development of African Studies in Brazil is an interesting case study on how the Humanities are invested in the disputes around national identity and also how the interfaces of Academia and social movements help to conform strategies by the State, scholars, and social activists regarding funding for teaching and research, as well as the processes of agenda-setting. Black communities and intellectuals in Brazil have always valued knowledge of Africa as a way to endow Afro-Brazilians with a sense of pride in the origins of their religion, cultural expressions, and ways of living, as well as a fundamental platform to challenge prevailing racist assumptions about Afro-descendants. Scholarship about Africa developed slowly at first, in different phases strongly relating to the place attributed to black Brazilians in the nation. From the 1950s onward, the demise of substantive concepts of race and African independence helped advance both the anti-racist agenda and African Studies, namely in Literary Studies, History, and Anthropology. In the early 2000s, Afro-Brazilian and African history and cultures became mandatory in Brazilian school and university curricula, together with affirmative action favouring black students. This carved out space for Africa in more disciplines within the Humanities, such as Geography, Sociology, International Relations, Education, Philosophy, and Arts. Some funding for teacher training, hiring specialists, and research on African Studies was provided initially but faltered thereafter, according to budgetary restrictions and political about-turns. This paper seeks to examine this historical background, but also the current State of African Studies in Brazil in its relation to renewed governmental efforts to posit Brazil as a privileged partner for Africa, changes in the intellectual landscape caused by a growing black university-trained stratum, and the processes of agenda-setting and funding for research and international collaboration with African universities and scholars.

## Paper 11

From Nation-Building to Nation Branding: African Literatures' Engagement with the Politics of the Nation.

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This paper delves into the intricate relationship between African literature and the politics of nation-building, tracing the evolution of this dynamic interplay towards the contemporary era of nation branding. It scrutinizes how African literature has grappled with the challenges posed by political agendas, ideological shifts, and socio-cultural complexities in the quest for national identity. Through a comprehensive analysis of selected literary works, and historical contexts, the paper looks at the ways in which African writers have handled the terrain of nationhood, negotiating between their roles as cultural custodians and socio-political commentators. I further interrogate the tensions inherent in the transition from nation-building narratives to the commodification of national images in the global marketplace, shedding light on the complexities, contradictions, and contestations that characterize this transition. By examining the struggles, triumphs, and dilemmas faced by African literature in its engagement with the politics of the nation, this paper offers insights into the multifaceted nature of literary expression as a site of both resistance and negotiation in the African context.

## Paper 12

Moi University Anniversary@40: Reflections on University Subjectification and its 'Pastoral Care' in the Post-Cold War World Order

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Moi University is celebrating its 40th anniversary this June 2024- it was established in 1984 just five years shy of the fall of the Berlin Wall that ushered in the post-Cold War world order. The post-Cold War period is one of rapid technological developments and the Priming of STEM as the most crucial University program. This paper critically reflects on the niche of universities- especially the social sciences and humanities component- in this period of waning global multilateralism and diffuse threats. University world order hermeneutics- which means examining world order in the context of the role of universities- is a methodology used to reflect on the university as a 'shepherd' in the unfolding crises affecting the 'sheep' of the global society. I also triangulate university mandate with the Old Testament theology- especially from the Old Testament Theology of the 'watchman' in Ezekiel: 3:15-21- that inspired hope in Judah in troubled political times. The articulation of accumulation and legitimacy theory provides normative insights in the practice of the 'pastoral care' of the university in a crises-ridden world. I argue that STEM and non-STEM programs are essential for University 'pastoral care' in the tumultuous post-Cold War period.



## Paper 13

### The Enduring Relevance of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences through a Cultural Theory Lens

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This paper uses a cultural theory point of view to assert that the arts, humanities and social sciences have an important role in cultivating critical thinking, ethical deliberation, creativity and cross-cultural understanding. These qualities are crucial for tackling complex societal issues and promoting inclusive growth in the digital era. Cultural theory asserts that our perspectives on the world are moulded by the cultural environments in which we reside, impacting our beliefs, actions and social systems. The paper examines how textual analysis and artistic interpretation contribute to and mirror the varied experiences, values and viewpoints found in different human civilisations. The arts and humanities have an essential function in safeguarding cultural heritage through literature, art, music and creative expression. Interacting with these artefacts fosters empathy, emotional intelligence and sophisticated interpersonal abilities that are very useful in various communities. Furthermore, the social sciences provide essential perspectives on the dynamics of society and human conduct. By using carefully designed processes informed by cultural theory, these disciplines provide valuable contributions to policymaking based on evidence-based decisions. They also develop design interventions and offer lasting solutions for pressing challenges such as poverty, inequality, prejudice and conflict resolution. The paper emphasises the significance of extracurricular activities such as debates and public speaking in developing essential skills like critical thinking, communication and persuasion, which are highly valued in academic and professional contexts. This is because inadequate institutional support sometimes requires individuals to finance their endeavours, limiting their personal and professional development. It is recommended that dedicated resources be provided to assist in activities aimed at promoting cultural literacy and ethical reasoning. By collectively embracing interdisciplinarity, adaptation and investment in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, these traditionally underfunded but critical areas may maintain their crucial role in advancing society as a whole throughout the digital era.

Paper 14

The Necessity of Philosophy

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Philosophy is the mother of all academic endeavor. All human beings start to understand the world around them by the use of reason, the ground on which philosophy stands. A person without philosophical knowledge goes through life imprisoned in various idols of the mind demonstrated in false concepts, egocentricity, socio-cultural rhetoric and dogmatic fallacies. A comprehensive philosophy encompasses all that is, empirical and non-empirical realities and clarifies our basic knowledge that serves as a framework for both what we are and what is there. This qualitative article employs both critical-analytical and rational methods. The theoretical framework is that of Bacon's idols of the mind. The article is a viable source for philosophy department and all academic disciplines. It enhances academic fraternity and collaboration among various courses taught in Moi University and in any institutions of academic learning and research studies.

The Body as a Witness and as a Testimony of Trauma in *A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali* (2000)

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This paper examines the body as a witness and testimony of the trauma that is inflicted on it. The paper proffers that besides being a mural that testifies and is testified, the body is also both the cover and content. The body, while being the recipient of the acts of violence performed on it, is also the cover of the soul and mind. The violence, though exerted on the body, affects both the mind and the soul. In essence, all forms of violence have a physical and psychological effect on the body, as the body is intrinsically connected to the mind (Kiao, 2019) and are thus traumatic. It is the supposition in this paper that the body testifies to these violations. The paper uses for its analysis, Gil Courtemanche's *A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali*. The novel represents Rwanda before and during the genocide that left many people dead and hordes of others with trauma. It presents two ethnic communities, Hutu and Tutsi, which have been pitted against each other by the colonial regime. The bias of the colonial community over which ethnic group they can work with over the other has created discord between the two ethnic communities. This culminates in ethnic violence where hundreds of thousands of lives are lost while survivors are left with traumatic physical and psychological scars. The paper conducts a close textual analysis to examine the body as being present during the violence and as a witness and testimony to the physical and psychological trauma.

Leveraging Digital Mobile Money Platforms for Basic Services in Informal Settlements in Kenya

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This paper investigates the utilization of mobile money platforms, particularly M-Pesa, in accessing basic services such as energy, communication, and financial transactions in informal settlements in Kenya. The background of the study contextualizes the pivotal role of M-Pesa in Kenya's financial landscape and its evolution into a platform for accessing essential services. The statement of the problem underscores the challenges faced by residents of informal settlements, including limited access to clean energy and financial services, and the potential of mobile money platforms like M-Pesa to address these challenges. Leveraging a mixed-methods approach, including qualitative interviews, quantitative surveys, and analysis of secondary data, the study explores the adoption patterns, usage dynamics, and socio-economic implications of mobile money services in these marginalized communities. M-Pesa, as Kenya's pioneering mobile money platform, has revolutionized financial transactions, offering a convenient, secure, and accessible means of payment. In recent years, its impact has extended beyond financial inclusion to encompass access to essential services like clean lighting and cooking energy and communication. This paper focuses on the symbiotic relationship between M-Pesa and initiatives like M-Gas, Mkopa among others which leverage its infrastructure to address critical challenges faced by residents of informal settlements. The findings underscore the transformative impact of M-Pesa and related services in improving energy access for low-income households. By enabling affordable and flexible payment options for clean cooking energy, M-Pesa facilitates the transition from traditional biomass fuels to cleaner alternatives, thereby mitigating health risks, reducing environmental degradation, and enhancing productivity within these communities. Moreover, the study explores the socio-economic benefits of mobile money adoption, particularly for women and other vulnerable groups. By facilitating access to essential services and enabling financial transactions, M-Pesa contributes to improved health outcomes, time savings, and economic empowerment, thereby fostering inclusive growth within informal settlements. However, the research also identifies challenges such as affordability barriers, distribution logistics, and limited customer awareness that hinder the scalability and sustainability of mobile money services in these contexts. Addressing these challenges requires collaborative efforts among stakeholders, including policymakers, service providers, financial institutions, and community-based organizations, to create an enabling environment for innovation and inclusive development. Overall, this study highlights the transformative potential of leveraging mobile money platforms to enhance access to basic services in informal settlements in Kenya. By harnessing technology, partnerships, and innovative business models, M-Pesa and similar initiatives can contribute to sustainable

development goals, improve the quality of life for residents of informal settlements, and pave the way for a more inclusive and resilient future.

Paper 17

Adoption of Digital Transformation in the Resilience of the Tourism Sector

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The hospitality industry is revolutionizing at an incredible rate, from pre-customer service interactions to post-customer arrival. AI greatly impacts business acceleration, allowing hotel systems to perform beyond their wildest dreams. The industry is booming with the increase of tourism around the world. With many hotels opening up, there will be an increase in competition and pressure to maintain their standard performance and keep up with the current trends. Automation and machine industries have been integrating new technology and revolutions for business development with digital technological aspects in recent decades. The hotel industry uses various innovative methods to provide specialized customer service and advance. The hotel industry, which has adopted many innovative methods for providing satisfying customer service, has advanced its entire system with the adoption of many comfort-defining advancements. The hospitality industry is enhancing and adapting new modern technology and digital aspects in hotel operations. The Paper seeks to explore how artificial intelligence (AI). The extent it has been adopted and its impact on sustainability in the tourism industry.

## Paper 18

Adaptation and Continuity: Exploring the Resilience of Eldoret's Theater Artists in the Digital Age

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The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic almost half a decade ago catalyzed a swift shift towards digital platforms across various sectors, including the performing arts. Eldoret theater, traditionally heavily reliant on physical audience engagement, faced unforeseen challenges amidst lockdowns and social distancing measures. However, this paper brings to light the remarkable resilience of Eldoret's theater artists who rapidly navigated the digital landscape to sustain their lives and their craft. Drawing on qualitative interviews and ethnographic observation, this paper delves into how Eldoret's theater artists harnessed online platforms to innovate, adapt, and preserve their craft. Despite initial setbacks, including, but not limited to; poor or limited internet access, lack of digital video equipment and technological literacy disparity, these artists demonstrated ingenuity by utilizing social media, and virtual performances to reach diverse audiences locally and even globally, democratizing access to narratives, and fostering a sense of collective resilience and solidarity. The paper examines how the Eldoret theater's resilience not only in the face of the pandemic ensured its survival but also fostered new modes of artistic expression and community engagement that would last for years to come. This paper seeks to contribute to the discourse on the intersection of technology and the performing arts, highlighting the dynamism and adaptability of not just Eldoret's theater artists but of theater lovers and professionals all around the country and the globe, in the face of adversity. It underscores the importance of acknowledging and supporting physically demanding artistic practices in the evolving digital landscape, emphasizing their enduring relevance and contribution to the broader humanities and social sciences discourse.

The Laugh Industry: Kenyan Stand-up comedy and speaking truth to power

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The Kenyan creative industries have witnessed phenomenal growth especially since the turn of this millennium. Illustrating this trend is the emergence and growing popularity of comedy shows in the country. Technological innovations in the form of digital platforms as well as the social media have greatly contributed to the flourishing of the creative industry. As an artistic form, the Kenyan comedy shows are closely intertwined with the nascent digital media platforms such as YouTube, TikTok and Facebook. As Moi University celebrates her 40 years anniversary, a period in which these developments have occurred, this paper sets out to showcase how comedy has become a popular mode of entertainment as well as a vehicle of socio-political critique. As such, comedy can be considered as a way of speaking truth to power. It is also during this period that the country has witnessed tremendous expansion of democratic space, which has led to freedom of expression and liberalisation of the media. It is within this socio-political environment this paper provides a close reading of selected performances by Captain Otoyoy, a comedian who appears on Churchill Show, which premiered on Nation Television (NTV) and whose recorded videos are available on Churchill Television YouTube channel. Focusing on various aspects of humour, the multilayered nuances and meanings of these performances are examined. Otoyoy's jokes are based on everyday life experiences, which Kenyan audiences can easily identify and relate to. Captain Otoyoy satirizes the ordinary citizens as well as the political elite in his performances, using ethnic flavoured humour. The performances analysed in this paper were performed in different locations in Kenya. Following Bakhtin's notion of "carnavalesque," the comic performances of Captain Otoyoy can be considered as subversions of dominant narratives and political power. Otoyoy invites members of the audience laugh at themselves, but they gain insights about situations in their lives, like the ones the jokes dramatize. The analysis concludes that Otoyoy's performances help to promote a democratic mindset among the citizenry, since the underprivileged can be seen subverting hegemonic discourses. To arrive at these conclusions, I analyse four performances by Captain Otoyoy namely, *Tofauti ya Hayati na Marehemu*, *Why I Arrived in Nyeri*, *Reviewing the Handshake One Year Later* and *I Miss the Old Mombasa*. Clearly, what these episodes exemplify is that comedy serves the dual function of entertainment as well as sociopolitical critique.



## Paper 20

Popular culture and the evolving digital activism in Kenya

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There has been a growing wave of digital activism in Kenya today targeting unpopular policies implemented by the Kenya Kwanza government, particularly increased taxation. Using the hashtag #ZakayoShuka, this paper examines efforts of an online civic initiative, Tumechoka Initiative, in galvanising, uniting, and engaging Kenyans across the political, social, economic, and ethnic divides concerning public participation in nation building. The paper explores how digital platforms have not only expanded creativity, circulation, consumption and remediation of popular culture but the scope of debate, encounter, critique and function as avenues to express discontent towards stifling government policies foisted on the vulnerable population against the backdrop of the skyrocketing cost of living. More importantly, the paper shows ways in which digital media have become veritable sites of popular self-expression, civic engagement and speaking to power in Kenya.

Paper 21

Popular Music Studies and the Question of Impact

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I reflect on the question of the impact of scholarly work in the humanities through a telling of my story of studying popular music. The reflection is structured by the paradox that the social significance of the subjects of study in the humanities (popular music in this case) is unquestioned whereas the importance of studying them (under popular music studies in this case) is doubted. An awareness of the interaction of popular music with popular music studies inflects the reflection.

## Paper 22

The Power of Babel: Investigating linguistic realities in a digital world in Kenya

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Kenya, and indeed Africa, is a melting pot of linguistic diversity. This diversity is a powerful tool for negotiating daily interactions, catalyzing comprehension, providing a platform upon which people view the world using different lenses, shaping the way people think and perceive the world. Like the biblical tower of Babel, linguistic homogeneity is a precursor to pride and boastfulness. No wonder, the birth of many tongues at Babel was intended to create confusion and minimize collaboration. However, there is power in diversity and therefore power in Babel. This paper interrogates how this power was created, negotiated and utilized over time and how the digital world and the Kenyan context shape and transform this power as an instrument of unity in diversity. The arguments are guided by the theory of linguistic relativism which is rooted in the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis first proposed by Edward Sapir (1929) and advanced by Benjamin Whorf and other linguists in subsequent years. The theory claims that the language we speak shapes our perception of the world and influences our cognitive processes. These ideas become even more crucial faced with the realities of the Kenyan linguistic landscape that has, over the years, become a fertile space of contestations resulting from the varied status of different languages. Kenya is essentially a multilingual country, but every language is not equal in status. The hegemony of English (and Kiswahili) transcends all spheres of life, while the various indigenous languages are often neglected and are struggling to survive. This reality gives us an opportunity to rethink how diversity in language can be a catalyst to a more inclusive and enriching world.

Communication Disconnect in Higher Education and Practice – Barrier to Societal Well-being:  
Case Study, Moi University.

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Knowledge creation, dissemination and consumption calls for proper communication that is done in an appropriate linguistic code; a code that also has a place in the curriculum. In the Kenyan Higher education, it is the non- native languages that occupy these spaces. Consequently, there is a communication bottleneck at all levels, more so, at the utilisation stage/ in practice, a stage that is critical as it determines how much of that knowledge is consumed for societal development. The study investigates communication dilemma that professionals in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) encounter in their careers, and argues for the inclusion of the Kiswahili component in the Higher education curricula for effective knowledge and skills application and consumption. In consequence, the study identifies and critically discusses the place of language in various curricula in Moi University, their implementation and implication; it examines the dis/harmony in knowledge and skills application and utilisation, and finally, it conceptualizes a holistic Higher education future that embraces the peoples' shared linguistic code- for productivity. Using Gile's (1971) Communication accommodation theory (CAT), we analyse data from 15 university students, 10 lecturers and 15 practitioners in the fields of Medicine, ICT, Engineering, Plant physiology, and Tourism and Hospitality, 6 lecturers teaching Kiswahili, French and German (2 for each), and 20 consumers of related knowledges and skills. Findings from the study inform curricula developers and implementers on the need to re-evaluate the place of language in Higher education curricula for STEM (and by extension, the Arts, Humanities and Social sciences) for effective knowledge and skills utilisation and eventual societal well-being.

“We Regard Ourselves as Freelance Preachers”: The Feminization of Learning Institutions and Religious Activities in Kenya

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Among Kenyan Muslims, there are efforts to establish Islamic learning institution to cater for the female learners. The deliberate feminization of the Islamic educational centers has witnessed the growing of women-led and women-only learning institutions. This proliferation of women learning institutions has led to a growing pool of female Muslim preachers who uses their advanced religious knowledge to offer public sermonization through the media tool of the Islamic radio stations. This engagement in the public sermonization by the female preachers is what I describe as feminization of the religious landscape, which bring to fore women’s resistance of the masculine hegemonies in Kenyan Muslim societies albeit in contradictory ways. Informing my discussion is the feminization thesis. I have identified two sectors of society that my understanding of feminization will interrogate as I examine the gendered arena of religious practice. Therefore, my intervention is to show: First, the increase of feminization of religious learning institution. And two, the increase of feminization in religious activities. The two developments will provide the lens to analyze how the female Muslim preachers are using their religious agency to claim a space for themselves in the public religious sermonization in Kenya.

Strategic Leadership, Management Support and Commercialization of Research Output Among Universities in Kenya

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Commercialization of research output is essential to universities and fits in with their main goals or core business. Therefore, it becomes imperative to establish robust mechanisms that facilitate the identification and nurturing of research output commercialization. Despite the encouragement for Kenyan universities to engage in research output commercialization to alleviate financial challenges, the rate of actual commercialization remains notably low. This study aims to investigate the effect of strategic leadership and management support on the commercialization of research output in Kenyan universities. Specifically, the study will evaluate the effects of strategic alliances, human capital development, strategic thinking, strategic direction, and technological innovation on research output commercialization. Additionally, the study seeks to examine how management support moderates the relationship between strategic leadership and research output commercialization. The theoretical foundations of this study rest upon the Theory of Dynamic Capability and the Goal-Setting Theory. This research adopts a positivist philosophy and employs an explanatory survey research design. The target population encompasses 12,508 academic staff members drawn from 35 public universities (comprising 8,928 academic staff) and 33 private universities (comprising 3,580 academic staff). Stratified and random sampling will be used to select 388 from 38 universities. A combination of stratified and simple random sampling methods will be employed. Data collection will rely on structured, closed-ended questionnaires to gather quantitative information from university employees. To ensure construct validity, both convergent and discriminant validity will be tested through factor analysis. Additionally, the reliability of the research instrument will be confirmed using the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient. Data analysis will involve employing descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations, to elucidate situational phenomena and offer a comprehensive depiction of the current state of the study variables. Furthermore, inferential statistics, such as Pearson correlation analysis, will be employed to examine the linear relationships between variables. Multiple linear regression analysis will be conducted to test hypotheses regarding direct effects. Additionally, a hierarchical multiple regression approach will be utilized to explore moderating effect hypothesis. The study anticipates that strategic leadership, characterized by strategic alliances, human capital development, strategic thinking, strategic direction, and technological innovation, will positively influence the commercialization of research output in Kenyan universities. The study will provide

recommendations to Kenyan universities on which strategic leadership capabilities can enhance the commercialization of research output, considering varying levels of management support.

Research Data Management in the context of humanities studies

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Advances in technology have increased the variety of digital data collected during research projects. A challenge to most researchers in the field of humanities has been the ability to find, interpret, retain, protect, and preserve the data collected. These technologies have improved to include audio-visual materials, collections and related data. An effort is made in this presentation to outline the importance of research data management throughout the research life cycle among social scientists in the digital age. Digital Research Environment initiative, a project within the Africa Multiple Centers of Excellence in African Studies is used to illustrate how standardized approaches in managing research data enable researchers to engage in innovative science communication and public engagement activities. Three core components are envisaged: (a) In collaboration with data and information scientists, structures have been developed and already implemented which form the core of Research Data Management. (b) Interaction between researchers, data curators, information scientists and other interested players will enable successful completion of cutting-edge outputs and open ways for multi-disciplinary research. (c) The need to upscale researchers' skills and competency in digital data management by offering training and courses in all cadres will be discussed.



Documentary Film

*Comedy and Canvas*

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*Comedy and Canvas* follows the story of Maketh, a standup comedian of South Sudanese descent who survived a civil war at a very tender age, grew up in Kakuma, Kenya, which is one of the world's largest refugee camps, and whose infectious humor led to his becoming a renowned comic in Nairobi and a mentor for his friends and family at the camp. The film is witness to the struggles and triumphs of daily life in Kakuma, where residents make do with limited resources, are uncertain about the future, and have to deal with the haunting memories of displacement.