



UNIVERSITÄT  
BAYREUTH



# MOBILITIES RS-ACC WORKSHOP, MOI UNIVERSITY

## THEME

Human Agentive Mobility and Identities:  
Emerging Patterns in Eastern Africa

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Sirikwa Hotel, Eldoret - Kenya

**Programme &  
Book of Abstracts**



**Prof Isaac Kosgey**  
Vice-Chancellor, Moi University



**Prof. Dr. Peter Simatei**  
Director,  
African Cluster Centre Moi University



**Prof. T. Michael Mboya**  
Academic Coordinator,  
African Cluster Centre Moi University.



**Prof. Mary Wahome**  
Dean,  
SASS, Moi University



**Dr. Paul Sutter**  
CoD,  
Department of SPA, Moi University

## Moi University African Cluster Centre - Profile

This workshop is just one of the many planned research activities of the Moi African Cluster Centre of Excellence in African studies for the year 2021. The Moi University African Cluster Centre (Moi-ACC) is housed in the School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS) of Moi University. The overriding objectives of the Moi University School of Arts and Social Sciences are to offer interdisciplinary teaching and research in the broad field of African studies and to act as the center where all other Africa-focused scholarship in Moi University coalesce. Within the context of these objectives, and building on the very strong tradition of exploring and interrogating diverse ways of knowing Africa that has developed in the School in the three and a half decades of its existence, the Moi-ACC is envisioned as a hub of outstanding inter-, multi- and transdisciplinary research and conversations that contribute to the greater understanding of Africa in ways that enable the addressing of significant issues affecting the continent. At Moi-ACC research is carried out under the following sections: Affiliations, Arts and Aesthetics, Mobilities, Moralities, Knowledges and Learning. The research projects that are currently on-going in these sections are: Regional integration in Eastern and Southern Africa: An appraisal of the frameworks for interactive markets, effective governance and human rights protection; East African Asian Writing and the Emergence of a Diasporic Subjectivity; Framing Identities from Human Agency Mobility on the Kenya-Uganda Highway; Changing Life Projects: African Identities, Moralities and Wellbeing; Pots, Fire and Gourds: A (Re)presentation of African Knowledge Systems; and Mediated and Mediatization of Islamic Knowledge in Kenya: Educational Institutions, Media Technologies and Performative Aesthetics.

**Prof. Dr. Peter Simatei**

Director,

Moi African Cluster Centre.

# PROGRAMME

DAY 1 FRIDAY 26/03/2021		
TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY
08:00-08:30	<b>Registration</b>	Joan Koech, Lina Salomao, Daouda Labot, Tom Eshipila, Laura Mukhwana and Manuel Langa
	<b>Session 1 Chair Dr. Kisembe Rapporteur: Dr. Korir</b>	
08:30-08:45	Opening Remarks: Introduction & Framing Workshop Theme	Dr. Busolo Wegesa (For) Research Section Spokesperson
08:45-09:00	Remarks	Prof. Tom Mboya, Academic Coordinator-ACC-MU
09:00-9:15	Remarks	Prof. Peter Simatei, Director-ACC-MU
9:15- 10:00	Official Opening	Prof. Isaac Kosgey, Vice Chancellor, Moi University
<b>10:00-10:15</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
	<b>Session 2 Chair: Dr. Masita Rapporteur: Dr. Nganga</b>	
10:15-11:00	<b>Key Note Address:</b> The Linkage between Climate Variability and Climate Change with Human Mobility and its Implications for the Horn of Africa	Abebe Tadege, IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), Nairobi.
11:00-11:15	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	Conveners & Participants
11:15-11:30	Paper 1: Climate Change and Livelihoods: A Paradigm Shift from Agriculture to Sand Harvesting in Busia Kenya and Busia Uganda	Tom Eshipila, Doctoral Researcher
11:30-11:40	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	Conveners & Participants
11:40-12:00	Paper 2: Mobilities RS, Learning and Best Practices from FIHAM researching Mobility on Kenya-Uganda Highway	Prof. Joram Kareithi
12:00-12:20	Paper 3: Moralities RS	Prof. Eunice Kamaara
12:20- 12: 40	Paper 4: Affiliations RS	Prof. Kenneth Oluoch
12:40-13:00	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	Conveners & Participants
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
	<b>Session 3 Chair: Dr. Wandere Rapporteur: Mutie</b>	
14:00-14:20	Paper 1: COVID-19 and Migration Governance in East Africa: Addressing the Needs and Protecting Vulnerabilities of Migrant Workers	Dr. Michael Omondi Owiso, Maseno University
14:20-14:40	Paper 2: Impact of COVID-19 on Agentive Mobility along Kenya-Uganda Highway	Dr. Busolo Wegesa
14:40-15:00	Paper 3: Theorising Vulnerabilities in Mobilities	Dr. Willice Abuya
15:00-15:20	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	Conveners & Participants
	<b>Session 4 Chair: Prof. Kareithi Rapporteur: Dr. Mukhwana</b>	
15:20-15:40	Paper 1: Moral Agency in Mobility: Conceptualizing Mobility Along Kenya-Uganda Highway	Dr. Eric Masese
15:40- 16:00	Paper 2: Assessing Remittances Dynamics to Kenya during COVID-19 Period	Dr. Dulo Nyaoro
16:00- 16:20	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	Conveners & Participants
<b>16:20 - 16:40</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	

DAY 2 SATURDAY 27/03/2021		
08:00-08:30	<b>Registration</b>	Tom Esipila, Laura Mukhwana, Manuel Langa, Joan Koech, Lina Salomao, Daouda Labot,
	<b>Session 5 Chair: Dr. Mukhwana Rapporteur: Dr. Masita</b>	
9:00-10:00	<b>Key Note Address:</b>	Dr. Gatitu Kiguru, Kenyatta University, Nairobi
10:00-10:30	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	Conveners & Participants
10:30-10:45	<b>Health Break</b>	
	<b>Session 6 Chair: Dr. Korir Rapporteur: Dr. Kisenbe</b>	
10:45-11:05	Paper 1: Impact of COVID-19 on the On-going Refugees Economic Inclusion in Kenya: Differences-in-Differences Analysis	Serge Hounton & Dr. Dulo Nyaoro
11:05- 11:25	Paper 2: Knowledge, Perception, and Practice towards COVID-19 and (Im)mobility impacts among older people Living in Informal Settlements in Nairobi City, Kenya	Dr. Fredrick Okaka
11:25- 11:40	Paper 3: Rural-Urban-Diaspora Migration Trends in East Africa	Dr. Peter Oino, Kisii University
11:40-12:00	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	Conveners & Participants
	<b>Session 7 Chair: Dr. Nganga Rapporteur: Prof. Kareithi</b>	
12:00-12:30	Paper 4: The Impact of COVID-19 on Remittances: Case of Somali Refugees at the Dagahaley Camp in Kenya	Dr. Fred Ikanda, Maseno University
12:30-12:50	Paper 5: Patterns of Mobility and Negotiations in Intergenerational Care and Support Relationships in Nandi County, Kenya	Joan Koech, Doctoral Researcher
12:50-13:10	Toiling for Nil; Women in the Western Kenya Sugar Industry	Dr. Duncan Mukhwana
	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	Conveners & Participants
13:10-14:00	<b>Health Break</b>	
	<b>Session 8 Chair: Prof. Masinde Rapporteur: Dr. Kisenbe</b>	
14:00 -15:00	Mentoring (Post graduate students)	All Post graduate students
15:00-15:20	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	Conveners & Participants
15:20-16:00	Plenary-Way Forward; Closing Remarks	Conveners & Participants
16:00-16:15	<b>Health Break</b>	

## POSTGRADUATE AMAS PARTICIPANTS

No	Full Name	Topic	Country of Origin	Home University	Host University
1	Youssoufou Daouda Labot	Covid-19, identity and the uncertainty between camps and urban areas: narratives from Refugee victims inside and outside the camps, Kenya	Benin	Abomey-Calavi University	Moi University, Kenya
2	Serge Hounton	Impact of COVID-19 on the On-going Refugees Economic Inclusion in Kenya: Differences-in-Differences Analysis	Benin	African School of Economics	Moi University, Kenya
3	Shewit K. Gebreslassie	Towards Robust Protection of Migrant Workers during the Covid 19 Pandemic	Ethiopia	Addis Ababa University	Moi University, Kenya
4	Wondimu W. Haile	Ensuring food security during Covid 19 pandemic	Ethiopia	Addis Ababa University	Moi University, Kenya
5	Michael K. Gebru	Ethiopia's Tigray Conflict: actors, causes and Consequences	Ethiopia	Addis Ababa University	Moi University, Kenya
6	Getamesay Shiwenzu Nigussie	Environmental Policy of Ethiopia: Implementation Status and Practical Challenges	Ethiopia	Addis Ababa University	Moi University, Kenya
7	Abdibeshir Said Dula	Tourism and Mobility in Southern Ethiopia: The Influence on Sociocultural aspects in Konso District	Ethiopia	Addis Ababa University	Moi University, Kenya



## Mr. Abebe Tadege

*Climate Change Officer at IGAD Climate Prediction and  
Application Centre (ICPAC)*

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### **The Linkage between Climate Variability and Climate Change with Human Mobility and its Implications for the Horn of Africa**

Climate is highly variable over time and space in the Horn of Africa. The socio-economic impacts of climate variability and change especially its extremes in the form of droughts and floods in the region have been huge and are likely to be aggravated in the future. This paper will investigate observed climate variability and trends as well as future climate change in the region. The paper further explores the linkage migration has with climate variability and change. Activities carried out by the IGAD Migration Program and Action Plan in relation to climate change, migration and disaster displacement will also be highlighted. In addition, global, regional and national frameworks on climate and migration will be discussed. Finally, the paper will point out policy implications for migration and provide recommendations for action that needs to be taken in the region.

## Gatitu Kiguru

*Kenyatta University*



### **Keep Home Alive, Feel at Home, and Find a Home: But with Which Language? Insights from the Dadaab Refugee Complex**

Identifying oneself is a means of differentiation and language is one of the ways of achieving this. This is because whenever we use language we do so as individuals with social backgrounds that determine who we are. The question that arises is on the nature of boundaries that language demarcates and the identities it helps forge. Modern nation states still force language based identities upon populations living within their boundaries. In Kenya, for instance, English is the official language while Kiswahili is the co-official language as well as the national language. Kiswahili, thus, fosters a feeling of belonging, pride and unity among the varied peoples of Kenya – an identity of being Kenyan. English shapes the Kenyan identity in formal communication settings such as governance, education and diplomacy. The question this keynote seeks to address is whether the encamped refugees in the Dadaab camps share in these language-based identities that the rest of the Kenyan communities share, and highlights the significance of the English language in defining the identity of the Somali refugee population in Kenya. The theoretical concepts of *Identity Opportunism* or *Fluctuation* and *Identity Alignment* are of particular significance to this keynote. The two concepts will be used to account for the findings of studies which show that Somali language dominates most language domains among the refugee population in the camps to the extent of affecting mastery of English, a language the younger generation of refugees need to find new homes and carve new identities for themselves.

## Omar Egesah [the late], Busolo Wegesa, Peter Oino, Tom Esipila & Abigael Kutwa

*Moi University*

### **Learning Experiences from Design of RS Mobilities Project on Framing Identities from Human Agency Mobility on Kenya-Uganda Highway**

*Background:* The 18 months project researched agentive movement of people, goods and ideas in Eldoret, Bungoma and Malaba field sites along the Kenya-Uganda Highway, between July and October 2020. Livelihoods related movements on the highways were studied in domains of trade, transport, hospitality and health. Design and application lessons were learnt and the researchers are proposing a paper to articulate the same and also to learn important lessons. Newer ways to studying African studies can be drawn from this study which has important lessons about movement, affiliations and identities of people in East Africa.

*Method:* Researchers drawn from six multi-disciplines from Moi University-African Cluster Center (ACC) and two collaborators from the University of Lagos ACC and the University of Bayreuth Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, conducted the research, with 387 questionnaire respondents, forty case interviews as subset of questionnaire; and the cases were observed for mobility of things and ideas. The questionnaire and interview guide were mounted on Kobo-Toolbox, and data submitted to KOBO server for quantitative and qualitative analysis. Observations were made using a structured observation tool and pictures taken to support observations. The study used 15 researchers from 6 disciplinary backgrounds and used 6 graduate researcher assistants, which added diverse methodological input to the work. Mixed methods strategy using the questionnaire, the interview guide and observation informed the insider standpoints that speak of reflexivity added value to the study. Three external researchers monitored data collection both by field visits and online and proffered feedback ploughed back to enhance quality. Both descriptive and inferential quantitative data analysis and content qualitative data analysis applied.

*Lessons Learnt:* It is important to apply a mixed methods design to study movement of people, goods and ideas because of the conglomerated value and strength of the findings. The use of technological ways to generate data using the phone and to relay data to a central server was beneficial, implicating efficiency, multitasking, ease, data storage, financial benefit and standardization. The study used 15 researchers from 6 disciplinary backgrounds and 6 graduate research assistants. The researchers and research assistants risked and in audacious ways went to research on the busy Kenya-Uganda Highway; a corridor with possibilities of risky COVID-19 transmission. This was not only bold but it enabled researchers to investigate mobility and also immobility because of Coronavirus threat, to explain both mobility and immobility. Trade for example, is one area where MPESA technology applied to keep movement of goods and ideas going on the highway. This also means traders, less than people in transport, hospitality and health can move less but still make their work and also influence their business and life. Notwithstanding, when transporters move, they also create spaces on the way and at end points which become homes and also points of social, economic and identity points. While studying, researchers met restriction from studying movement across the Kenya-Uganda border, reported as cross-border sanctions attached to the COVID-19 restriction.

*Recommendation:* The paper highlights lessons learnt and showcases evidences used from the formative research to inform the design of a long term project on climate, movement, livelihoods and identities .

*Conclusion:* If well designed, mobility research can be conducted under any circumstance, because with technology, we can research mobility and immobility while we are mobile and immobile. Mobility and affiliation should be studied in both statis and movement. Cross border restrictions and power dynamics are important considerations while studying mobility studies.

## Dr. Michael Omondi Owiso

Maseno University

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### **COVID 19 and migration governance in East Africa: addressing the needs and protecting vulnerabilities of migrant workers**

This study asserts that migrant workers are vulnerable to COVID 19. Conditions observed include very dirty and unhygienic cabs. The trucks were very dirty and unhygienic. Cooking appliances all over most (10) of the trucks entered during interviews. Miraawas all over the dust board and shoes smelling foul. This condition is a breeding ground for Corona (Interagency Standing Committee [IASC], 2020), and there is need for urgent action by individual governments which these trucks pass through as well as those responsible Corona Disaster departments at the EAC. This contribution adds a voice to existing studies on the protection of migrant workers during pandemics. As such, the study contributes to better decision making and enhances technical expertise on migration management within the East African Community.

#### *Key words:*

Covid-19, Human Rights, Migration Governance, Migrant Workers, Truck Drivers

#### *Research interests:*

Inter and Multi-disciplinary research on migration, refugees and displaced persons in Africa. The changing landscape of conflict resolutions, peace building and development in relation to state-society relations in Africa. Theory and practice of leadership and security in the world system with a focus on transformative leadership in Africa.

## Dr. Fred Nyongesa Ikanda

Maseno University

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### **The impact of Covid-19 on remittances: Case of Somali refugees at Dagahaley camp in Kenya**

Many former residents at Dagahaley refugee camp in Kenya who benefitted from UNHCR's resettlement programme have been sending vital funds to their refugee relatives in support of basic needs. With the advent of Covid-19, however, people's lives have been upended. I explore the global context of Covid-19 on Somali refugees with regard to how the pandemic's excessive impact on minority groups in diaspora has diminished remittance flows to the camp.

#### *Key words:*

Covid-19, Somali refugees, Network analysis, Dadaab Complex, Remittances

#### *Research interests:*

Interplay between bureaucracy and kinship, dispute resolution in camp contexts, contested ideas of Islam, gender relations, and Somali refugees' aspirations for the future.

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## Dr. Busolo Wegesa

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### **Effects of Covid-19 on Human Agency Mobility on the Kenya Uganda Highway**

This paper discusses the findings on the effects of COVID -19 on Human Agency Mobility on the Kenya Uganda Highway. The fieldwork research was carried out from August to November 2020 at the height of COVID-19 restrictions along the Kenya-Uganda Highway. The paper reports from a questionnaire sample of 387 from which a subset of 40 Case Interviews were conducted in three spots on the highway: Eldoret; Bungoma; Malaba. The study found that mobility along and across the Kenya Uganda border was more agentive and increasing in number for the purpose of livelihood. It also concludes that the Covid- 19 restrictions have had a negative impact on ordinary populations whose livelihoods depend or are linked to mobility. The study recommends that transport and trade ministers urgently caucus a policy on post-Covid 19 protocols to ease livelihoods.

**Dr. Peter Gutwa Oino**

*Kisii University*

&

**Prof. Omar Egesah [the late]**

*Moi University*



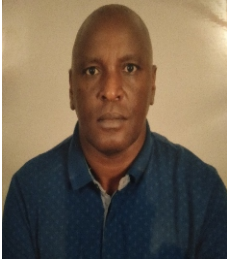
**Mutual or Enslaved Gains: Rural-Urban-Diaspora Migration Trends in East Africa and the Middle East**

Irregular movement from the East Africa to the Middle East has placed human population in vulnerable situations and exposed them to exploitation, abuse, physical and/or sexual violence, detention, slavery and even loss of life. In this critical study we are interested with how the multiple local, national and international structures and bodies of power mitigate highly pronounced evils such as Kidnapping, Human Trafficking, Torture and Death along the East Africa Migration Route to Middle East. We re-examine new slavery; patterns of human movement for cheap labour from East Africa to Middle East and back; Cash transfer from labour immigrants across Middle East and East Africa and waves of goods movement from Middle East into East Africa. Additionally, we present how individual characteristics such as gender, socioeconomic status, education, employment, and personal aspirations place an individual's likelihood of being trafficked. Further, we develop an understanding of the coping strategies and mechanisms adopted by people who move to Middle East in negotiating space, identity, status and livelihood. This paper finds that individuals initiate mobility to urban-diaspora mainly due to perceived and expressed gains. The majority move due to socio-economic gains such as for a better quality of life. While in the host country, individuals embrace a cultural space where belonging ties and identities brought from home are crafted to suit immediate needs. However, the environment in the host country keeps shifting with elements of discrimination and exploitation forcing individuals to negotiate their social belonging and for survival. The paper recommends the need to strengthen international relations and a culture that appreciates diversity.

**Key Words:** Rural-Urban-Diaspora, Migration, East Africa, Middle East.



Eric Masese, Omar Egesah [the late], Lynn Kisemba, Edna Masita, Peter Oino, Joan Koech & Abigail Kutwa



**Moral Agency in Mobility: Conceptualizing Mobility along Kenya-Uganda Highway**

Inter and intra mobility is a common feature in contemporary society. Mobile people's lived experiences are intimately linked to their potential to exercise agency in mobility. However, the notion of moral agency within the context of mobility has not been the explicit focus on theoretical and empirical investigations. This paper examines how individual choices, autonomy/freedom and responsibility of being "moral person" inform the experiences of mobility. This paper is based on narratives from 40 case interviews which was a subset of data from Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence funded research project, "Framing Identities from Human Agency Mobility on the Kenya-Uganda Highway (FIHAM) by RS Mobilities, Moi University ACC. FIHAM research project never focused on moral agency from the onset. However, during qualitative data analysis of case interviews, moral agency emerged as a factor informing mobility experiences. This paper discusses how moral agency in mobility underscores not only individual's need for mobility but importantly produces spaces in which mobile people (re)negotiate and contest their identities, belonging and relationship in pursuit of moral personhood.

**Willice O. Abuya**

*Moi University*

### **Theorising Vulnerabilities in Mobilities**

The concept of vulnerability has increasingly been seen as fundamental to the understanding of the human-environment nexus. Development has therefore increasingly been seen as a process that involves harmonious relationships between society and the environment. The vulnerability framework seeks understanding of the coupled human-environment system and is predicated on the notion that vulnerability resides in the condition and operation of the coupled human-environment system (including the response capacities and system feedbacks to the hazard encountered). The Vulnerability theoretical framework has developed into several strands, namely; the biophysical, human ecological, political economy, constructivist and political ecology strands. This article uses the various strands to analyse states of vulnerabilities as associated with various mobilities (such as those associated with climate change, social displacement, mining, environmental hazards, 'normal' migration, among others).

## Dulo Nyaoro

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### **Assessing Remittances Dynamics to Kenya during the COVID 19 Period**

The onset of COVID 19 triggered widespread fears of global economic meltdown. Among such concern were loss of jobs by migrant communities especially in the developed countries, the restriction on human mobility and how these would affect diaspora remittances to developing countries. While some of these fears turned out to be true, in certain cases, remittances received recorded marginal increase. Using data from the Banking sector in Kenya, this article demonstrates that remittances actually increased in 2020. With help of previous literature on remittances and theoretical arguments this article attempts to offer the possible explanations why this is the case. While it might be premature to generalize, it is argued that a combination of factors made this possible including the sectors where migrant population are employed and the level of skills such migrants have.

## Dr. Fredrick Okoth Okaka & Prof. Paul Omondi

*Moi University*

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### **Knowledge, perception, and practice towards COVID-19 and (im)mobility impacts among older people living in informal settlements in Nairobi city, Kenya**

Informal settlements in developing countries such as Kenya are the least prepared to deal with COVID-19 pandemic due to lack of basic housing, water and sanitation, and overcrowding. The risk is magnified for older people in such an environment due to their advanced age that compromises their immune system, and the fact that they are more likely to have pre-existing health conditions which weaken their body's ability to fight infectious diseases. This study sought to establish older people's knowledge levels, perception, and risk assessment with regard to COVID-19, and adherence to prevention measures. A previous study revealed that knowledge about some key symptoms of COVID-19 is still low, and that a considerable number of older people do not think that elderly people are at great risk of getting severely sick. Misconception that a strong religious belief can protect one from contracting the disease is still common among older people, while social restrictions have increased immobility leading to discrimination and isolation. There is, therefore, need for well-tailored and contextualized awareness campaigns to reach this high risk group.

*Key words:* COVID-19, Older people, Informal Settlement, Knowledge, Perception, and Practices, mobility

## Serge Hounton & Dr. Dulo Nyaoro

*Moi University*

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### **Impact of COVID-19 on the On-going Refugees Economic Inclusion in Kenya: Differences-in-Differences Analysis**

This paper examines how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the refugee's livelihood and the on-going economic inclusion in Kenya. We analyse the impact of the pandemic on various refugee settlements such as, Kalobeyei settlement, and urban areas in the host country compared to the formal camps (Kakuma and Dadaab), Kenya. By doing so, we use the Difference-in-Differences evaluation analysis to access the impact of the pandemic on the refugee's livelihood (refugees' income) and the economic inclusion (relief services). We use data collected by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from May to July 2020 in Kenya to empirically analyse the effect of COVID-19 on the refugees. Our findings show that the refugees in the Kalobeyei settlement and urban areas livelihoods have been negatively and significantly affected than the refugees in the formal camps, Kakuma and Dadaab. Moreover, our analysis reveals that the pandemic has increased the aid dependency of Kalobeyei and urban refugees in Kenya. That means the COVID-19 has negatively impacted on-going refugees' economic inclusion in Kenya.

#### *Keywords:*

COVID-19, Economic Inclusion, Refugee's livelihoods, Refugee Settlements, Difference-in-Difference.

## Mukhwana M. Duncan

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### **Toiling for Nil; Women in the western Kenya sugar industry**

Women provide the need for a major reassessment of the labour relations in the sugar industry which results in positive attempts to maximize on their labour in western Kenya. The sugar industry sought to encourage women particularly in Kakamega, Bungoma and Busia, in order to bolster sugarcane output in the area. With the onset of the private sugar companies in the area, exemplified by Butali, West Kenya and Busibwabo, sugarcane production had to continue to prosper instead of diminishing at the expense of the benefits to the labourers (the women). The Luhya women in the area bore the greatest responsibility of ensuring that sugarcane is not only produced to meet the needs of the "hungry" sugar companies, but equally the returns from sugarcane production were substantial. By 2004, increased women labour in the sugarcane industry of western Kenya had produced Luhya proto-capitalists (exclusively men), who had managed to accumulate the returns from sugarcane production at the expense of the woman labourer. The Luhya proto-capitalists have threatened the sociological equilibrium in western Kenya which saw the women in the area toil in the sugar industry for nil at the expense of communal solidarities. This paper applies the concepts of utility and expropriation to analyze how women were exploitatively utilized in the sugar industry for nil returns. The concepts illustrate how the sugar companies squeezed the labour out of the Luhya women while the Luhya men siphoned the sugarcane returns from the women labour, therefore, letting the women in the western toil for nil in the sugar industry. This paper is founded on paramountcy of primary data, from farmers' records

corroborated by researcher observations, interviews and backed up by secondary data especially library literature for purpose of content and context analysis and grounding.





**Joan Koech**  
Doctoral Researcher, RS Mobilities



**Tom Esipila,**  
Doctoral & Mobilities Researcher



**Youssoufou Daouda Labot**  
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**Elsa Maria Muchanga**  
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**Joel Agonmounon**  
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**Abigael Kutea**  
Data Analyst & Mobilities Researcher

The Moi University African Cluster Centre (Moi-ACC) is a node in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence (“Africa Multiple”), a transnational project whose overarching aim is to reconfigure African Studies. “Africa Multiple” – its other nodes are in the University of Bayreuth, Germany, University Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Burkina Faso, University of Lagos, Nigeria, and Rhodes University, South Africa – is a platform for scholars to undertake research and engage in conversations that contribute to the greater understanding of Africa in ways that enable the addressing of significant issues affecting the continent's peoples. The present workshop joins in the general effort with its examination of music even as it deploys it to explore cultural identity from diverse disciplinary perspectives.

## MOI UNIVERSITY AFRICAN CLUSTER CENTRE

