

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**PROF. CIARUNJI CHESAINA**

**MARCH, 2010**

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**PROF. CIARUNJI CHESAINA**    **NEE:** Jane Ciarunji Geteria  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** 20-05-1947  
**MARITAL STATUS:** Widowed  
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Nairobi 00100  
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## EDUCATION

1996 - 1998            United States International University Master of Business Education.

1985 - 1988            Leeds University (United Kingdom).  
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D. Literature).

1977 - 1978            Leeds University  
Master of Arts (Literature)

1971 - 1972            Harvard University  
Master of Education (Child Psychology)

1968 - 1971            Makerere University  
Bachelor of Arts (English and French)

1966 - 1967            Alliance Girls High School  
Higher School Certificate

1962 - 1965            Alliance Girls High School  
Cambridge School Certificate

## AWARDS

1988            American Embassy Award    (study tour of ethnic cultures of US)

1985-1988       Commonwealth Scholarship    (Ph. D Leeds Univ.)

1977-1978       Kenya Govt. Scholarship    (MA Leeds Univ.)

1971-1972       Carnegie Foundation Scholarship    (M. Ed. Leeds Univ.)

## **EMPLOYMENT**

2003 to date	Professor of Literature University of Nairobi.
2000 - 2003	Kenya High Commissioner to South Africa Kenya Government
1998 to 2000	Professor of Literature University of Nairobi.
1991 - 1998	Associate Professor University of Nairobi.
1982 - 1991	Senior Lecturer Kenyatta University.
1974 - 1982	Lecturer Kenyatta University.
1972 - 1974	Tutorial Fellow Kenyatta University.
Sept. - Dec. 1972	English Teacher Alliance Girls High School. Kenyatta University.

## **UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT**

- Genres of Oral Literature
- Written African Literature
- West African Literature
- Southern African Literature
- Children's Literature
- Women in Literature
- European Prose, Drama & Poetry
- African Drama
- Language Use in Literature
- Children's Literature
- Introduction to Oral Literature

## **POSTGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT**

- Criticism of African Literature
- Theories of Literature
- Oral Literature
- European Literature
- African American Literature
- Comparative African Literature

## **RESEARCH SUPERVISION OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS**

2007 to date	Ph D thesis (M. Musonye) ‘Images of War and Peace in Refugee Children’s Oral Narratives’
2006	M.A. Project (M. Nthumba) ‘Education in Maasai Oral Narratives’
2005-2009	Ph D thesis (L. Maina ) ‘Implications of Mythology as Analytical Tool in Rebecca Njau’s Works’
2005-2009	Ph D thesis (B. Masibo) ‘The Treatment of Women In the Novels of Ngugi wa Thiong’o and Alice Walker’
2005 - 2008	Ph D thesis (J. Muchiri) ‘The Female Autobiographical Voice’: University of Nairobi
2005 - 2008	Ph D thesis (E. Mbithi) ‘The Native Woman’s Voice in Canadian Literature: Jeannette Armstrong and Beatrice Culleton’
2005	M. A Project (P. Omufila) ‘Strategies of Creating Role Models in Cynthia Hunter’s Works’: University of Nairobi
2004	M A Project (B. Masibo) ‘A Comparative Study of Initiation & Identity in the Works of Ngugi wa Thiong’o and Alice Walker: University of Nairobi
2004	M. A Project (L Mwangi) ‘The Role of Myths & Traditional Beliefs in <i>Rebeka Njau’s Ripples in the Pool</i> and <i>The Sacred Seed</i> ’: University of Nairobi
1995-1998	Ph D thesis (F. O. Matiang’i) ‘Search for Identity in the Works of Bessie Head, Mariama Ba and Buchi Emecheta’: University of Nairobi

- 1996-1997 M.A thesis (P. Wasamba) 'Language Use in Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's Fiction': University of Nairobi
- 1996-1997 M.A thesis (M. Musau) 'Clensing the Stain'-A Novella: University of Nairobi
- 1994-1995 M.A thesis (J. Mugubi) 'Rebeka Njau's Social Vision': University of Nairobi
- 1993-1997 Ph D Thesis (D. H. Kiiru) 'The Woman's role in Alex La Guma's Fiction' University of Nairobi
- 1993-1994 M.A thesis (F. Wako) 'Cattle Song as Performance: the Case of Boran Weedhu': University of Nairobi
- 1991-1993 M.A thesis (O. Matiang'i) 'The Image of the African Woman in Buchi Emecheta's Fictional Works': University of Nairobi
- 1989-1991 M.A thesis (J. W. Kyallo): 'A Comparative Study of the Drama of Francis Imbuga and John Ruganda' Kenyatta University
- 1982-1985 M.A thesis (M. Makini) 'Francis Imbuga's Drama': University of Nairobi
- 1980-1982 M Ed. thesis (T. Rimbui): 'Students' Attitude to English Literature in Kenya': Kenyatta University

### **ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION**

- 2003 to date Chairperson, Postgraduate Studies Committee.  
Department of Literature, University of Nairobi
- 1999 - 2000 Chairperson, Department of Literature  
University of Nairobi.
- 1997 - 2000 Member of the University Disciplinary Committee  
University of Nairobi
- 1996 - 1999 Director (Ag.) International Programmes  
University of Nairobi.
- 1994 - 1998 Representative to Board of Postgraduate Studies  
University of Nairobi.
- 1991 - 1994 Senate Representative, Faculty of Arts  
University of Nairobi.
- 1980 - 1983 Faculty Examinations Officer  
Kenyatta University

1974 - 1977            Chairperson, Department of Literature  
Kenyatta University.

### **EXTERNAL EXAMINING**

2008 to date            External Examiner Makerere University

2008 to date            External Examiner Catholic University of Eastern Africa

1998 –2000            External Examiner in Theatre Art , University of  
Dar es Salaam

1992-1994            External Examiner in Theatre Art, University of  
Dar es Salaam

1990-1991            External Examiner in Literature External Degree Section, University  
of Nairobi.

1989 – 1991            External Examiner in Literature, Department of Languages,  
Linguistics and Literature,  
College of Education & External Studies  
University of Nairobi

1988-1990            External Examiner in Literature,  
Literature Department,  
University of Nairobi,

### **BOOKS PUBLISHED**

*The Significance of Oral Literature in Children's Development: Social & Psychological Issues.* Koln (Germany): Lambert Academic Publishing 2009.

*Teaching of African Literature in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (editor): Koln (Germany), Lambert Academic Publishing, 2009.

*Oral Literature of the Embu and Mbeere:* EAEP. 1997

*Pokot :* Rosen Publishers. 1996

*Students' Guide to Peter Abrahams' Mine Boy:* Macmillan Kenya, 1996

*Hope on the Horizon:* Impact Associates, 1994

*Perspectives on Women in African Literature:* Impact Associates, 1994

*Oral Literature of the Kalenjin* Nairobi EAEP 1991

*Notes to Francis Imbuga's Man of Kafira* Nairobi Heinemann 1984

## **ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS IN BOOKS**

‘The Treatment of Themes of War, Conflict, and Peace in Embu and Mbeere Oral Literature’, in *Daisaku Ikeda and Peace*. (ed) H. Indangasi M. O. Hashimoto, Kenya Literature Bureau, 2008 pp. 124 – 136.

‘Cultural Attitudes and Equality of the Sexes: Forever Incompatible?’ in *Social and Religious Concerns of East Africa* ed. By G.J. Wanjohi and G.W. Wanjohi: Washington: The Council for Research in Values & Philosophy, 2005

Book Review of Paulo Coelho’s *The Alchemist* & Antoine de St. Exupery’s *The Little Prince*, in ‘Wajibu: Journal of Social and Religious Concerns’, Vol. 19, No. 1 (April – May 2004), pp 23-24

‘Globalisation: What’s in it for the Kenyan Woman?’ in ‘Wajibu, Journal of Social and Religious Concern’, Vol. 19, No. 3 (Sept.- Oct 2004)

‘Theatre in Kenya’ (Co-authored by Evan Mwangi) *A History of Theatre in Africa* ed. Martin Banham, Cambridge University Press, 2004.

‘Daisaku Ikeda’s Contribution to Children’s Literature, in *Daisaku Ikeda and Africa*. (ed) by H. Indangasi & M. Odari, Nairobi University Press, 2001. pp. 43 – 50.

‘Children’s Literature in East Africa’ in *Encyclopaedia of Post-Colonial Literatures in English* ed. by E. Benson & L.W Connolly: Routledge, 1995

‘Drama in East Africa’ in *Encyclopaedia of Post-Colonial Literatures in English*, 1995

‘Folklore in East Africa’ in *Encyclopaedia of Post-Colonial Literatures in English*, 1995

‘Francis Imbuga’ in *Encyclopaedia of Post-Colonial Literatures in English*, 1995

‘The development of Women’s Studies in Kenya’ in *Women’s Studies Around the World*. Women’s Press, 1994.

‘Grace Ogot: A Creative Writer’s Contribution to Cultural Development and Women’s Emancipation’ in *Writers’ Forum*, Vol. 1992.

‘Little Fishes and Crocodiles’ (A Short Story) in *Little Amu and the Kobole* ed. by W. Mwoitia et al Oxford University Press: 1989.

‘Women Issues, What Role for Literature?’ in *Wajibu: A Journal of Social and Religious Concern Vol. 3 No. 2* 1988.

‘The Theme of Regeneration in Robert Serumaga’s *Return to the Shadows*’ in *Africa Thought and Practice Vol. 4 No. 1* 1982.

‘Ngugi wa Thiongó and the Oral Tradition’ in *Teaching of African Literature in Secondary Schools* ed. by E. Gachukia and Akivaga Kenya Literature Bureau, 1976.

‘Who is on Trial in *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi?*’ in *Busara Vol. 8 No.2*, 1976.

La Femme Malgache’ in ‘La Nouvelle Revue de Makerere’ 1970.

### **CONFERENCES ATTENDED**

Nov. 2005	Oral Literature & the Environment’	Kisumu (Kenya)
May 1997	NAFSA Conference on International Education	Vancouver (Canada)
Sept.1996	Commonwealth Post-colonial Literature	Armagh (Ireland)
1994	Inauguration of Third Sector Research	Budapest (Hungary)
1994	Global Non-profit Sector	Tunis (Tunisia)
1993	World Women’s Congress	San Jose (Costa Rica)
Jan. 1992	AAWORD Seminar on Women & the Democratization Process	Nairobi (Kenya)
Jan. 1992	Research Priorities in Oral Literature	Nairobi (Kenya)
Feb. 1991	British Council Conference on the Role of Language and Literature in the Sch. Curriculum	Nairobi (Kenya)
Jun. 1991	AAWORD Seminar on Research and Policy	Nairobi (Kenya)
Aug. 1991	Teaching of Oral Literature	Nairobi (Kenya)
Nov. 1991	KTTC Seminar on the Role of Women In Technology (Consultant Chairperson	Nakuru (Kenya)
Aug. 1991	AAWORD Seminar on Women in Politics	Nairobi



1989	International Telephone Dialogue with John Wideman	Nairobi (Kenya)
1989	Artists' and Intellectuals' Contribution to Child Survival and Development	Naivasha (Kenya)
1989	AAWORD Regional Conference for Eastern and Southern Africa on Sustainable Development with Women: Gender Relations & Social Change	Nairobi (Kenya)
1988	Regional and Ethnic Culture in the United States	U.S.A.
1986	ROAPE Conference	Liverpool (U.K.)
1986	Forum: End of Women's Decade	Nairobi (Kenya)
1985	Changing Patterns in Women's Theatre History	Warwick University (U.K.)
1983	Women's Access to Higher Education in Kenya	Naivasha (Kenya)
1982	Material Culture	Mombasa (Kenya)
1981	Kenya Cultural Policy	Nyeri (Kenya)
1980	Teaching of African Literature in Kenya Secondary Schools	Nairobi School (Kenya)
1979	The Development of Culture	Institute of African Studies (Kenya)
1977	French for Anglophones	Lome (Togo)
1974	Teaching of African Literature in Kenya Secondary Schools	Nairobi School (Kenya)
1974	Commonwealth Literature	Makerere University (Uganda)

## **PAPERS PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES**

Nov. 2005	'Perspectives on the Oral Narrative as Appropriate Tool for Children's Education'	Kisumu (Kenya)
1996	'East African Women Writers'	Armagh (Ireland)
1994	The Role of Women's Groups in Africa'	Budapest (Hungary)
1994	'Non-Profit Sector in Africa'	Tunis (Tunisia)
1993	'The Development of Women's Studies in Kenya'	San Jose (Costa Rica)
1991	'The Role of Kenyan Women in National Development'	Nakuru (Kenya)
1991	'Images of Women in African Oral Literature: Kalenjin and Maasai Oral Literature as Case Studies'	Nairobi (Kenya)
1991	'Woman in Literature in the Context of the School Curriculum'	Nairobi (Kenya)
1990	'The Role of African Literature in the Enhancement of Women's Contribution to Social Harmony'	Nairobi (Kenya)
1989	'East African Women Creative Writers' Contribution Cultural Development and Women's Emancipation'	Nairobi (Kenya)
1984	'Women in Francis Imbuga's Drama'	Nairobi (Kenya)
1982	'The Significance of Cultural Materials in African Drama'	Mombasa (Kenya)
1979	'Culture and Nation Building'	Nairobi (Kenya)
1979	'The Role of Education in Nation Building'	Nairobi (Kenya)
1974	'Ngugi wa Thiong'o and the Oral Traditional with Reference to the <u>River Between</u>	Nairobi (Kenya)

## **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Member of council Kabarak University.
- Member of Kenya National Examinations English Panel.
- Member of Kenya National Academy of Sciences.
- Executive Committee Member of Writers Association of Kenya.
- Member of Kenya Oral Literature Association.
- Member of the Assembly of Kopiken (Body regulating reprographic rights in Kenya).
- External Consultant of Forum for African Women Educationalists.

## **AFFILIATION TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

- Member of Global Institute of Third Sector Research.
- Member of Group of Lay Counsellors
- Member of Parklands Baptist Church.

## **HOBBIES**

- Teaching Bible Study to Children
- Counselling young people
- Working Handcrafts
- Reading