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## MARY. A. NYANGWESO

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Professor, Religious Studies  
J. Woolard and Helen Peel Distinguished Chair and  
Director, Religious Studies Program  
East Carolina University  
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### **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

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- 2021 – present. Professor of Religious Studies, Peel Distinguished Chair and Director of Religious Studies Program
- 2015- Present Associate Professor, Peel Distinguished Chair and Director of Religious Studies Program, East Carolina University
- 2013- Present Associate Professor, Peel Distinguished Chair and Director of Religious Studies, East Carolina University, Greenville N.C.,
- 2008-2013 Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, East Carolina University, Greenville N.C.,
- 2007-2008 Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia M.O., Department of Religious Studies
- 2005-2006 Lecturer, Iowa State University, Ames, I.A., Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
- 2005-2005 New York Theological Seminary, New York, N.Y., Adjunct Faculty/ Research Assistant and instructor Ecologies of Learning Project; Research in urban religious practices
- 2003-2004 Teaching Assistant, Drew University, Madison, N.J., Department of Religion and Society  
*Co-taught* in the Theological School, with Dr. Otto Maduro and Dr. Laurel Kearns, to the Masters' of Divinity students  
*Intern:* In the Dean's office, where I helped research and draft a proposal for developing a leadership institute at Drew Theological School.
- 2001-2004 Adjunct Faculty, Montclair State University, Montclair, N. J., Department of Philosophy and Religion
- 2002-2003 Adjunct faculty, Bloomfield College, New Jersey
- 1992-1998 Lecturer, Moi University, Kenya, Department of Religion  
*Service:* Interim Chair, the Department of Religious Studies
- 1988-1991 Instructor, Aldai Girls High School, Kapsabet, Kenya
- 1962 – present Anglican Church of Kenya

### **EDUCATION**

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- Ph.D. Sociology of Religion, Drew University, 2004  
M. Phil. Sociology of Religion, Drew University, 2002  
M.TH. Theology, Emory University, 1999  
M. Phil. Religion, Moi University, 1992

## ***HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED***

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- Research grant from East Carolina University to contact research on “The Health Implications of Rites of Passage on Africans in the Diaspora.” 2019, grant.
- A grant from Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) Curriculum Development to revise and construct RELI 3590 Religion and Gender syllabus towards incorporating interfaith engagement skills in the course instruction, 2019, grant.
- University Scholar Award, 2017, award.
- Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) Curriculum Development Grant for “Interfaith Understanding,” 2017, grant.
- BB&T Faculty Leadership Fellows Program: Developing Student Leadership Capacity 2017 Project, grant.
- BB&T Active Learning and Leadership 2016 grant.
- “Religious Studies proposal for Operating Funds,” 2016/2017, grant.
- Operating grant – Religious Studies Program, 2016, grant application
- American Academy of Religion 2014 Study Grant, “The Long-Term Impacts of Liberal Education on Religious Studies Majors,” at East Carolina University, grant application
- Named the first East Carolina University J. Woolard and Helen Peel Distinguished Professor in Religious Studies, East Carolina University, 2008
- Fulbright Junior Scholars Fellowship 1999-2000, Emory University, Candler School of Theology and Drew University.
- Association of African Women in Research and Development (AAWORD) 1995-1996, Research Grant, “The Profile on Women as Political Leaders in Kenya.”
- Organization of Social Sciences Research for Eastern Africa (OSSREA) 1993 Research Grant, “Some Constraints to Democratization Process in Kenya.”

## ***COURSES TAUGHT***

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- Theory and Methods in Religious Studies
- Social Theory and Analysis
- Religion and the Social Process
- Introduction to Religious Studies
- World Religions
- Classical Islam
- Religion and Sexuality
- African Religions
- Life and Teachings of Jesus and Prophet Muhammad
- Contemporary Christian Thought
- Women and Religion
- Indigenous Religions
- Native American Religions
- Christian Religious Education
- Religion and Society
- Swahili

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Books**

- *Female Genital Cutting in Industrialized Countries: Mutilation or Cultural Tradition?* ABC Clío Praeger, 2014, ISBN 978-1440833465
- *Female Circumcision: The Interplay between Religion, Gender, and Culture in Kenya*, Orbis Books, 2007. ISBN 978-15707571105

### **Edited Volumes**

- *Religion in Gender-Based Violence, Immigration, and Human Rights*, Routledge, 2019 (co-edited with Dr. Jacob Olupona) ISBN 978-1138596986
- *World Religions in the Global Society*, Cognella, 2020, (Edited volume) ISBN 2370000801944

### **Journal Articles**

- “Contending with health outcomes of sanctioned rituals: The Case of Puberty Rites” *Religions*, 13(7), 609, June 2022, <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/13/7/609>
- “Multiculturalism and Women’s Rights: Implications for Victims of Female Genital Cutting.” *Religions*, 13(4), 367, April 2022, <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/13/4/367>
- “Religion, Gender, and Politics in Kenya: Challenges of Female Leadership in the 21st Century,” *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 4(2) 16-32, 2020
- “Reclaiming Religion, Religious Studies and the Humanities in the Academy and National Development” at *American Research Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2019
- “Religion, Human Rights, and the African Widow,” *Peace Human Rights Governance* 1:3, November 2017, 365-391.
- “Intersectionality, Education, and Advocacy against Sexual Violence.” *Journal of Feminist Studies of Religion*, 2017, 33:1, 180-182
- “Negotiating Cultural Rights to Affirm Human Rights: Challenges Women Face in the 21st Century.” *Journal of Religion and Violence* Vol. 4(1), 2016, 39-57.
- “What Should Industrialized Countries do to protect the Rights of Immigrant Women? Governments Should Extend Basic Human Rights to Migrant Women and Their Families regardless of Legal Status,” *Issues: Understanding Controversy and Society, ABC-CLIO*, 2. <http://issues2.abc-clio.com/>.
- “Negotiating Agency and Human Rights in Islam: A Case of Muslim Women in Kenya.” *Contemporary Islamic Studies*, Vol. 1, February 2012, 1-15.
- “Christianity and Social Justice for the Kenyan Woman: A Hermeneutical Reflexive Enterprise.” *Theologies and Cultures: Theology Out of the Context*, Vol. 8, (2), December 2011, 60-87.
- “At the Crossroads of Gender, Religion, and Academia: Challenges of Black Women.” *JENdA: A Journal of Culture and African Women Studies*, Issue 19, December 2011, 44-58.
- “Religion, the African Concept of the Individual and Human Rights Discourse: An Analysis,” *Journal of Human Rights*, Vol. 9 (3), 2010, 326-343.
- “Contextualizing Theology and Gender Reconstruction in Kenya,” *Theologies and Cultures: Theology Out of the Context*, Vol. V1, (2), December 2009, 110 -133.

- “Beyond Facts to Realities: Confronting Realities of Women in ‘Female Circumcision’ Communities,” *Journal of Human Rights*, Vol. 6, (4), 2007, 393-413.
- “Christ’s Salvific Message and the Nandi Ritual of Female Circumcision,” *Theological Studies*, Vol. 63, (3), September 2002, 579-600.
- “Transformations of Care for the Aged among Africans: A Study of the Kenyan Situation,” *Aging and Mental Health*, Vol. 2, (3), August 1998, 181-185, also published as proceedings in *Gerontechnology: A Sustainable Investment in the Future, Technology Informatics 48*, eds. J Graafans, V. Taipala, and N. Charness, IOS Press, 1998, 450-455.
- “The Role of Traditional Doctors in Modern Health Sciences,” *African Journal of Social Sciences*, Vol. 2. (2), 1995.

## **Book Chapters**

- “Witches of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: How Resilient African Spirituality Speaks to African Identity in Changing times” *Religion, Identity, and Values: Rethinking Africa’s Development*, edited by Ezra Chitando and Eunice Kamara, 2022, invited, [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-12938-4\\_12-6662](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-12938-4_12-6662).
- “Disability in Africa: A Cultural/Religious Perspective,” *Disability in Africa: Inclusion, Care, and the Ethics of Ubuntu*, edited by Toyin Falola and Nic Hamel, University of Rochester Press, 2021
- “Religion, Gender-based Violence, and the Rights of the Girl Child in Kenya” *Religion in Gender-Based Violence, Immigration, and Human Rights*, Routledge, 2019, 121-138
- “Immigration and Gender-Based Violence in the West,” *Religion in Gender-Based Violence, Immigration and Human Rights*, Routledge, 2019, 230-247
- “Clerics and Community -based Organizations as agents of Social Change” *Religion in Gender-Based Violence, Immigration and Human Rights*, Routledge, 2019, 266-279
- “Battling a ‘War within a War’: Challenges of Being Female in Africa,” *Female Child Soldiering, Gender Violence, and Feminist Theologies*, edited by Susan Willhauck, Palgrave, 2019, 124-144.
- “Religion After the Medical Miracle: Recovering ‘Disability’ as Religious Analytic of Social Suffering,” *Disability in the Global South: The Critical Handbook*, co-authored with Sharon V. Betcher, Springer International Publishing, Switzerland, 2016, 117-132
- “African Traditional Religions,” *Understanding the Religions of the World*, Pearson, 2015
- “Is Cultural Diversity Endangering Women’s Rights?” *Politics, Governance, and Development in Africa: Retrospection in Fifty Years of Self Rule*, edited by Maurice Amutabi, Nairobi: Research, The Catholic University of East Africa, 2013, 37-52.
- “Western Ideology and the Sexuality of the African Woman: Engaging Dualistic Thinking in Attitudes to African Women’s Sexuality,” *Women, Gender and Sexualities in Africa*, edited by Toyin Falola and Nana Akua Amposa, Carolina Academic Press, 2012, 101-120.
- “Female Circumcision in a World Perspective,” *World History Encyclopedia*, eds. Alfred J. Andrea, Kevin McGeough, William E Mierse and Fred Nadis, ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara, 2011.
- “Foreword,” *Beyond Women’s Emancipation in Africa*, Elinami Swai, Palgrave Macmillan, 2010, ix-xi.
- “Religion and the Rights of African Women in the Age of HIV/AIDS: Illustrations from Kenya,” *Strong Women, Dangerous Times: Gender and HIV/AIDS in Africa*, edited by Ezekiel Kalipeni, & Cynthia Pope, Nova Science Publishers, 2009, 237-252.
- “African Women in Traditional Religions: Illustrations from Kenya,” *Women and Religion: New and Afro-Religions*, edited by Lillian Ashcraft-Eason, Darnise C. Martin, Oyeronke Olademo, Santa Barbara, California, Praeger, 2009, 301-322.

- “Religion, Women and Economic Growth in Kenya,” *Studies in the Economic History of Kenya: Land, Water, Railways, Education and Entrepreneurship*, edited by Maurice Nyamanga Amutabi, Edwin Mellen Press, 2009, 195-224.
- “Women and Democracy in Kenya,” *Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Democracy*, edited by Ogot Bethwell, Kisumu: Maseno University College, 1997, 157-166.

## **Forthcoming**

### **Book chapters**

- “Religions and Development in Kenya,” *Encyclopedia of African Studies, African Religions*,’ subject editor, under review, contract with Routledge

### **Book Reviews**

- Queering Black Atlantic Religions: Transcorporeality in Candomble, Santeria, and Vodou Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2019, by Roberto Strongman, invited, *Hypatia*, 2021
- Holding the World Together: African Women in Changing Perspectives, edited by Nwando Achebe and Claire Robertson, Madison WI University of Wisconsin Press, 2019, invited book review.
- *African Feminist Hermeneutics: An Evangelical Reflection*, by Rachel NyaGondwe Fiedler, Johannes W. Hofmeyr, Klaus Fiedler, Mzuni Press, in *Journal of African Religions*, 2018.
- “Evil in Africa: Encounters with the Every day,” Book Review, *Reading Religion* (American Academy of Religion) August 2016.
- “Because of Honor,” by Maurice Amutabi, *Kenya Studies Review: a Journal of Scholars and Studies Association*, December 2009, 157-159.
- “The Vitality of Karamojong Religion: Dying Tradition or Living Faith?” by Ben Knighton, in *Africa Today*, Vol. 53. No. 2, 2006, 124-125.

## **Other Publications**

- *Engaging Norms that Undermine Gender and Human Rights in Kenya*” *Awaaz Voices*, Vol. 15, Issue 1, [www.awaazmagazine.com](http://www.awaazmagazine.com), 2018
- “Ending Female Genital Cutting: Is political correctness getting in the way?” *Sightings*, January 15, 2015, <https://divinity.uchicago.edu/sightings/ending-female-genital-cutting-political-correctness-getting-way-mary-nyangweso>

## ● **Unpublished Reports**

- “The Influence of Indigenous Religions on Christianity in Kenya,” M.A Thesis, Moi University, Eldoret Kenya
- The African Woman’s Perspective on Female Circumcision,” MPhil. Thesis, Drew University
- “Long-Term Impacts of the Religious Studies Program on East Carolina University Undergraduates” a report for the *American Academy of Religion*, 2016

## **INVITED LECTURES**

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- “Circumcisions as Inscriptions of Gender: Implications of FGM Eradication or Sustenance.” At the King’s Virtual Symposium Patriarchal Inscriptions Symposium, United Kingdom held on November 28, 2020

- “African Spirituality in Modern Society,” a presentation at Colgate Rochester Divinity College, January 8, 2020
- “Ethics, Morality and Social Behavior,” a presentation at Monmouth University, May 2018
- “Negotiating Values in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Challenges of an African Woman” presented at Houston University, Texas, April 16, 2018
- “Sanctioned incivility in Africa: An Examination of the Central Mission of the Church in Confronting Discriminative Acts,” invited presentation at Harvard University, April 2019.
- “Religion, Culture, and Gender: African Women’s Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” presentation at the “Religious Literacy: Teaching on Religions of Africa and the Middle East” 2018 Summer Institute for Educators MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, held at Yale University on July 9-13, 2018.
- “Religions, Cultural Practices, and the African Diaspora,” 2016 Frederick A. Shippey Lecture on *Decolonizing the Study of Religion: Future Directions from the Work of Karen McCarthy Brown*, Drew University, Madison New Jersey, April 12, 2016
- “Female Genital Cutting: Human and Cultural Rights,” invited lecture, University of Central Missouri, Kansas Missouri, March 17, 2016.
- “Religion, Gender, and Sexuality in East Africa” invited lecture, Harvard University, November 14, 2013.
- “Christianity and HIV in Kenya,” (invited paper), at a Symposium on “New Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa, organized by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the U.S. Department of State and the National Intelligence Council, and held at the Army – Navy Club , Washington DC on April 5, 2013.
- “Female Genital Cutting: Human and Cultural Rights,” invited lecture, Northern Arizona University, Arizona, March 30, 2012.
- “Implications of a Religious Leader on Society,” invited lecture presented to the Chancellor’s Student Leadership Academy, February 11, 2013.
- “Gender and Ethnicity in Medical Family Therapy,” invited presentation to Ph.D. students, East Carolina University Medical School, on October 23, 2014.
- “Gender and Ethnicity in Medical Family Therapy,” invited presentation to Ph.D. students, East Carolina University Medical School, on October 31, 2012.
- “Religion and Female Circumcision in Kenya,” invited lecture, Grinnell College, IA, April 13, 2006.

### Forthcoming

- “Circumcision as Inscriptions of Gender: Implications of FGM Eradication or Sustainance,” Kings Virtual Symposium Patriarchal Inscriptions” to be held Saturday, November 28, 2020
- Teaching African Religions Effectively” African American of Religion, to be held November, 2020. (program pending)

### CONFERENCE, SYMPOSIA, ORGANIZED

- 2018, - Co-convener of a conference titled, “Religion and Public Health: Bridges for Collaboration” Conference, East Carolina University, April 5-7, 2018.
- 2013 – Convener of “Religion, Immigration, Health, and Human Rights: Challenges and the Way Forward.” September 27-29, 2013

- 2019 – Lead the hosting of the Southeastern Regional Meeting on Religion (SECSOR) titled “Rapid Religious Cultural Change: Why do religious beliefs at times change very quickly and what kinds of societal impacts do these changes have?” March 8-10, 2019

## **FEATURE INTERVIEWS**

- Feature Interview, “A discussion with Mary Nyangweso, Associate Professor in Religious Studies, East Carolina University,” *Peace and World Affairs*, ‘World Faiths Development Dialogue- Kenya,’ Berkley Center of Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Washington DC, October 21, 2014. October 21, 2014.  
<https://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/interviews/a-discussion-with-mary-nyangweso-associate-professor-in-religious-studies-east-carolina-university>

## **SOCIAL MEDIA ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT**

- **Researchgate.net profile Stats, 14,972 READS** - [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mary\\_Nyangweso](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mary_Nyangweso)
- **LinkedIn**, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mary-nyangweso-wangila-19b4567>
- Bepress -<https://works.bepress.com/mary-nyangweso/>

## **PROFESSIONAL TALKS, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS**

- “Is Africa Embracing A “Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing? Implications of China’s Foreign Policy in Africa for Religion, Gender, and Democracy” at *Weatherhead Conference on Religion* held at Harvard University, in March 2-4, 2023
- “Indigeneity, Postcolonialism, and Future: Themes in *Indigeneity in African Religions: Oza Worldviews, Cosmologies, and Religious Culture*.” AAR Panel presentation held in Colorado, on November 19- 23
- “Nothing About Us Without Us” Gendering Political Theology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Africa,” invited contribution to *African Political Theology* Project, presented at a Conference on African Political Theologies: Mapping and Constructing a Contested Field held at the Center of Liberation Theologies, KU Lueven’s Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, Luven Belgium, (5873 words),  
[https://theo.kuleuven.be/en/research/centres/centr\\_lib/african-political-theologies-mapping-and-constructing-a-contested-field](https://theo.kuleuven.be/en/research/centres/centr_lib/african-political-theologies-mapping-and-constructing-a-contested-field)
- “China’s Foreign Policy Interest in Africa: An Assessment of Possible Implications for Democracy, Religion and Gender” a presentation at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference organized by African Interdisciplinary Studies Association, held at Multimedia University of Kenya on June 20-25, 2022.
- “Religion, Democracy and Gender Empowerment in Post-Colonial Africa: Challenges and Future Prospects” invited presentation at the *Religion, Race and Democracy Lab: New Theories and the Future of Religion and Democracy in Africa*, held at University of Virginia, May 8, 2022, <https://religionlab.virginia.edu/events/future-of-religion-and-democracy-in-africa/>
- “Social Determinants of Reproductive Health Outcomes in Kenya” a virtual Conference on Intercontinental Meet on Gender and Sexuality Studies to be held on September 5, 2020.

- “Circumcision as Inscriptions of Gender: Implications for FGM Eradication or Sustainance,” Kings Virtual Symposium Patriarchal Inscriptions” to be held Saturday, November 28, 2020, forthcoming.
- “The Pedagogy of Teaching African Religions Effectively” African American of Religion, to be held in November 2020. (program pending) forthcoming
- “Combating Sanctioned Incivility in Africa: The Case of Sexual Assault Conflict Zones” presentation at the International Women’s Day at ECU, March 12, 2019
- “When the Private is Public: Exploring the intersection between Religion, Sexuality and the Public Sphere in Africa and the African Diaspora” a presentation under the theme “Religion in the Public Square” at the Southeastern Conference on Religion (SECSOR) held on March 8-11, at East Carolina University
- “Rites of Passage as Loci of Public Health Discourses in Africa,” a presentation at the Southeastern Conference on Religion (SECSOR) held on March 8-11, at East Carolina University
- “Religion and the Public Sphere: The Case of Gender-Based Violence,” presentation at the “Religion and the Public Sphere in Africa and the African Diaspora Colloquium, held at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University
- Presentation, “Religion, Gender and Reproductive Health Outcomes of Kenyan Women” Religion and Public Health Conference, East Carolina University, April 5-7, 2018.
- Facilitator, *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew-Three Women Search*, a Book club discussion March 28 and April 26, 2018, East Carolina University.
- Panelist, “Africa: A Factual Contest of Presidential Profanity?” An African and African American Studies Forum, held February 28, 2018, at ECU
- Trivedi, M, Nyangweso, M, Sutton, JM. “Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Clinical Implications for Women’s Health.” Poster presented at 2018 CREOG APGO Annual Meeting, “Anchors Away – Navigating your Course in Medical Education” February 28-March 3, National Harbor, Maryland.
- Panelist, Film screening of “God Loves Uganda,” co-sponsored by Religious Studies and Ethnic Studies, held on November 14, 2017.
- “Religion, Humanities and Public Health” co-presented with Mansi Trivedi, (a graduate student at Brody School) at the 2017 National Humanities Conference held in Boston, Massachusetts, November 2-5, 2017.
- Presiding over a session titled “Religious Representations and Imaginations in Contemporary African Arts” and as co-chair of African Religions group, I co-chaired a business meeting for the African Religions Group, at the American Academy of Religion held in Boston, November 18-22, 2017
- “Religion, Deconstruction and Effective Leadership: A Model for Preventing Gender-Based Violence and Promoting Social Justice,” paper presented at the African Interdisciplinary Studies Association (AISA) held at the Multimedia University of Kenya in Nairobi, Kenya on June 27-30, 2017.

- Facilitated over the discussion of “Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation” as part of the North Carolina Humanities Council on Muslim Journeys: American Stories Series, held at Western Carteret Public Library at Cape Carteret in North Carolina on October 10, 2017.
- Facilitated over the discussion of “The Butterfly Mosque: A Young American Woman’s Journey to Love and Islam” as part of the North Carolina Humanities Council on Muslim Journeys: American Stories Series, held at Western Carteret Public Library at Cape Carteret in North Carolina on November 7, 2017.
- Presided over a session titled “Education, Religion and Urban Development” at the African Interdisciplinary Studies Association (AISA) held at the Multimedia University of Kenya in Nairobi, Kenya on June 27-30, 2017.
- “Female Genital Mutilation: A Culturally Sensitive Approach to Caring for Women who have Undergone this Practice” at Brody School of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, June 8, 2017
- Facilitate book club discussion of The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding, East Carolina University
- “Religion, Humanities and Public Health” co-presented with Mansi Trivedi, (a graduate student at Brody School) at the 2017 National Humanities Conference held in Boston, Massachusetts, November 2-5, 2017.
- Presiding over a session titled “Religious Representations and Imaginations in Contemporary African Arts” and as co-chair of African Religions group, I co-chaired a business meeting for the African Religions Group, at the American Academy of Religion held in Boston, November 18-22, 2017
- “Religion, Deconstruction and Effective Leadership: A Model for Preventing Gender-Based Violence and Promoting Social Justice,” paper presented at the African Interdisciplinary Studies Association (AISA) held at the Multimedia University of Kenya in Nairobi, Kenya on June 27-30, 2017.
- Presided over a session titled “Education, Religion and Urban Development” at the African Interdisciplinary Studies Association (AISA) held at the Multimedia University of Kenya in Nairobi, Kenya on June 27-30, 2017.
- Facilitated over the discussion of “Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation” as part of the North Carolina Humanities Council on Muslim Journeys: American Stories Series, held at Western Carteret Public Library at Cape Carteret in North Carolina on October 10, 2017.
- Facilitated over the discussion of “The Butterfly Mosque: A Young American Woman’s Journey to Love and Islam” as part of the North Carolina Humanities Council on Muslim Journeys: American Stories Series, held at Western Carteret Public Library at Cape Carteret in North Carolina on November 7, 2017.
- "Migration through Migrants' Eyes" a film screening session of Docudrama, The Land Between (2014, France, Australia, Morocco, Spain), Moderator of a documentary on desperate Sub-Saharan African migrants, Symposium on [IN]Voluntary Migration Around the Globe, Greenville NC, North Carolina.
- “Female Genital Mutilation: A Culturally Sensitive Approach to Caring for Women who have Undergone this Practice” at Brody School of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, June 8, 2017

- Presider, “African Responses to Violence in the Realms of Gender and Sexuality: Action, Ethics, Popular Art, and Religion.” American Academy of Religion, YEAR, San Antonio, Texas.
- “*Working to Protect Women's Rights in the 21st Century*,” Parliament of the World's Religions: Women's Program Initiative, Month 2015, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- “Women’s Rights in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” Parliament of the World's Religions Conference, served as a panelist on the Women's Program Initiative, 2015 Salt Lake City, Utah.
- “Challenges of Teaching and Researching Religions of Africa” American Academy of Religion, Baltimore Maryland, November 2013.
- “Religion, Gender and Policy Development: The Case of Domestic Violence,” Religion, Immigration, Health and Human Rights, in? Greenville, East Carolina University, September 2013.
- “Clerics, Ministers, and Imams: Leaders as agents of Social Deconstruction,” International Society of Sociology of Religion, Turku, Finland, June 2013.
- “Ritualized Homosexuality in Indigenous Communities,” American Academy of Religion/ Society of Biblical Literature, Southeast Regional Conference, March 2013
- “Is Cultural Diversity Endangering Women’s Rights?” Africa’s Golden Jubilee: Assessing Fifty Years of Scholarship and Development in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, June 26-30, 2012.
- “Religion and Female Genital Cutting in the United States,” American Academy of Religion /Society of Biblical Literature (AAR/SBL) Southeast regional conference, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2-4, 2012.
- “Implication of Cultural Diversity Discourse on Women’s Rights: The Case Female Genital Cutting,” International Scholars Symposium, East Carolina University, April 6, 2011.
- “African Screams in the Americas: Strategizing against Harmful Cultural Practices,” Association for African American Historical Research and Preservation, Seattle WA, March, February 4-7, 2011.
- “Contesting Conceptions of Indigenous religions as Primitive” Association for African American Historical Research and Preservation, Seattle WA, March 20-22, 2009.
- “Negotiating Agency, Culture, and Religion: A Case of Muslim Women in Kenya,” American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Illinois, 2008.
- “The Vitality of African Religions in Africa/ African Diaspora: Points of Contact,” American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Illinois, 2008.
- “Female Circumcision: The Interplay between Religion, Gender, and Culture in Kenya,” First Annual Fall Conference on Research on Sexuality, Women, and Gender, University of Missouri Columbia, October 20, 2007.

- “Religion and the Rights of African Women in the Age of HIV/AIDS: Illustrations from Kenya,” “Women and HIV/AIDS in Africa,” University of Illinois, Urbana- Champaign, September 14-15, 2007.
- “Religion, the African Concept of the Individual and Human Rights Discourse,” American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C., 2006.
- “Christianity, Feminism, and the Status of African Women: The Case of Kenya,” American Society of Church History, Harrisburg, P.A., April 1-3, 2004.
- “Religion and the Participation of Women in Politics: Illustrations from Kenya,” American Academy of Religion, New Brunswick, N.J., 2003.
- “Civic Education and Human Rights Awareness in Kenya,” the 6th Regional Conference on American Studies, Egerton University, Nakuru, Kenya, July 1997.
- “Transformations of the Care of the Aged in Africa,” the Second International Conference on “Gerontechnology: A Sustainable Investment in our Future,” Helsinki, Finland, October 1996.
- “The Role of Men in Women’s Emancipation Process in Africa,” “Dreams and Realities,” Rovaniemi, Finland, July 1996.
- “Some Social Conditions Retarding Development in Africa: A Case of Kenya,” 27<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Social Welfare (ICSW), International Conference on Social Transition: Development in a Political, Economic and Social Context,” Hong Kong, July 29-August 3, 1996.
- “Some Constraints to Democratization Process in Kenya,” “The Post-Cold War Developments: The US and Africa,” Jinja, Uganda July 1995.
- “Women and Democracy in Kenya,” Ethnicity, Nationalism and Democracy, Kericho, Kenya, May 1995.
- “Constraints to Women’s Participation in National Development: The Kenyan Case,” International Year of the Family, Montreal, Canada, October 1994.
- “Population Growth in Africa and Environmental Crisis,” the 26th International Council for Social Welfare titled Global Welfare, Tampere, Finland, July 1994.
- “The Role of Traditional Doctors in Modern Health Services,” the 15th Health Sciences Congress, Nairobi, Kenya, February 1994.
- “Human Rights and Democracy: The Role of The United States in Africa,” The United States and Africa: Relations from Independence to the end of the Cold War,” Thika, Kenya, July 1993.
- “The Liberating Role of the Church in Kenyan Politics,” Mau Mau: Forty Years Later, Kisumu, Kenya, 1992.

## ***PUBLIC TALKS***

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- Align with your Ori: An African – Yoruba Spirituality Experience”, a presentation to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Greenville, on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- “African Woman: Status and Role in Society,” a presentation at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Greenville October 2022.
- Coordinated the community class on World Religions 101 and taught sections on “Islam” and “African religions” sections of the course.
- Presented a lecture on World Religions, Sigma Phi Theta, East Carolina University
- “Zar: Indigenous African Religion Empowers Women?” led Nile Project panel, East Carolina University, 2017
- “Interfaith Dialogue in a Global World” presentation at? facilitator, Symposium on Social Justice organized by *She’s the First*, Non-Profit organization symposium, East Carolina University, March 19, 2017.
- “Migration through Migrants’ Eyes” moderator and facilitator, film screening session of Docudrama, *The Land Between* (2014, France, Australia, Morocco, Spain), a documentary on desperate Sub-Saharan African migrants, Symposium on [IN]Voluntary Migration Around the Globe: the Good, the Bad and the Unknown,” by ECU’s Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, East Carolina University, February, 20 – 23.
- "Islam and Violence" lecture, New Bern Church, February 29, 2017
- "Islam and Diversity" lecture, New Bern Church, February 19, 2017
- "Religious Diversity in North Carolina" to Department of Educational leadership Principal Preparation, Wayne Community College, January 17, 2017
- "Religion, Female Genital Cutting and Women's Health in Africa" in a class on Medical Family Therapy, 2016.
- “Rites of Passage and Girl Education” at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Day of the Girl Summit: Factors Affecting Girls’ Access to Education, organized by *She’s the First*, Non-profit organization held at East Carolina University, October 22, 2016.
- “Sword Verses” Guest lecture in Dr. Maher’s class, “Religion and Violence, October 21, 2016
- "Islam: Beliefs and Stereotypes" Guest lecture, Dr. Priti's diversity class, East Carolina University, October 20, 2016
- Panelist, International Women's Day celebrations, East Carolina University, October 2016.
- Panelist, at the film screening of DRIFT on Girls’ education in Africa, organized by a non-profit organization, “She is the First,” 2016
- Lecture presentation on "Female Genital Cutting and Human Rights" to African Students Organization (ASO), 2016.
- Panelist film screening of the “Unmosqued,” East Carolina University, February 11, 2016.
- Panelist on “Intersecting Identities: Race and Sexual Orientation Committee” East Carolina University
- Led the Series featuring “Safe Sex” and “God Loves Uganda” Religious Studies film screening, November 3, 2014
- Screened and served as a panelist for the film, “God Loves Uganda,” November 3, 2014, see above line
- Feature Interview, “World Faiths Development Dialogue- Kenya,” Berkley Center of Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Washington DC, October 21, 2014. <http://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/interviews/a-discussion-with-mary-nyangweso-associate-professor-in-religious-studies-east-carolina-university>
- Consultant, “World Faiths Development Dialogue – Kenya,” Berkley Center of Religion, Peace and World Affairs, in Washington DC, October 21-22, 2014.
- “Gender and Ethnicity in Medical Family Therapy,” invited presentation to Ph.D. students, East Carolina University Medical School, on October 23, 2014.

- “For Such a Time as This,” Participant at the Interfaith Service in honor of World AIDS Day held at the First Christian Church, Greenville, North Carolina, November 3, 2012.
- “Religion and Women,” St Mary’s Episcopal Church, Kinston, North Carolina, October 21, 2012.
- “World Religions and Public Issues,” St Mary’s Episcopal Church, Kinston, North Carolina, on October 28, 2012.
- “Indigenous Ethics on Ecology: Lessons for the Church,” St Paul’s Episcopal Church, Greenville, North Carolina, 2011.
- “Islam and Politics,” invited lecture presented to a “Global Classroom,” East Carolina University, 2011.
- “Women and Religion,” St Paul’s Episcopal Church, Greenville, North Carolina, February 8, 2012.
- “Varieties of Religious Extremism,” Religious Studies Program Panel Discussion, “Downtown Dialogues on the Humanities,” Greenville Museum of Art, December 6, 2011.
- “Health and Healing: Lessons from Indigenous Religions?” St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Greenville North Carolina, October 13, 2011.
- “Indigenous Religions: Any Lessons?” St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Greenville N C, October 9, 2011.
- “Understanding Religious Diversity,” panelist, South Central High School, Winterville, NC, May 20, 2011.
- “Indigenous Religions and Nature,” panelist, “The Sacred and Nature” at the Interfaith Alliance of Eastern NC, April 26, 2010.
- “Why Humanities Matter to Scientists: Illustrations from Research in Female Circumcision and HIV/AIDS,” East Carolina University “Downtown Dialogues on the Humanities” panel discussion of “The Humanities in the Modern United States: Building Bridges from Research to Real Life,” March 24, 2009.
- “Rape and Kenyan Women,” panelist at the International Forum, Iowa State University, IA November 8, 2005.
- “Women and Aids in Africa,” United Methodist Church in Madison, WI 2003.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- *Thesis and Dissertation Supervision or Committee*
- External Reviewer, candidate for tenure, University of San Francisco, California.

## Graduate

- Gatwiri, Joy Glory., Ph.D. Diss., “African Womanhood, Health, Sexuality, and Incontinent Bodies: A Case of Kenyan Women Living with Vaginal Fistulas,” Flinders University, South Australia, Australia, 2016/17.
- “American Born Imams: Responsibilities and Expectations as Reformers,” a Master’s Thesis Supervision, by Anas Askar, 2016/2017
- William G. Lewis, “A History of the Lake Chapel at Somerset Place Plantation,” a Master’s Thesis Supervision, Lewis, East Carolina University, 2015/2016
- Purity Kimaiyo, “Participatory Media to promote Communicative Openness on Reproductive Health Issues in Rural Kenya,” a Master’s Thesis Supervision, East Carolina University, 2014/2015.
- Chelsea Cullen, Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim in the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation: A Book Review project
- Joseph Perez, “Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim in the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation” A

Book Review project

- Edward Oswago, “The Practice of Widow Inheritance and HIV/AIDS among the Luo of Kenya,” a Master’s Thesis Supervision, at Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya, 1997-1998
- Winiko P. Luwanika, ThD Student, “Malawi Population: A Challenge for Catholic Social Thought and Christian Socio-ecological Ethics,” Dissertation Supervisor, Boston University 2011- 2013

### ***Undergraduate***

- 
- Calvin Bradley, Directed Study Project: title, “Afro Caribbean Religions.” A project for the course RELI 3694 Religions of Africa Project (2015/2016)
- Hannah Porter, “Challenges, Negotiations, and Feminism in the Tijaniyya Order in Senegal and Nigeria” an Honors Thesis Supervision, East Carolina University, 2014/2015
- Jesse Miller, “The Contextualization of Islam in Africa,” Directed Study Research Project, as part of RELI 3694 Religions of Africa Project title (2015/2016).
- Mansi Trivedi Directed Study Project: Project title, “Religion and Health: The Case of Ayurveda.” As part of RELI 3694: African Religions (2014/2015)
- Tyler Beasley, Directed study: Project Title, “Religion and Health in Indigenous Communities.” As part of RELI 3694 African Religions, (2014/2015).
- Anthony Beall, Directed Study project: Project title, “Religion and the World view or the Maasai of Kenya”, as part of RELI 3694 African Religions (2016/2017)
- Kate Chandler, Directed Study Thesis project: Project title: “A Holy Partnership: A Historical Analysis of the Mughal Empire’s Effect on Hindu India,” as part of RELI 2691 Classical Islam, (2017/2018)

### ● **COMMITTEES**

- **East Carolina University – Committees and Advising**
- 2014-present, Director, Religious Studies Program and program representative on the Multidisciplinary Studies Committee
- 2016-2020, Undergraduate Council Committee – Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences
- 2009-2020, member African and African American Studies (AAAS) Executive Committee- (THCAS)
- 2016-2020, member Undergraduate Council Curriculum Committee (THCAS)
- 2011-2012 – members, East Carolina University Quality Enhancement Plan Steering Committee, member, 2011 - present.
- 2011- 2014, member, East Carolina Admission and Retention Policies Committee, Members 2011-2014.
- 2010-2016, advisor African Students Organization (ASO) Club advisor, Advisor - present.
- 2009-2016, Committee member for Batters’ Intervention in Eastern North Carolina, Member, 2009 - present.
- 2009-present AAAS Executive Committee

- 2009 – 2010, Middle Eastern Studies Committee, Member, 2010- present.

## **Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies**

- 2009-present - Personnel Committee, Member.
- 2008-present -Religious Studies Committee, Member.
- 2009-present- Religious Studies Curriculum Committee, Member.
- 2008-present Religious Studies Curriculum Development, Member.
- 2009 - present Co-director, Jarvis Lecture on Christianity and Culture.
- 2009 - present Coordinator, Religious Studies course advertisement flyers
- 2009 - present Religious studies coordinator, University Open House.
- 2009 - 2013 Religious Studies Club, advisor
- 2009 - 2013 Religious Studies served as Library Liason

## ***Consultancy, Editorial & Book Proposals, Journal Reviewer***

- 2019-present *Journal of Education*.
- 2019-present *Journal of Feminist Studies of Religion*.
- 2018. Served as a New program evaluator of the New M. A and Ph.D. Degree in Global Africana Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, Commissioned by Dean Bill Downs and Paul Gemperline to Dr. Sitawa Kimuna and Mary Nyangweso.
- 2016-2017: Board member, the "Center for Democracy, Research and Development," Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2014-2017: Co-chair African Religions Section, of the American Academy of Religion. I lead business meetings and met with section reviewers of the group towards upgrading the group into a section.
- 2016-2017. Editorial Board member, the *Journal of American Academy of Religion* (JAAR), the annual American Academy of Religion conference held in San Antonio Texas
- 2018/2019: *Reviewer for Springer, African Womanhood, Health, Sexuality, and Incontinent Bodies: A Case of Kenyan Women Living with Vaginal Fistulas* manuscript for publication.
- 2018 -present *Reviewer for Routledge, African Religions segment of Encyclopedia of Africana Studies*.
- 2016- Editorial Board, *Journal of American Academy of Religion*
- 2016 – Reviewer, Routledge.
- 2016 - Reviewer for Springer. Reviewed for Springer, the manuscript, “African Womanhood, Health, Sexuality, and Incontinent Bodies: A Case of Kenyan Women Living with Vaginal Fistulas” manuscript for publication.
- 2016 – Reviewer, Palgrave Publishers
- 2014-present, Reviewer, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* in 2014, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4306873/>
- 2013-present: *Global Partners in Education Journal*, Reviewer, [www.gpejournal.org](http://www.gpejournal.org)
- 2011-present: *East African Journal of Humanities and Sciences (EAJS)*, Reviewer
- 2009-present: *Kenya Studies Review* (KSR), Editorial Advisory Board
- 2007-2012: *Journal of Human Rights*, reviewer
- 2006-2007 Consultant, *Religions of the World Standard Setting*, Excelsior College.
- 2006 - Reviews for *Prentice-Hall*, New York.

- 2006 - Reviews for *McGraw Hill Companies*, New York.
- 2006 - Reviews for *Blackwell Publishers*, United Kingdom.
- 2005 - Reviews for *Longman Press*, New York 2005-present

### **Professional Associations Membership**

- Center for Democracy, Research, and Development, Nairobi, Kenya.
- American Academy of Religion (AAR), USA
- African Studies Association (ASA), USA
- Association for African American Historical Research and Preservation (AAAHRP)
- Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH)
- Kenya Studies Association (KSA)
- International Society of the Sociology of Religion (ISSR)

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Activism: Domestic Violence Empowerment – Wiso Support Organization
- Expert Testimony – invited to offer expert opinion for a Female Circumcision Asylum Case, Kansas, Missouri, 2008
- Expert Testimony – invited to offer expert opinion for a Female Circumcision Asylum Case, Seattle Washington, January 2010
- Drew African Students Association (DASA), Chairperson, Drew University: 2001-2002
- Drew African Students Association (DASA), Secretary Drew University: 2002-2003
- Drew University African Students Association (DASA), Conference Organizer
- Social relations officer, Religious Studies Department, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya

### **Forthcoming**

- Religion and Cultures of Kenya” *Palgrave Handbook of Kenya and Its History*, edited by Wanjala Nasongo, Maurice Amutabi and Toyin Falola,
- “Circumcisions as Inscriptions of Gender: Implications of FGM Eradication or Sustainance.” *Female Bodies: Patriarchal Inscriptions across Cultures*, Routledge, accepted, forthcoming, 2022, 8,600 words
- “Nothing About Us Without Us” Gendering Political Theology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Africa,” invited contribution to *African Political Theology* Project, accepted for publication, forthcoming, 5873 words

### **Work in progress**

#### **Manuscript**

- *Encyclopedia of African Studies*, “Religions of Africa,” subject editor, under review, contract with Routledge (contract available upon request) under review
- “Religion, The African Woman and Human Rights,” Book Proposal revision underway.

#### **Articles - Submitted for Review/possible publication**

- “Gender, Religion and Social Mobility in Africa: Reasons for the Surge of Women in Leadership Roles?” (article revision).

***Book Chapters- Submitted for review***

- Invited to serve as co-editor of Studies of Religion in Africa (SRA) Brill subject series co-editor, invited and contracted by Brill International Academic Publishers
- Studies of Religion in Africa (SRA) Brill, co – editor, contracted by Brill International Academic Publishers
- “Religion and the Public Square: The Case of Gender and Sexuality in Africa,” *Religion and the Public Sphere in Africa and the African Diaspora*, under review
- “Religion and Development in Kenya,” *The Encyclopedia for African Studies*, ‘African Religions,’ encyclopedia entry submitted for review.

***Research Projects***

- “Social Determinants of Reproductive Health in Kenya,” research report under construction pending final analysis of findings

***References*** [Available upon request]