Kyama M. Mugambi
Associate Professor, World Christianity
Yale Divinity School
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409 Prospect St. New Haven, CT, 06511 USA
orcid ID: 0000-0001-6377-946X

Curriculum Vitae

Research and Teaching Areas

- World Christianity studies with a focus on Contemporary Christian History in Africa
- Contemporary themes in urban African, and World Christianity – indigenous agency, mission, culture, social transformation, communality, oral liturgies and catechetical practices.

Books

Mugambi, Kyama and Mark Shaw *Christians in the City of Nairobi*., Bloomsbury Academic, New York, February 2025 (coauthored)

Mugambi, Kyama M.*, A Spirit of Revitalization: Urban Pentecostalism in Kenya*, Baylor University Press, Waco TX USA, October 2020. (monograph)

Book Manuscripts

Mugambi, Kyama, *Spirit, Worship and the Religious Imagination: Pentecostal Liturgies in Urban Africa.* (monograph, under review)

Refereed Journal Articles

"Christian Kinship in Urban Christianity: Case Study in Translation and Indigenous Agency in the African Context." *Utambuzi: Journal for the Study of the Religions of Africa and Its Diaspora* 8, no. 2 (2025): 45–60.

Kim, Young Richard, Paul C.H. Lim, George Demacopoulos, Kyama Mugambi, Nancy Heisey, Rebecca Lyman, Benjamin Keough, et al. "Reflections on Nicaea at 1700: A Forum on the Legacy of the Council and the Creed." *Church History*, (2025): 1–40. doi:10.1017/S0009640725102515.

"Christian 'Dual Citizenship' and Civic Duty: Implications of the Accra Charter (2011) for Africa Today", with Kevin Muriithi Ndereba, *African Theological Journal for Church and Society*, Special Edition (November 2024): 1-12

"Music on Mission: Integrated Perspectives on the Shared Song." *Missiology*, Vol 52, No.1 (November 2, 2023,): 22-35, doi:10.1177/00918296231207786.

"The Gospel beyond the West: The Sanneh–Walls Legacy and Emerging Conversation Partners in World Christianity Studies," *Studies in World Christianity* Vol. 29, No. 2 (July 2023): 121-141, doi: 10.3366/swc.2023.0430

"Pentecostal Social Engagement: Challenges and Possibilities for the Global South," *Pentecostal Education*, Vol 6 Issue. 2 (September 2021): 101-112

"Publishing as a Frontier in the Development of Theological Discourse in Africa." *Hekima Review*, no.61 (May 2020: 70-79

"Perceptions and Recommendations for Theological Education for Church Planters in Kenya: A Case Study of Mavuno Church." *Impact Journal*, December 2016: 118-135

Book Chapters

"Challenging Empire and Mission: Reflections from Africa" In *Christianity and Empire Revisited*, edited by Brian Stanley, 183-205, Brill, Leiden, September 2025

"Global Pentecostal-Charismatic Churches" In *Compact Atlas of Global Christianity*, edited by Kenneth Ross, 258-261, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh, April 2025.

"Antiquity: African Christian Connections within the Mediterranean Region," with Rudolf K. Gaisie in *Globalizing Linkages: The Intermingling Story of Christianity in Africa*, edited by Wanjiru M. Gitau and Mark A. Lamport, 13–27. Eugene OR: Cascade Books, April 2024.

"African Pentecostalism in African Perspective," with Paul Mwangi, in *The Palgrave Handbook of Christianity in Africa from Apostolic Times to the Present*, edited by Andrew Eugene Barnes and Toyin Falola, 607-624, Palgrave MacMillan, New York, March 2024

"Contextualized Mission and Theological Education in the Global South: A Case Study from East Africa" In *Africa Bears Witness: Mission Theology and Praxis in Contemporary African Perspectives*, with Peter Maribei, edited by Harvey Kwiyani, 129-144, Langham Global Publishing, February 2024.

"The Case for Christianity as an African Religion," in *Apologetics in Africa* edited by Kevin Muriithi Ndereba, 169-184, Langham Global Library, London, January 2024.

"Jesus is My Personal Savior: Engaging evangelical themes of individual salvation in African communal contexts" In *Salvation in African Christianity*, edited by David K. Ngaruiya and Rodney L. Reed, 57-72, Langham Global Library, London, October, 2023

"Student Movements and Spiritual identity in the Growth of Pentecostalism in Kenya" In *Pentecostal World*, edited by Jörg Haustein and Michael Wilkinson, 82-94, Routledge, London, May 2023

"Elements of Political Engagement in Emerging Urban Pentecostal Movements in Kenya." In *Governance and Christian Higher Education in the African Context*, edited by David K. Ngaruiya and Rodney L. Reed, 47-65. Langham Global Library, London, 2019.

"Audacity, Intentionality and Hope in the Churches of the Global South." In *Southern Mission Movements: Missional Conversations*, edited by Cathy Ross and Colin Smith, 147–55. UK: SCM Press, 2018.

"Theology of Reconstruction: A Paradigm for Reflection on Revitalization in African Christianity." In *Religion and Social Reconstruction in Africa*, edited by Elias Kifon Bongmba, 1 edition., 153–70. Studies in World Christianity and Interreligious Relations. New York, NY: Routledge, 2018.

Scholarly articles and reviews (published and under review)

Review of *Christians in the City of Lagos*. Oladipo, Jacob. Bloomsbury Academic, New York, 2025, in *Journal of World Christianity*, (under review)

" 'Kuna Dawa': Medicine for the Global North- and South Mission in mutual historical positionalities, interdependencies and blessings," Anvil: Journal of Theology and Mission, (under review)

"Retelling the Story: African Christians Against Empire," Africanizing Christianity, (under review)

"Spiritual Mothers of the City: Theorizing the Role of Pentecostal Women Leaders in Urban Groups," Women and World Christianity, (under review)

"Indigenous Agency and Recipiency in World Christianity" In *World Christianity (Title TBA)*, edited by Ryan Ramsay and Anna Wells, Baylor University Press, Waco TX (under review)

"Evans Mrima," *Journal of African Christian Biographies*, Vol. 7, No. 4 (Oct 2022): 28-32

Review of *African Pentecostalism and World Christianity: Essays in Honor of J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu*. Wariboko, Nimi and Adeshina Afolayan, eds. Eugene, OR, Pickwick Publications, 2020. in *Mission Studies*, Vol 38 Issue. 3 (2021): 474-475

"Christianity and the fate of Africa: A Critique of the Debate " *Missio Africanus, Journal of African Missiology*, vol. 5, no.1 (September 2020): 33-49

Review of *World Christian Encyclopedia*. Johnson, Todd M., and Gina A. Zurlo. Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh, 2020, in *Global Missiology*, vol. 4, no.17 (July 2020): 86-89

"Theological Publishing and the Future of Christianity in Africa." *Journal of African Christian Biography* Vol. 5, No. 2 (April 2020): 64-65

"Mission Is Not Western: Kenyan Perspectives on Identity, Church Planting, Social Transformation, and Bold Mission Initiatives." *Anvil: Journal of Theology and Mission* 34, no. 1 (2018): 12–20.

"The Refugee Crisis in Europe: The Role of the African Church in a Global Conversation." *Missio Africanus Journal of African Missiology*, no. 3 (2017): 22-28

Refereed Conference Presentations

"Multiple Belongings in Sacred Art Music: The Case of *Missa Amani*" Black Sacred Arts Conference (ISM), University of Ghana, Accra, July 2026

"Imela! Obrigado! Translation and Transnational Flows in African Urban Worship Music" Yale Edinburgh World Christianity Conference, Edinburgh, June 2026

"Post-denominationalism and Prayer: Ecumenical Impulses in African Pentecostal Liturgical Practice." World Christianity Conference Princeton-OMSC, Recife, Brazil, March 2026

"Crusading in the Year of Africa: Mission and Decolonial Discourses in the Liberia–Ghana Leg of Billy Graham's Africa Campaign of 1960" Yale Edinburgh World Christianity Conference, Sao Paulo June 2025

"Praise Him in an African Way: Transnational Exchanges through Urban Worship Music." World Christianity Conference Princeton-OMSC, Princeton, March 2025

"Global Convene: Perspectives from World Christianity and Early African Christianity." Conference Panel, World Christianity Conference Princeton-OMSC, Princeton, March 2025

"Teaching Africans, early African Christianity: Pedagogical and pastoral implications of Patristics studies." Oxford Patristics Conference, August 2024

"Monitoring spirits: The role of power encounters in worship and mission among Pentecostals in Africa," Yale Edinburgh World Christianity Conference, June 2024

"Alternative Kinship Structures in Emerging African Ecclesiologies," PAC University International Virtual Conference, May 2024

"Communality and Christian expansion in Africa: Theorizing kinship in Nairobi as religious social innovation," AASR, Abuja Nigeria, April 2024

"Spiritual Mothers of the City: Theorizing the Role of Pentecostal Women-Led Groups in Secular Urban Environments," World Christianity Conference Princeton-OMSC, University of Ghana, March 2024

"Christian Expansion and Communality in Africa: Alternative Christian Kinship: World Christianity perspectives on research in Kenya," AASR, University of Nairobi, August 2023

"Alternative Christian Kinship: World Christianity perspectives on research in Kenya," Nairobi Hub - Yale Edinburgh World Christianity conference, PAC University, June 2023

"Ethnographic Research and World Christianity: A case study exploring new tools for a dynamic field of study," presented at World Christianity Conference, Princeton Theological Seminary, March 2023

"Stories of Faith and Leadership: Reconciling history and identity through selected African Christian Biographies." presented at the American Society of Missions, Indiana, June 2022

"Mediating Orality through Catechesis in emerging Urban African Christianity: The Case of Mizizi" presented at the Yale Edinburgh Conference, Edinburgh, June 2021.

"Conversion, Indigeneity and the Supernatural: Exploring the intersection of Kenyan and Western Pentecostal evangelism 1986 to 1999" presented at the World Christianity Conference, Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey, USA, March 2021.

"Pneumatology and Kinship the Lived Theology of Emerging Churches in Africa." presented at the Africa Society for Evangelical Theology Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, March 2021.

"Unearthing the Pneumatology within Established African Theologians' Reflections on Community" with Edith Kayeli, presented at the Africa Society for Evangelical Theology Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, March 2021.

"Jesus, Leadership and the Church in Africa: Reflections from the Gospels" presented at the Africa Society for Evangelical Theology Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, March 2020.

"Ushuhuda: The Witness of Student Movements in Kenyan Christianity 1958-1988." presented at the Yale Edinburgh Conference, New Haven, Conn, USA, June 2019.

"Protestant Church Leadership amid National Electoral Crises: Assessing the Features of Pre- and Post Election Engagement Models in Kenya between 2007 and 2017." presented at the Africa Society for Evangelical Theology Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, March 2019.

"The Broadening of Christian Engagement in the Public Sphere: Emerging Themes from the Kenyan Context." presented at the International Conference on Christianity in the Public Sphere in Africa and Asia, Liverpool, UK, July 2018.

"Doxology, Orality and Renewal in the Pambio: Translation of the Message in East African Songs of Worship." presented at the Yale Edinburgh Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, June 2018.

"Leading Gods People: Vignettes of Christian Revitalization Movement Leaders in Kenya's Recent History." presented at the Africa Society for Evangelical Theology Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, March 2018.

"Social Transformation in Urban Kenyan Pentecostal Preaching." presented at the Africa International University Symposium, Nairobi, Kenya, November 2016.

"Leadership Themes from the Gospel of John: A Dialogue with Transformational Leadership Theory." presented at the Africa Society for Evangelical Theology Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, March, 2016.

Journal Editorships

- Editor International Bulletin of Missionary Research
- Associate Editor of Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture

- International Editorial Board of the Utambuzi: Journal for the Study of the Religions of Africa and its Diaspora
- International Editorial Board of the Dictionary of African Christian Biographies [DACB]

Edited books and journals

Co-editor, with Telesia Musili, *Grounded Theory Methodologies and Kinship in African Churches*, (edited book manuscript in progress)

Co-editor, with Okello Ogera, *Kinship in Urban African Ecclesiologies*, (edited book manuscript in progress)

Guest Co-editor, Politics and Religion in the African Public Square, *African Theological Journal for Church and Society*, Special Edition (Nov 2024)

Guest Editor, The Pentecostal Movement, *Journal of African Christian Biographies*, Vol. 7, No. 4 (Oct 2022)

Editor, *Stories of Faith and Leadership from Africa: Select Biographies of Leaders from the Continent's Rich Christian History* Nairobi: Black Rain, 2021

Awards

A Spirit of Revitalization nominated one of "Ten outstanding books in Mission Studies, World Christianity and Intercultural theology, 2020," *International Bulletin of Missionary Research.*

Grants and Special Research contributions

"Alternative Kinship structures within emerging African Ecclesiologies," Principal Investigator for *Engaging African Realities Project* with The Nagel Institute, 2021-2024, Grant award, $50,000

"Kenya: Pluralism, Spirituality and Progress in East Africa," with Mark Shaw, Pre-planning Report for *Comparative, interdisciplinary research on Spirituality, Pluralism, and Progress Project* presented to The Templeton Religion Trust, 2019

"Christians and Technology," article contribution to *Africa Study Bible, NLT*. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2017.

Guest Lectures and Plenaries

2026 "Counting Evangelicals in Africa: Challenges, Premises, and Possibilities" Invited Plenary, Counting Evangelicals Conference, Baylor University, Waco. September, 2026.

2026 "Crusading in the Year of Africa: Decolonial Discourses in the Liberia-Ghana Leg of Billy Graham's Africa Campaign of 1960" Public Lecture, Africa History Working Group, Yale University, New Haven. September, 2026.

2026 "Africa's Place in World Christianity" Guest Lecture, Canterbury Institute, Oxford University, Oxford. May, 2026.

2026 "Pentecostals and Pneumatology in World Christianity" Guest Seminar Presentation, Overseas Ministries Studies Center, Princeton Theological Seminary. February, 2026.

2026 "Oral Liturgies and Urban Thriving: The case of Pentecostals in Africa," Guest speaker, University of Roehampton, UK. February, 2026.

2025 "AI and the Future of Theological Education in Africa," Guest speaker, St. Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya. October, 2025.

2025 "Postgraduate Research and Publication: A perspective from World Christianity Studies," Plenary speaker, Pan African Christian University, Nairobi, Kenya. October, 2025.

2024 "Holy Spirit Movements and Worship in World Christianity" Guest Seminar Presentation, Overseas Ministries Studies Center, Princeton Theological Seminary. November, 2024.

2024 "Spirit, Movement and the Religious Imagination: Decolonial Impulses in African Pentecostal Worship," Africa Workshop, University of Michigan. November, 2024.

2024 Guest Lecturer, Christianity in Africa, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Chicago. March 2024.

2023 "Spirit, Movement, and the Religious Imagination: Reconceptualizing Emerging Christian Expressions in Africa," Whitney Humanities Centre, Yale University. December 2023.

2023 "Religion and Politics in Africa," Keynote speaker, Early Career Researchers' Conference, St. Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya. October, 2023.

2023 "African Pentecostalism," Africa International University, Kenya. August, 2023

2023 "Music on Mission" Plenary speaker American Society of Missions, St. Mary's College, South Bend, IN USA. June, 2023.

2023 "Urban Pentecostalism in Kenya: Perspectives and Prospects," Guest Lecture presented at the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide, Cambridge, UK. May, 2023.

2023 "Urban Pentecostalism in Kenya," Guest Lecture presented at Boston University, Boston, USA. April, 2023.

2023 "Africa! Can Anything Good come from there? Africa's contributions to world Christianity - Early History and Contemporary prospects," Oden-Bediako-Walls Lecture, Akrofi-Chrystaller Institute of Theology, Culture and Mission, Akropong, Ghana. April, 2023.

2022 "A Spirit of Revitalization: Retrospect and Prospects," presented at Eastern Fellowship of Missions' Professors, Stony Point, New York, USA. November 2022.

2022 "Research funding and Publication" presented at Publication Seminar, Kiriri Womens' University, Nairobi, Kenya, July 2022

2022 "The Gospel beyond the West: World Christianity studies' Emerging conversation partners." Plenary speaker, Yale Edinburgh Conference, Yale, New Haven, USA. June 2022.

2022 "The impact of Soteriology on the Understanding of Mission" presented at the Gospel Speaks Conference, PAC University, Nairobi, Kenya, June 2022

2022 "The Contribution of Pentecostalism in Shaping Kenyan Christianity" presented at the Gospel Speaks Conference, PAC University, Nairobi, Kenya, June 2022

2022 "Grounded theory data collection in communities with varied access: A case study on churches in Nairobi." presented at the Nagel Consultation, Nairobi, Kenya, April, 2022

2022 "Youth, Identity and Religion Dynamics of Modern Christian Expansion in Africa" Pepperdine University. March, 2022.

2021 "Meet the Author Event: A Spirit of Revitalization" at the Overseas Ministries Study Center, Princeton, New Jersey, USA. September, 2021.

2021 "The Case for Christianity as an African Religion," presented at the Ratio Christi Symposium 2021, South Africa, August 2021.

2021 "What is Baptism of the Holy Spirit" presented at the Global Theological Initiative Conference – East Africa, July 2021.

2021 "Kinship, Conversion and Discipleship: Threads in Emerging Kenyan Urban Christianity," Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, Connecticut, USA. February, 2021.

2021 "Mission and the Church in our World: Contributions of African Christianity," Regent College, Vancouver, Canada. January, 2021.

2019 "Church Planting in Africa; Challenges and Possibilities," Africa Renewal University, Kampala, Uganda. September, 2019.

2019 "Christianity and Culture in Urban Africa: The case of Pentecostalism," University of Nairobi, Kenya. August 2019.

2019 "The Church in Africa," District Church, Washington DC, USA. June 2019.

2018 "Discipleship as an Agent of Social Transformation in Africa: A Case Study of the *Mizizi* Tool from Kenya." presented at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, Oxford, UK. June 2018.

2018 "Culture, Context and Mission: Experiences from Church Planting in East Africa." presented at the Church Mission Society, Oxford, UK. June 2018.

2017 "Holistic Mission in Kenya. Snapshots of Christian Engagement with the Spiritual, Socio-Economic and Political Spheres." presented at the Church Mission Society, Oxford, UK. October, 2017.

2017 "African Christian Theologies: A Historical Perspective." presented at the Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford, UK. October, 2017.

2017 "Discipleship in Urban African Churches: The Case of Mavuno." presented at the Great Commission Summit: Concordia University Irvine, Irvine, USA, June 2017.

2016 "Church and Information: Trends, Measurements, and Future." presented at the Viral Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, July 2016.

2015 "New Frontiers in Mission: Leadership and Church Planting in African Christianity." presented at the Applied Theology Seminar in Nairobi, Regent College, Vancouver Canada. June 2015.

2015 "Use of Social Media Platforms among Newer Charismatic Pentecostal Churches in Nairobi." Indigitous Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia May 2015.

2014 "Understanding the Times: The Engagement of the Church with Social Media in Africa." presented at the Indigitous Africa Meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. May, 2014

Fellowships

2023/24 Resident African Scholar, Oden House, Center for Early African Christianity , Yale University

2023/24 Whitney Fellow, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University

2017 Visiting Scholar, Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford, October

2009-2010 Fellow: Christian Leadership Forum – Nairobi, Washington, Oxford

Forums, Consultations, and Panels

2026 Co-convenor, AI and Theological Education Consultation, St. Paul's University, in partnership with the Project on Religious Freedom and Society in Africa, Nairobi, March, 2026

2026 Panelist, Christianity and Empire Revisited seminar, University of Edinburgh, February, 2026

2025 Co-convenor, AI and Theological Education, Public Lecture and Early Career Researchers Workshop on, St. Paul's University, in partnership with the Project on Religious Freedom and Society in Africa October, 2025

2025 Panel: Preparing and Sending Grant Applications, Yale Edinburgh Conference, Mackenzie University, Sao Paulo, May 2025

2025 Panel: Grassroots Intercontinental Formation Experiences: The Case of Global Convene, World Christianity Conference Princeton, March 2025

2024 Panel: Seductive Spirits: Deliverance, Demons and Sexual Worldmaking in Ghanaian Pentecostalism, AAR, November 2024

2024 Co-convenor, Religion and Ecology in Africa, Public Lecture featuring Dean Andrew McGowan, BDS, and Early Career Researchers Workshop, St. Paul's University, in partnership with the Project on Religious Freedom and Society in Africa October, 2024

2024 Convenor, Round Table on Early African Christianity, St Paul's University, July, 2024

2024 Conference coordinator and host, Yale Edinburgh conference, Yale Divinity School, June, 2024

2024 Host and co-convenor *Nature's Sanctuary: Ethiopian Forests and the interplay of Religion and Ecolology*, Photo Exhibition and Panel Discussion with Kieran Dodds, Alemayehu Eshete , in partnership with the Project on Religion and Society in Africa, Council on African Studies, YDS, Yale McMillan Center, Yale University, New Haven, April 2023

2023 Co-convenor, Religion and Politics in the Public Square, Public Lecture and Early Career Researchers Workshop on, St. Paul's University, in partnership with the Project on Religious Freedom and Society in Africa October, 2023

2023 Host Public Lecture Wanjiru Gitau, Council on African Studies, in partnership with Project on Religion and Society in Africa and Yale McMillan Center, Yale University, New Haven, October, 2023

2023 Co-convenor, Writing Workshop, PAC University June, 2023

2023 Co-convenor Yale Edinburgh conference hub, at PAC University, Nairobi, Kenya, June 2023

2023 Convenor, consultation on Libraries and Archives in Kenya, Jesuit Historical Institute in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya. Presenting Yale Divinity School Special collections work with Scott Libson. August 2023

2023 Co-convenor, Researching Religion in Africa, Faculty and Student round tables, Yale Divinity School, April 2023 with Benson Igboin, Josiah Taru, Afework Haliu. April 2023

2023 Co-Convener Public Lecture, on *The Impact of aid on Ethiopian politics and geopolitical relations*, featuring HE Dr Gideon Timothewos, in partnership with the Project on Religion and Society in Africa, Yale McMillan Center, Yale University, New Haven, February 2023

2022 Convenor and host, Researching Religion in Africa Seminar, with Rev. Dr. Felicity Apaah and Rev.Dr. Okelloh Ogera visiting scholars at Princeton Theological Seminary,

in partnership with the Project on Religion and Society in Africa, Council on African Studies, Yale McMillan Center, Yale University, New Haven, November, 2022

2022 Co-Convener Sanneh-Gitari Lecture 2022, on *"A Time to Kill": Elections, State Legitimacy and the Role of Religion in Uganda*, featuring Rev. Dr. Zac Niringiye, in partnership with the Project on Religion and Society in Africa, Yale McMillan Center, Yale University, New Haven, October, 2022

2022 Convened the first Yale-Edinburgh conference hub Africa, at PAC University in Nairobi, Kenya.

2022 Co-Convener Consultation on *Engaging African Realities Kenya Consultation: Methodological Issues in Grounded Theology Research*, in partnership with the Nagel Institute, Grand Rapids Michigan, April 2022

2022 Convener Panel on *Public Interest Scenario Building Post Election Kenya 2025*, featuring Dr. Katindi Sivi, in partnership with the Project on Religious Freedom and Society in Africa, Yale McMillan Center, Yale University, New Haven, March 2022

2021 Convener Sanneh-Gitari Lecture 2021, on *Elections, Youth and Constitutionalism in Kenya*, featuring John Githongo, in partnership with the Project on Religious Freedom and Society in Africa, Yale McMillan Center, Yale University, New Haven, September, 2021

2021 Convener Panel on *National Economic Policy: Towards moral safeguards for securing the future*, featuring Kwame Owino, in partnership with the Project on Religious Freedom and Society in Africa, Yale McMillan Center, Yale University, New Haven, May 2021

2021 Convener *Budget Analysis: A Faith Based Perspective*, featuring Dr. Abraham Rugo, July, 2021

2021 Convener *ATNP Bookchats* African Author video series

2018-2019 Convener Nairobi's Young Leaders' Forums on Faith, Morality and the Public Sphere, in partnership with the Project on Religion and Society, Yale McMillan Center, Yale University, New Haven

2016-2017 Convener, *Movements and Money Forum*, Nairobi, Kenya.

2005-2009 Convener *Keeping it Real*, Young adults' Forum

Podcasts and Media

"Pastor, Mum," Kyama Mugambi (director/producer) A documentary on church leadership in Nairobi that tells the stories of spiritual kinship as understood by female pastors from Nairobi. Official Screening July 31, 2026. https://youtu.be/uolZF-_5T6U?si=Jq_pXFrpit3ZZS1S

"A Very Big God Oh…" Reflections, Yale Divinity School, May 2023 https://reflections.yale.edu/article/future-god-pursuit-divine/very-big-god-oh

"How Christianity in Africa is changing global religion" Yale Quadcast, Yale Divinity School, May 2023 https://divinity.yale.edu/news/how-christianity-africa-changing-global-religion

"Professor explains what we know about the Kenya 'starvation cult' " CNN, April 2023, https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2023/04/28/exp-kenya-cult-intv-kyama-mugambi-isa-soares-042812pseg1-cnni-world.cnn

"A Spirit of Revitalization" New Books Network Podcast, March 2023, https://newbooksnetwork.com/a-spirit-of-revitalization

ATNP Bookchats video series (convenor) https://youtu.be/GUHTU1KD9vc?si=rqE7tz8m-M_wniOa

Affiliations, Memberships and Service to the Guild

- Member and conference convenor of the Yale-Edinburgh group on World Christianity
- Member: African Association for the Study of Religions [AASR]
- Member: Eastern Fellowship of Professors of Mission
- Member: Society for Pentecostal Studies
- Diaspora Scholars Representative: AASR at the American Academy of Religion [AAR]

Selected Professional Activities and Yale Committee Service

- YDS/ISM committee for Black Sacred Arts conference 2026, in Ghana.
- Coordinator, World Christianity Concentration, MAR 2024-
- Co-convenor Yale-Edinburgh World Christianity conference 2023-
- YDS admissions committee 2023, 2024, 2026
- Faculty lead Project on Religion and Society in Africa: The Project on Religion and Society in Africa, housed at Yale's Macmillan Center, promotes critical inquiry into the relationship between religion and societal well-being and investigates how religious frameworks can foster human and communal flourishing. The Project was founded by Lamin Sanneh as one of the outcomes of a gathering of leading theologians in Ghana that in 2011 produced The Accra Charter of Religious Freedom and Citizenship.
- Council on African Studies, member. CAS promotes studies in African contemporary history, social-political developments and languages.
- African and African Diaspora History Working Group, member. AADHWG brings together scholars interested in the continent's history, as well as those working on histories of the long, contested and interwoven relationship between the continent and peoples of African descent worldwide.
- YDS Global Awareness taskforce 2023

Other Contributions

- 2018-2022 Member, Medical Ethics committee, Aga Khan University Hospital

- 2018-2022 Programs conference committee, African Society for Evangelical Theology
- 2017-2022 Assessor, African Council for Accreditation and Accountability (AfCAA)

Select Book Reviews

Mugambi, Kyama M.*, A Spirit of Revitalization: Urban Pentecostalism in Kenya*, Baylor University Press, Waco TX USA, 2020.

Review: *Fesenmyer* , *Leslie* . "A Spirit of Revitalization. Urban Pentecostalism in Kenya, Written by Kyama M. Mugambi." *Journal of Religion in Africa* 2024, 100-102.

Review: Wariboko, Nimi. 2022. "…Kyama M. Mugambi. A Spirit of Revitalization: Urban Pentecostalism in Kenya. Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, 2020. Xviii + 348 Pp. Bibliography. Index. $54.99. Cloth. ISBN: 978-1481313551." *African Studies Review* 65 (1): 260–66. https://doi.org/10.1017/asr.2021.123.

Review: Cabrita, Joel. 2022. "A Spirit of Revitalization. Urban Pentecostalism in Kenya. By Kyama M. Mugambi.(Studies in World Christianity.) Pp. Xviii+ 330 Incl. 2 Ills and 2 Maps. Waco, Tx: Baylor University Press, 2020. $54.95. 978 1 4813 1355 1." *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 73 (3): 683–84.

Review: Bussey, Samuel K. 2022. "A Spirit of Revitalization. Urban Pentecostalism in Kenya, Written by Kyama M. Mugambi." *Exchange* 51 (2): 192–93.

Review: Rice, B. (2022), Kyama M. Mugambi. A Spirit of Revitalization: Urban Pentecostalism in Kenya. Studies in World Christianity. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2020. 348 pages. . International Review of Mission, 111: 379-381. https://doi.org/10.1111/irom.12442

Review: Grant, Paul G. "Review: Kyama Mugambi, A Spirit of Revitalization." H-Africa, 2021. (https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=56179)

Theses Supervised/Examined

Sacred communities, Sacred Change: A Pneumatological Perspective on Change in Religious Institutions, Antonio Vargas, MAR Thesis, Yale Divinity School, May 2026

Transformed by Christ: An Ethnographic Investigation of how Pentecostal Christians in the Assemblies of God – Back to God Narrate the Transformative power of Christianity in their Lives, Liso Sidima Rulashe, Master of Social Sciences Thesis, University of the Free State, South Africa, January 2026

Healing, Sickness, and Faith: A Comparative Look at Curanderismo and Santería (Regla de Ocha) B Laboy, MAR Thesis, Yale Divinity School, April 2025

The influence of Migrant churches on the Congolese Migrants' integration in Uganda: A case analysis of the BCCA (Baptist Church in Central Africa) in Kampala, Katembo Syayichanza Fabrice, PhD Thesis, AIU, February 2025

Blasphemy or Bible: The Influence of Religion on Political Economy in Indigenous Yorùbá Religious Communities and Aladura Churches, Simi Fagbemi, Senior Thesis, Yale University, April 2024

Land and The Diaries of a Public Servant, 1953-1963: The Concession of The Million-Acre Scheme and The Dynamics Of Administrative Agency In The Negotiations For Kenyan Independence, Waruguru Kibuga, Senior Thesis, Yale University, April 2024

You Shall be a Blessing: A Contextual Missional Paradigm, Sam Ngugi, PhD thesis (Masters Thesis upgrade), University of Aberdeen, July 2022

Jewish Traditions as an Obstacle to Believing in Jesus, and its Significance to a Contemporary Kikuyu Christian: An Exegetical Examination of John 8:31-59, Samuel Kamau Wanyoike, MDiv Thesis, Pan African Christian University, July 2022

The Influence of Apologetics on Effective Youth Retention in Church: A case of JKUAT Christian Union, Sebastian Nyawade Otieno, MPCS Thesis, Pan African Christian University, September 2019

The Relationship between Ritual Practices and Spiritual Gifts: A Critical Study on Pastors in Selected Charismatic Churches in Nairobi, Joseph Sanchez Nadimo, MPCS Thesis, Pan African Christian University, December 2019

A History of Disunity: Assessing Church Unity through the Eyes of the East African Revival Movement through selected Testimonies of the East Africa Revival Fellowship Members in Nairobi, Kenya. Lilian Wanjiku Karinga, MA Church History Thesis, Africa International University, July 2019

The Effect of Mau Mau conflict to the Church in Central Kenya (1952-1960). Peter Muriu Macharia, MA church History Thesis, Africa International University, July 2019

The Place and Nature of Confession in Salvation; A Critical Analysis of Romans 10:8-10. Patrick Karanja Kiigu, Pan African Christian University, June 2019

Doctoral Committee work:

Paul Essah, Religious Studies, Yale University; 2023-2029

Courses Taught

2000 Years of Christianity in Africa, Pentecostals in Africa, Christianity and Coloniality in Contemporary Africa, Christ in Color: Themes in World Christianity, Lived Religion in Nairobi: Travel Seminar, African Urban Worship Music – Transnational Themes, History of Pentecostals in Africa, Key Leaders in African History, Theology of Missions, Global Revivals, Church Liturgy in Africa, Theology of Worship and Arts in Africa

Non-Academic Publications

Hows and Vows: Building foundations for a fulfilling Marriage. Mugambi, Kyama, Wambui Kyama, Benson Xavier Otieno, and Rebecca Suchi. Nairobi: Black Rain, 2021.

When Life Happens: Navigating Life's Tough Times. Nairobi, Kenya: Acton Publishers, 2014.

Academic Positions

2026	Assistant Professor of World Christianity, Yale Divinity School
2022-2026	Assistant Professor of World Christianity, Yale Divinity School
2021-2024	Principal Investigator, Research project "Alternative Kinship structures within emerging African Ecclesiologies," *Engaging African Realities Project* with The Nagel Institute, 2021-2024
2019-2022	Lecturer, PAC University
2018-2022	Editorial Manager, African Theological Network Press, (ATNP)
2017-	Senior Researcher and faculty, Centre for World Christianity, Africa International University
2016-2021	Adjunct lecturer, Mavuno Leadership Development Program
2016-2018	Adjunct lecturer, Daystar Leadership and Professional Development Institute (DLPDI), Daystar University

Education

2017	PhD Theological Studies – World Christianity, Africa International University
2010	Honors B. Comm in Management, University of South Africa
2004	MA in Biblical Studies, Africa International University
1998	B.Sc. In Business Administration (Cum Laude), United States International University

Professional Qualifications

2011	Certificate in Corporate Governance, University of South Africa

Languages

Fluent spoken and written: English, Kiswahili, Kiembu, Kikuyu

Prior Work Experience

Teaching and Academic Research

In addition to his work in North America, Kyama has served as a lecturer and guest lecturer at institutions including Africa International University, Pan African Christian University, Africa Renewal University, Daystar University's Institute for Leadership and Professional Development (ILPD), Pepperdine University (CA), Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Deerfield, IL), and Ripon College (Oxford).

In research, he has been affiliated with the Centre for World Christianity (CWC) at Africa International University (AIU) in Kenya. As a senior researcher, he has conducted research, convened seminars, and developed and evaluated academic materials for the Centre.

He also served as Editorial Manager of the African Theological Network Press (ATNP), where he established operational structures, expanded the organization's reach across the continent, and advanced ATNP's vision of fostering contemporary African theological reflection through published works.

Faith-Based Organization (FBO) Leadership

Kyama has held significant leadership roles in church ministry, including over two decades of pastoral service. As Missions Director from 2010 to 2016, he led the recruitment and oversight of teams in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia, Malawi, and Ghana, with direct responsibility for strategy, operations, and execution within Mavuno Church's Expansion (Missions) Department. His missions work also encompassed engagement with leaders and contexts in the DRC, Burundi, and South Africa.

He has initiated and implemented programs to train, deploy, and mentor leaders and their teams in church planting and mission work, and has played a key role in developing and delivering coaching and training curricula for faith-based organization leaders. His leadership experience extends beyond Africa, having led teams in Germany and the United States, and he brings substantial experience in training and leadership within music and worship arts. He continues to serve the local church through volunteer pastoral leadership and teaching.

Leadership and Governance Appointments

A trained governance practitioner, Kyama has served in various leadership capacities. He is an approved assessor with the African Council for Accreditation and Accountability (AfCAA) and has served as a member of the Ethics Committee at Aga Khan University Hospital. He has served on boards in both the private and faith-based sectors and has consulted on leadership, governance, and management matters.

Project Management and Publishing

Kyama has managed a diverse range of projects spanning academic publishing, faith-based events, discussion forums, and the performing arts. He has several years of experience in project management within the publishing industry, overseeing production for more than two dozen titles across two publishing houses.

Other Creative Output - Music (Selected items)

Daniel and County the Live Wires 2019 Keyboards, Arranger, Producer, (Musical, Swahili English)

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat 2017 Producer, (Musical)

Feed Me 2017 Producer, (Musical charity event)

Refresh 2011 Keyboards, Composer (select tracks), Arranger, Producer, (Worship Album, Swahili English)

Wewe Watosha 1997 Keyboards, Composer (select tracks), Arranger, Producer (Worship Album, Swahili English)

Ni Wewe Tu, 1995, Keyboards, Composer (select tracks), Arranger, Producer (Worship Album, Swahili English)

Milele Shukurani, 1992, Keyboards, Arranger (Worship Album, Swahili English)

Other Interests

Music and the Performing Arts, Travel, Motor Technology, and Culinary Arts