


# Academic Staff Profile

## Personal Profile

### Personal Details

<p><b>Name:</b> Dr. Keziah Mwang'a <b>Title/Qualification:</b> PhD. <b>Department:</b> Urban and Regional Planning <b>Designation/Position:</b> Lecturer <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:mwanga.keziah@ku.ac.ke">mwanga.keziah@ku.ac.ke</a>/<a href="mailto:mwelu.keziah@gmail.com">mwelu.keziah@gmail.com</a> <b>Contact Address:</b> +254721496147 <b>Area of Specialization:</b> Urban Development <b>Research Interests:</b> Urban governance and politics, Urban Vulnerability &amp; social inclusion, Community Development, Housing, Development, Disaster Risk Management <b>Google Scholar:</b> Dr. Keziah M. Mwang'a</p>	
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## Academic & Professional Qualifications

### Gran Sasso Science Institute/Sant'Anna Scuola Universitaria Superiore, Italy (2014 – 2018)

- **PhD in Urban Studies:** thesis investigating the role of donor agencies and the dynamics that shape their participation in urban development in Kenya – using the Case of World Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

### University of California Berkeley, USA (2012 - 2014)

- **MA in City and Regional Planning:** Research Project examined the impacts of Kenya Slum Upgrading Program (KENSUP) on children education and household economic outcomes.

### University of Nairobi, Kenya (2006 - 2010)

- **BA in Urban and Regional Planning (1<sup>st</sup> Class Honors):** Research Project investigated land use challenges facing urban green infrastructure in Nairobi.

## Employment History

## Professional Work Experience

### African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), Kenya

April 2020 – April 2021

**Disaster Risk Management Policy Analyst:** Involved in Mapping and Reviewing Nairobi's Disaster Risk Management Policy, Institutional and Legal Frameworks, to establish their implications for disaster risk as well as establish gaps and opportunities for better integration of risk in urban governance.

**The World Bank, Kenya Office**

**May 2019–Current**

**Urban Development Specialist (Consultant)** – Providing implementation and urban development technical support to the Kenya Informal Settlement and Improvement Project (KISIP 1&2), the Urban Sector Devolution Study and Land related projects.

**Kenyatta University, Department of Urban & Regional Planning, Kenya** **November 2017- Current**

**Acting Chairperson DSPUM** – September – November 2018 and September – November 2019

**Lecturer and Student Supervision:** Courses Taught include Social and Community Planning, Presentation, Visual & Graphic Communication, Planning Research, Urban and Regional Planning Studios, Field Attachment Supervision.

**PolicyLink, Oakland, CA**

**June 2014-August 2014**

**Inclusive Governance Intern:** Led the development of inclusive governance policy brief for use by PolicyLink and partners under the Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI).

**Center for Global Healthy Cities, UC Berkeley**

**December 2013 –May 2014**

**Graduate Student Researcher (GSR):** Led and coordinated a team of UC Berkeley graduate students where we participated in a collaborative Studio focusing on providing housing, health and service solutions to residents of Mukuru Informal Settlement in Nairobi, Kenya.

**City of Richmond, California**

**June-August 2013**

**Community Health and Wellness Intern:** developed an Urban Agriculture Zoning Policy for the City of Richmond to guide urban agriculture practices within the city of Richmond.

**Centre for Urban Research and Innovations (CURI), University of Nairobi** **August 2010- August 2011**

**Project Manager/Researcher:** Researched & Managed projects and workflows – by coordinating and supervising research teams.

**Projects Involved in at CURI**

- Coordinated the Formulation of **Mabatini Informal Settlement Upgrading Plan** (Partners: University of Nairobi, Pamoja Trust, University of California Berkeley).
- Assisted Lead Researcher in the **Study of Human Capacity Development Needs Assessment and Training Program Ministry of Lands, Kenya**
- Coordinated the Preparation of **Mathare Zonal Plan** (Partners: University of Nairobi, Muungano Support Trust, Residents, and University of California, Berkeley).
- Led University of Nairobi team involved in the **Participatory Design Slum Upgrading Project in Korogocho Slums, Nairobi, Kenya by UN Habitat and City Council of Nairobi** (Partners: Nairobi city Council and UN HABITAT).

**Achievements**

- **In 2015, Co-Founded Opportune Edulink with other two partners** - a non-profit organization assisting economically challenged parents of bright students to economically anticipate and prepare for their children’s high school education by investing in income generating activities (honey, trees, chicken and goat production). Currently working with 8 households/students in Makueni County. First 2 beneficiaries already in High School.
- **Elected Bureau Member** of the - International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), since 2015, where I represent, ISOCARP Kenya Chapter.
- **Chair, Board of Management,** Kimuumo Secondary School, Makueni, Kenya. Since 2011-todate appointed board member by the Ministry of Education where together with other

members we provide strategic guidance to the school; build and maintain internal and external relations.

- **In 2013, Co-Founded Kenya Young Planners Forum** – which is a professional body advocating for Young Planners Issues in Kenya.
- **Elected President of Planning Students Association (PLASA)**, University of Nairobi (2009-2010), where I led the planning students and acted as the link between students, university, professional bodies and the industry. During my term, I led the organization to be financially independent by increasing membership.

## **Publications**

- The Role and Dynamics of Donor Agencies in Urban Development in Kenya - Case of World Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) – PhD Thesis July 2018
- Co-authored a Chapter with (Dr. R. Opiyo, D. Mwaniki and B. Mwau) on ‘Attaining E-Democracy Through Digital Platforms in Kenya’ in the book ‘**E-Democracy for Smart Cities**’ published by Springer in 2017, Edited by T M Vinod Kumar.
- Slum Upgrading and Child Poverty: Exploring the Impacts of Kenya Slum Upgrading Program on Children’s Educational and Household Economic Outcomes, Unpublished Masters Project Report, University of California Berkeley, 2014.
- HOT Lanes and Equity: Challenging L.A.’ Transportation System, Article published in The Urban Fridge, Berkeley Planning Journal, 2013.
- Refugees! Nairobi’s Urban Planning Concern: Solutions and Challenges, Article published in The Urban Fridge, Berkeley Planning Journal, 2013.
- Planners’ Responsibility? A personal exploration of Race and Ethnicity in Kenya and the United States, Article published in The Urban Fridge, Berkeley Planning Journal, 2012.
- Land Use Challenges Facing Urban Green Infrastructure In Nairobi (Case Of Nairobi National Park, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport And Railway Reserves Along Mombasa Road), Unpublished Undergraduate thesis, University of Nairobi, 2010.

## **Conference/Workshops/Seminar Papers**

- Organized and Chaired the Cities and Resilience Session at the Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN) Conference, 2020, held virtually in Nairobi, Kenya
- Ideological Resonance, Workshop, Middle Class Urbanism Project, National Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen, December 2019, presented on the role of donor agencies in urban development in Africa.
- REDUD 2018 Workshop on the Role of Private Developers in Housing held in Lausanne in Switzerland, October, 2018, presented a paper on the role of private in Low-income housing in Nairobi.
- RC21 Leeds, 2017, Presented a Paper on Implications of Private Developer’s Involvement in Low-income Housing in Nairobi.
- International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) Congress, 2016, Durban, South Africa, Presented a paper on: Spatial Planning in Kenya, Beyond the Post-colonial Paradigm?
- IV World Planning Schools Congress (WPSC), 2016, Rio de Janeiro, Presented a paper on the Evolution of Spatial Planning in Kenya.
- International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) Congress, 2015, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Presented a paper on: Building Inclusive Regions and Cities Through Collaboration: Case Studies From the U.S Partnership for Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI).
- International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) Congress, 2014, Gdynia, Poland, Participated at the Young Professional Planners (YPP) and Presented a Poster on

rehabilitation of Nairobi River which won the Routledge Prize for the Best Poster, Jury Award.

### **Research - On-going**

1. Regional planning studio in Kiambu Sub-County with staff and students in Kenyatta University
2. Disaster Risk Management under the Tomorrow's Cities at the African Centre for Technology Studies

### **Community Service and Other Engagements**

- Founder Opportune Edulink
- Chair, Board of Management, Kimuumo Secondary School, Makueni, Kenya.

### **Affiliation of Professional Bodies**

- International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP)
- Kenya Institute of Planners (KIP)
- Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK)-Town Planners Chapter

### **Recognized University Administrative Positions**

- **Acting Chairperson DSPUM** –Department of Urban and Regional Planning, September – November 2018,
- **Acting Chairperson DSPUM** –Department of Urban and Regional Planning, September – November 2019
- **Postgraduate Coordinator**, Department of Urban and Regional Planning
- **Department Field Attachment coordinator**, Department of Urban and Regional Planning