



# UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

## DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES ANNUAL REPORT, 2012

The Department was established in the Faculty of Arts in 1969. In its earlier years, the composition of the academic staff was predominantly expatriate, but since the 1980's, a strong and successful Kenyanization programme was implemented. The Department continued to grow steadily and was split in 1980 into two separate departments: (i) Department of Philosophy and (ii) Department of Religious Studies. In 2005, the two departments were merged with the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies of the College of Education and External Studies based at Kikuyu campus of the University of Nairobi to form a combined Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. The combined Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies offers Certificate, Diploma, undergraduate, Masters and Doctoral (PhD) programmes in Philosophy, and Religious Studies; and a Master of Arts Degree in Human Rights. In addition, the Department offers services to the College of Education and External Studies (CEES), College of Architecture and Engineering, the School of Economics and School of Mathematics by offering Faculty of Arts approved common undergraduate degree courses in Philosophy and Religious Studies. There are three modes of learning: full- time, module II (day and evening) and distance learning.

The Department has thirty two members of staff who include Professors, Associate Professors, Senior lecturers, Lecturers, Assistant lecturers and Tutorial Fellows. The Department is headed by a Chairman. There are:

1. Two administrative staff: **Hannah Kirobi (Secretary) and Peter Mamau (Clerk)**
2. Three Examination officers: Philosophy Unit: **Dr. Patrick Nyabul; Religious Studies Unit: Mr. Abraham Wambua; Philosophy and Religious Studies Unit (CEES): Mr. Caxton Nyahela.**
3. The Coordinator of the Centre for Human Rights and Peace: **Dr. J. B. Ndohvu**

There are five standing committees each chaired by a member of staff elected by the members of the department:

1. Curriculum and Timetabling committee
2. Seminars and Research Committee
3. Postgraduate Studies Committee

4. Library Committee

5. Welfare Committee

I am proud to report that during the past few years, the department has continued to make progress in all key fronts: in creating and offering new and exciting variety of programmes; in research, publications, workshops, guest lectures, physical and infrastructural development, development of academic programmes and of the required human resource capacity, growth of student enrolment, and networking with its peers nationally and internationally.

Only recently a new unit, the Centre for Human Rights and Peace was established and is housed in the Department. Through the Centre, the Department admitted its first batch of students in the Master of Arts Degree programme in Human Rights in September 2012. The Centre undertakes workshops, links, exchanges, attachments, and collaborative multidisciplinary research in human rights and peace.

It is just to welcome you to this Department---your department of choice. Joining the Department gives you the opportunity to study events and ideas of profound significance for human beings. It offers academic programmes which prepare you for opportunities in diverse careers such as researchers, teachers, counselors, and human rights monitors and managers.

### **Programmes**

1. Certificate = 14
2. Diploma=6

#### **A. Undergraduates**

##### **B.A - PHILOSOPHY**

1. Module 1
2. Module 2
3. Module 3

##### **B.A - RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Year 4

1. Module 1
2. Module 2
3. Module 3

## **BACHELOR OF EDUCATION –ARTS**

Year 4

1. Module 1
2. Module 2 Evening
3. Module 2 Outreach

## **MASTER OF ARTS PHILOSOPHY**

Year 1-**SEPTEMBER 2012 INTAKE:**

Male: 4 Female:0

**Year 2**

Male: 3 Female: 3

## **MASTER OF ARTS RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**Year 1: SEPTEMBER 2012 INTAKE:**

Male: 2 Female: 3

**Year 2**

Male: 6 Female: 2

## **MASTER OF ARTS HUMAN RIGHTS**

Year 1 - **SEPTEMBER 2012 INTAKE: 15**

Male: 10 Female: 5

## **PHD-PHILOSOPHY**

Graduated: 1

Ongoing : 3

## **PHD –RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Graduated: 1

Ongoing : 3

**TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF GRADUANDS IN 2012**

PROGRAMME	GENDER		TOTAL
	M	F	
CERTIFICATE IN PHILOSOPHY			
DIPLOMA IN PHILOSOPHY			
BACHELOR OF ARTS –Mod. I			
BACHELOR OF ARTS –Mod. II			
BACHELOR OF ARTS –Mod.III			
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION – Mod. I			
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION – Mod. II			
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION – Mod. III			
MASTER OF ARTS- IN PHILOSOPHY			
MASTER OF ARTS- IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES			
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHILOSOPHY	1		
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES		1	
GRAND TOTAL			

### **3. STUDENTS ENROLMENT**

The Department has 2 does not currently have International students linked to it.

### **4. RESEARCH , INTERNATIONAL LINKS AND COLLABORATIONS**

**Dr. J. B. Ndohvu**

1. A Baseline Survey on the Status of Human Rights and Human Rights Studies in Kenya, in collaboration with UNDP/Norwegian Embassy
2. Poverty as a Human Rights Violation, in collaboration with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights

### **5. CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS**

**(i) Dr. Akaranga Stephen**

1. 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2012-Conference on Roho Christianity: Pentecostalism in a Globalized African Public Space, Hosted by **KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**  
**Paper presented**
  - COME, SEE, PAY AND RECEIVE YOUR MIRACLES AND HEALING: NEW PENTECOSTALISM IN KENYAN URBAN CENTRES
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2012-National OSSREA Kenya Chapter Workshop, Hosted at Moi University, Kenya.  
**Paper presented**

- MOMBASA REPUBLICAN COUNCIL: A SOCIO-POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGE TO KENYAN GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

3. 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 –The First Kenyatta University Conference on Gender Based Violence- Hosted at Kenyatta University Nairobi.

**Paper presented**

- AFRICAN TRADITIONAL CULTURAL CONUNDRUMS WHICH MAKE WOMEN PRONE TO HIV/ AIDS INFECTIONS: A CASE OF THE MAASAI OF KENYA

4. 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June 2012- First Interdisciplinary Conference- 50 years of Academic Excellence, Hosted at Catholic University, Nairobi.

**Papers presented**

- WORK ETHICS FOR LECTURERS: AN EXAMPLE OF NAIROBI AND KENYATTA UNIVERSITIES
- THE PHENOMENON OF EXAMINATION MALPRACTICES: AN EXAMPLE OF NAIROBI AND KENYATTA UNIVERSITIES

5. 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012 - Religious Mobility in East Africa – The Catholic University of East Africa, Nairobi - RELIGIOUS MOBILITY IN EAST AFRICA, NAIROBI.

**Papers presented**

- THE DYNAMICS OF RELIGIOSITY AND SPIRITUALITY IN KENYAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
- THE PHENOMENON OF RELIGIOUS SWITCHING AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS: THE CASE OF NAIROBI AND KENYATTA UNIVERSITIES, KENYA

**(ii) Dr. Abdulkarim Hashim**

2<sup>nd</sup> Jan-22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2012 Advocates Training Programme, Kenya School of Law.

**(iii) Dr. Patrick O. Nyabul**

5<sup>th</sup> November-9<sup>th</sup> November, 2012: Joint Writers Workshop for the School of Business and Faculty of Arts attended at KWSTI, Naivasha.

3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> December, 2012: paper titled “The Government of Kenya and the ICC Relationship Following the Post Election Violence that Rocked Kenya in 2008” at the International Conference on “The ICC, Judicial Governance and Trends of Justice”, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**(iv) Dr. Oriare Nyarwath**

4-9 November, 2012: I attended a Writers Workshop at KWITI in Naivasha organized by ODL, University of Nairobi.

**BOOKS/THESES**

**Dr. R.M.J. Oduor**

Ph.D. Thesis: "Ethnic Minorities in Kenya's Emerging Democracy: Philosophical Foundations of their Liberties and Limits" (2011). Published in June 2012 By Lambert Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken, Germany, [www.lap-publishing-house.com](http://www.lap-publishing-house.com)

**JOURNAL ARTICLES**

**Dr. R.M.J. Oduor**

Oduor, R.M.J. "A Critical Review of D.A. Masolo's *Self and Community in a Changing World*". *Thought and Practice: A Journal of the Philosophical Association of Kenya*, Vol.4 No.1, June 2012, pp1-24. <http://ajol.info/index.php/tp/index>

• Ebert, R. and R.M.J. Oduor. "The Concept of Human Dignity in German and Kenyan Constitutional Law". *Thought and Practice: A Journal of the Philosophical Association of Kenya*, Vol.4 No.1, June 2012, pp43-73. <http://ajol.info/index.php/tp/index>

• Ebert, R. and R.M.J. Oduor. "The Concept of Human Dignity in German and Kenyan Constitutional Law". *Thought and Practice: A Journal of the Philosophical Association of Kenya*, Vol.4 No.1, June 2012, pp43-73. <http://ajol.info/index.php/tp/index>

**Dr. Oriare Nyarwath**

"The Luo Care for Widows (Lako) and Contemporary Challenges" in *Thought and Practice: A Journal of the Philosophical Association of Kenya (PAK)*, New Series, Vol. 4 No 1, June 2012, pp. 91-110; <http://ajol.info/index.php/tp/index>

December, 2012: "Knowledge Production in Africa", submitted as chapter contribution to a UNESCO book project titled *African Cultures, History and Civilizations*, yet to be published.

November 2012: "Social Freedom and Humanism in Odera Oruka's Philosophy", an article submitted to the philosophical journal *Thought and Practice*, yet to be published.

**6. PUBLIC/GUEST LECTURES**

7/6/2012 Sadhu Prof. Rangarajan –Sri Bhavatamara, Bangalore

17/7/2012 Prof. Abdulkadir Tayub –University of Cape Town

10<sup>th</sup> June 2012 Professor Baard andreassen of the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights

27/7/2012 Prof. D. Masolo- University of Louisville

18<sup>th</sup> Decemember 2012, Dr. Bill Schulz, President and CEO Un itarian Universalist Service Committee

14/11/2012 Prof. Malik Ndiata – UCAD Dakar

**7. VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT**

17/1/2012 Fr. Francis Ladara of Society of Jesus  
7/02/2012 Vaisant Dharmadhikay- Hindu Council of Kenya  
27/2/2012 Ahmed Hussien –League of Arab  
27/2/2012 Mohamed Ghorashi –Sudan Embassy  
5/4/2012 Prof. Jack Nandi –Masinde Muliro University  
7/6/2012 Sadhu Prof. Rangarajan –Sri Bhavatamara, Bangalore  
9/7/2012 Bill Service –Samford University, Birmingham USA  
17/7/2012 Prof. Abdulkadir Tayub –University of Cape Town  
25/7/2012 Hannington Mutuku- KAG EAST University  
27/7/2012 Willem Jansen –St. Paul’s University  
27/7/2012 Prof. D. Masolo- University of Louisville  
9/11/2012 Patrick T. Smith- Golden Conwell Theological Seminary USA  
5/10/2012 Bernhard Weiss –University of Cape Town  
8/10/2012 Jacques Rousseau –University of Cape Town  
14/11/2012 Prof. Malik Ndiata –Dakar  
28/11/2012 Anwar Abdulaziz –Saudi Embassy

## **8. ACHIEVEMENTS/CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PROJECTIONS**

The Department is in the process of seeking to create links with Saudi Arabian Embassy during the course of 2013.