

Film Launch

MAKING LIFE SING IN PURSUIT OF UTU: The Micere Githae Mugo Story

A documentary film by Prof. Ndirangu Wachanga,
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Madison



Thursday May 2023

2 – 4:30 PM

Venue:

Cluster Knowledge Lab

S 58, RW I,

University of Bayreuth Campus, Germany

ZOOM link: [https://uni-](https://uni-bayreuth.zoom.us/j/68396130569?pwd=K250OG9IS3F3OXVrdUFBL2UzUIFSZz09)

[bayreuth.zoom.us/j/68396130569?pwd=K250OG9IS3F3](https://uni-bayreuth.zoom.us/j/68396130569?pwd=K250OG9IS3F3OXVrdUFBL2UzUIFSZz09)

[OXVrdUFBL2UzUIFSZz09](https://uni-bayreuth.zoom.us/j/68396130569?pwd=K250OG9IS3F3OXVrdUFBL2UzUIFSZz09)

Meeting ID: 683 9613 0569

Passcode: 897688

Round Table Discussants:

- **Dr. Rahab Njeri**, University of Cologne, Germany
- **Ms. Jennifer Kamau**, Founder, Int. Women* Space, Berlin, Germany
- **Prof. Catherine Kiprop**, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya
- **Prof. Muthoni Mathai**, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- **Prof. Wangui wa Goro**, SOAS, London, UK

The event will be chaired by Dr. C.Vogt-William, the Director of the GDO.



Prof. Micere Githae Mugo

Film Synopsis:

Making Life Sing traces the rich life and immense contributions of Micere Githae Mugo. Born in a time of war in colonial Kenya, Micere not only came of age in the era of Africa's independence in the 1960s, but also witnessed the disillusionment that came with political independence. Rising to become the first woman dean in an African university, Micere was instrumental in decolonizing the curriculum and in centering orature as an integral site of knowledge production. This film uses the biography of Micere Githae Mugo to demonstrate her role as a herstory maker and herstory carrier in the complex process of becoming of her country.

This film screening and subsequent Round Table conversation are in celebration of Prof. Mugo's 80th birthday.

THIS IS A HYBRID EVENT.



Prof. Ndirangu Wachanga

*Media Studies and Information Science,
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater,
Madison, Wisconsin, USA*

Ndirangu Wachanga is the authorized documentary biographer of Prof. Wole Soyinka, Prof. Ali A. Mazrui, Prof. Ngugi wa Thiong’o, and Prof. Micere Mugo. His documentary projects seek to preserve East African memory by capturing raw voices using visual and audio technology.

Prof. Wachanga’s recent publication is a collection of essays in honor of Prof. Micere Githae Mugo, titled *Making Life Sing in Pursuit of Utu*. He published *Growing up in a Shrinking World: How Politics, Culture and the Nuclear Age Defined the Biography of Ali A. Mazrui* in 2017. His co-edited volume with Simon Gikandi, *Ngugi: Reflections on a Life of Writing*, is forthcoming. His documentary, *Ali Mazrui: A Walking Triple Heritage*, won the 2015 New York African Studies Book Award.

His academic work has appeared in peer reviewed journals such as the *Journal of Mass Media Ethics*, the *Journal of African Media Studies*, the *South African Journal for Communication Theory and Research*, and *African Communication Research*. Wachanga has written for media in different continents. His journalistic work has appeared in the *Daily Nation*, *East African Standard*, *Business Daily*, *North Texas Daily*, *British Broadcasting Corporation* and *Voice of America*.

His research interests include

- memory, global media and information ethics;
- the intersections of media formations and social, political, economic and cultural practices;
- communication technologies and the contemporary digital Diaspora.

He is currently working on a monograph on non-Western approaches for analyzing ethical dilemmas in participatory journalism, popular culture and social media.