

Dr. Wanjiru Kareithi

College of Arts & Architecture, The Pennsylvania State University • 124 Borland Building, University Park, PA
16802

mqk6198@psu.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

African and Black Diasporic Identities, postcolonial and transnational frameworks, Law and Policy, Cross-Sector Partnerships, Leadership

EDUCATION

University of Pretoria, South Africa

Doctor of Laws (LLD), Human Rights, received 2018

Dissertation: A historical-legal analysis of woman-to-woman marriage in Kenya

Kenya School of Law

Postgraduate Diploma in Law(Juris Doctor), received May 2021

LICENCE: Advocate of the High Court (Roll of Advocates): Admitted and Good Standing

University of Bristol, United Kingdom

Master of Laws (LLM), International Law, received 2010

Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya

Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Received 2008

Certifications

Kenya School of Government

Certificate, Senior Management, 2023

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Scholar, Office of Access and Equity

Pennsylvania State University, 2023 – Present

- Lead research on systemic challenges and opportunities for women in leadership, emphasizing African contexts and global higher education
- Investigate antiracist policies and their adaptability in addressing barriers for women leaders in academia and industry
- Develop frameworks for inclusive leadership within the College of Arts and Architecture
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary programs such as Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) and African Studies
- Author a research series reflecting on the lived experiences of women academics

Affiliate Scholar, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies & African Studies Program

Pennsylvania State University, 2024 – Present

- Teach undergraduate courses on gender studies, feminist legal theory, and reproductive justice
- Contribute to interdisciplinary research on Black and African identities, colonial legacies, and human rights

Lecturer, Faculty of Law (on sabbatical leave)

Catholic University of Eastern Africa, 2021 – Present

- Develop and teach courses (LLB & LLM) including International Law, Private Law (Torts, Contract and Company law), Constitutional Law, Human Rights Law, Marital(Marriage and Divorce) Law
- Supervise dissertations

Editor in Chief of CUEA Law Journal

Adjunct Lecturer, Faculty of Law Riara University, 2021 – 2022

- Teach courses on Political Science, Diplomacy, International Institutions, African Studies

LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICE APPOINTMENTS

Senior Program Manager, MAMA Legal Support Network and Advocacy Program – TICAH - KENYA

2022 – 2023

- Directed advocacy initiatives on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), emphasizing gender-affirming care, abortion rights, and bodily autonomy.
- Developed legal interventions and policy reviews addressing systemic inequities in SRHR.

Project Coordinator and Senior Researcher – University of Pretoria - SOUTH AFRICA

2018 – 2019

- Managed projects on global human rights issues, producing publications on reproductive justice and equitable healthcare policies.

Program Manager, Equality and Non-Discrimination Initiatives -Kenya Human Rights Commission KENYA

2012 – 2015

- Created and managed projects addressing reproductive rights, working across over 30 countries.
- Led media campaigns and trained stakeholders on human rights and anti-discrimination frameworks.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

Volunteer Pro Bono Attorney, Igeria and Ngugi Advocates 2020-2021

Law Clerk, Makadara Law Courts - Judiciary 2006-May 2007

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal

Kareithi, M.; Viljoen, F. (2019). An Argument for the Continued Validity of Woman-to-Woman Marriages in Post-2010 Kenya. *Journal of African Law*, 63(3), 303-328.

Berro Pizzarossa, L., Coast, E., Kareithi, W., & Duffy, D. (2025). ‘[E]ven in our fear [...] we wanted to do

this’: feminist organising for abortion in Africa as palimpsestic. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 1–17.

Book

Equal Rights Trust (2012). In the Spirit of Harambee: Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Kenya

Newspaper Articles

Kenya.Kareithi, W. (2020). Covid-19 Pandemic: Supremacy of Rights? Right to Health Vs. Right to Education. The Wakili, 3, 32-33.

Co-Authored publication

• Mute L., M. (2010). From The Telling Sound of Silence to The Tolling Boom of Activism.

Refereed Journal Articles under Review or in Progress:

Book review

Kareithi,W.M. (Manuscript accepted) The Future Is Feminist: Women and Social Change in Interwar Algeria by Sara Rahnama. *Feminist Formations* John Hopkins University Press, 2003

CONFERENCES PRESENTATION AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- **November 2024:** Featured Speaker, African Studies Program-Brown Bag Speaker Series (Penn State College of Liberal Arts) – “*Reflections of an African Academic on the Challenges Facing Women in Higher Education*”
- **October 2024:** Featured Speaker, Centre for Studies in Higher Education Speaker Series – “*Antiracism in Leadership: The Challenges and Responsibilities of Women in Higher Education*”
- **July 2024:** Distinguished Speaker, Global Southern Forum – Panelist, “*African Feminisms*”
- **February 2024:** Featured Speaker, AFI Feminist Dialogue Series (Penn State College of Liberal Arts) – “*Women in Africa: Agency Exemplified through Customary Law and Practice*”
- **October 2023:** Invited Participant, UN Torture Fund – 58th Session of the Board of Trustees (Grant-making session)
- **June 2023:** Principal Facilitator, NGLHRC Judges and Magistrates Conference (Naivasha, Kenya)
- **April 2023:** Principal Facilitator, Regional Judicial Colloquium for Southern & Eastern Africa (Cape Town) – “*Strengthening Protections based on SOGIE-SC and Eradication of Conversion Practices*”
- **December 2022:** Speaker, Kenya Judges and Magistrates Association 4th Judges Conference (Nairobi)
- **August 2022:** External Facilitator, NGLHRC Virtual Judges Conference
- **March 2022:** Facilitator, Court Users Committee Conference (Lamu County, Kenya)
- **February 2022:** Moderator, National Consultative Meeting on Queer Litigation, Communication, and Security Strategy (Nairobi)
- **April 2021:** Speaker, Kenya Judges and Magistrates Association 2nd Judges Conference (Nairobi)
- **October 2021:** Presenter, Colloquium on Access to Justice for LGBTIQ+ Persons (Nairobi)
- **October 2021:** Judge, 4th National SOGIE-SC Intervarsity Moot Court Competition (Nairobi)

CONSULTANCIES

- Member of the Panel of Experts-The Initiative for Strategic Litigation for Africa (ISLA) 2019 - Present
- NANHRI 2018
- SIASIC, Strathmore University 2018
- Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) 2015 and 2017

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Fellow	Human Rights Implementation Centre	University of Bristol	2008 - 2010
Recipient	Gill Jacot Guillarmod Scholarship	University of Pretoria	2017

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Member - African Studies Association (ASA)
- Member - Law and Society Association
- Member- National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE)
- Member - National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)
- Member – American Bar Association (ABA)
- Member – Law Society of Kenya (LSK)