

# Mickie Mwanzia Koster, PhD

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University of Texas  
Department of Political Science and History  
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## Education

**MA, Ph.D. History— Rice University** (May 2008, May 2010), Houston, Texas  
Dissertation Title – “*The Making of Mau Mau: The Power of the Oath in Kenya 1952-1960*”

**MA History—Cleveland State University** (December 2003), Cleveland, Ohio

**MBA in Management Information Systems—Case Western Reserve University** (December 1994), Cleveland, Ohio

**B.A in Mathematics and Information Science—Chatham College** (May 1991), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## Teaching Experiences

**University of Texas – Tyler, Texas** – Department of History (2011- present)  
*Assistant Professor of History* (Africa and the African Diaspora)

**Lonestar College – Houston, Texas** – Department of History (2010- 2012)  
*Lecturer*

**Sam Houston State University – Huntsville, Texas** Department of Dance (2010)  
*Visiting Artist/Choreographer*

**Cuyahoga Community College – Cleveland, Ohio** - Liberal Arts Department (2004 –2005)  
*Lecturer*

## Publications

### I. Peer Reviewed In Print

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie (co-edited with Msia Clark). *Hip Hop and Social Change in Africa: Ni Wakati*. Maryland: Lexington Books, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing. 2014.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. “Mau Mau Inventions and Reinventions”, *Contemporary Africa: Challenges and Opportunities*. Edited by Toyin Falola and Emmanuel Mbah. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. Co-authored with Martin Shanguhya, “The Rift Valley, Land Politics, and Mungiki Development”, chapter in *Contemporary Africa: Challenges and Opportunities*, Edited by Toyin Falola and Emmanuel Mbah. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. "Kenya's Hip Hop Revolution: Youth Politics and Memory, 1990-2012", *Journal of Pan African Studies*, Special Edition on Hip Hop in Africa, Edited by Msia Clark. Vol. 6 (3), Aug. 2013.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. "Oath Continuities: The Inner Structure, Meaning, and Spiritualism of Mau Mau Hip Hop" in *Hip Hop Spirituality and Urban God Talk*, Andre Johnson. Maryland: Lexington Books, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing, 2013.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. "Barack Obama Senior." Emmanuel K. Akyeampong and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., eds. *Dictionary of African Biography*. New York: Oxford University press, 2012.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. "Kariuki, Josiah Mwangi." Emmanuel K. Akyeampong and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., eds. *Dictionary of African Biography*. New York: Oxford University press, 2012.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. "Ethnic Conflict in Africa" Orlando Patterson. *Cultural Sociology of the Middle East, Asia, and Africa*. California: Sage Publications, 2012.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. "Genocide in Africa from the 1900's." Orlando Patterson. *Cultural Sociology of the Middle East, Asia, and Africa*. California: Sage Publications, 2012.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. "Islam in Africa from 1900's" Orlando Patterson. *Cultural Sociology of the Middle East, Asia, and Africa*. California: Sage Publications, 2012.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. "Zamani to Sasa: Conceptualizing African Time and Revolution" in *Movements in Time: Revolution, Social Justice and Times of Change*, Natalie Churn and Cecile Lawrence, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. "The Luo in Kenya" Steven L. Danver, *Native Peoples of the World: Groups, Issues, and Controversies*, M.E. Sharpe. Mesa Publishing Company, 2012.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. "Remembering E.S. Atieno Odhiambo and Conceptualizing the Mau Mau Oath", Knowledge, History, and People: Communitarian Threads in the Thought and Works of E.S. Atieno-Odhiambo, *Maseno University Journal of Education, Arts, and Science*, 2012.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. "The Kilumi Rain Dance Ritual in Modern Kenya" *Journal of Pan African Studies*, Special Edition on African/Black Dance, Vol. 4. (6). (Nov. 2011).

## **II. In Press/Production**

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. Entry. "The Republic of Congo". *Africa: An Encyclopedia of Culture and Society*. ABC-CLIO edited by Toyin Falola and Daniel Jean-Jacques, forthcoming, Fall 2015.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. Special edition on Malcolm X. "Malcolm X, Mau Mau and Kenya's New Revolutionaries: Revisiting Malcolm X's Transnationalism and Legacies", *The Journal of African American History* (JAAH), Vol. 100. (Spring 2015).

## **III. Current Manuscript Projects under Publishing Contract**

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. *The Power of the Oath: Mau Mau Nationalism in Kenya, 1952-1960*. Rochester: University of Rochester Press, March 2016.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie (co-edited with Michael Kithinji and Jerono Rictich). *Kenya after Fifty: Reconfiguring the Historical, Political, and Policy Milestones*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie (co-edited with Michael Kithinji and Jerono Rictich). *Kenya after Fifty: Reconfiguring Education, Gender, and Policy*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

#### **IV. Book and Film Reviews**

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. [Film Review, Hip Hop Colony, by Michael Wanguhu]. *African Studies Review*. Forthcoming, 2015.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. [Book Review], by Terrance Ranger, "Writing Revolt, An Engagement with African Nationalism", *African Studies Review*, 57, 2014.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. [Book Review, *Myth, Ritual, and the Oral*, by Jack Goody]. *African Quarterly Review*. Vol. 12 (4), 2011.

Mwanzia Koster, Mickie. [Book Review, "The Fabrication of Empire: The British and the Uganda Kingdoms, 1890-1902", by D.A. Low]. *Itinerario*, 2012.

#### **Conference Presentations and Participation**

- "Remembering Amadou Diallo and the Other "Diallo" Cases: What Is It About Human Rights and Blackness?"; Africa Conference, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, April 2015.
- Chair, "Nigerian Stability and the Boko Haram Insurgency", Africa Conference, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, April 2015.
- "Some Spirits Do Not Die: The Evolution of the Mungiki Oath", Symposium on Religious Pluralism in Africa and the African Diaspora, Rice University, Houston, TX, March 2015.
- Roundtable Chair, The Idea of Kenya: Reflecting on Challenges and Reconciliation, African Studies Association Conference. Indianapolis, IN, Nov. 2014.
- Discussant, African Agency and the Political-Economy of Colonial and Post-Colonial Malawi, African Studies Association Conference. Indianapolis, IN, Nov. 2014.
- Chair, Overcoming in Texas and Louisiana: Socioeconomic and Sociocultural Maneuvers, Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Conference, Memphis, TN, Sept. 2014.
- "Climbing the Ladder: Journey Up, Despite Race, Class, and Gender", East Texas Historical Association, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX, Oct. 2014.
- "I Sing to My Rain Spirit: Community Rituals, Knowledge and the Ukambani Environment", Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA), Florence, AL, Sept. 2014.
- Roundtable, "A Woman's Role", Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA), Florence, AL, Sept. 2014.
- Chair, "Security and Issues in Kenya", Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA), Florence, AL, Sept. 2014.
- "Protecting, Healing and Sustaining the Ukambani Environment: Individual and Community Rituals in Kenya, 2008-2014", African Association for the Study of Religions Conference on Religion, Ecology, and the Environment in Africa and the African Diaspora, University of Cape Town, South Africa, July-August 2014.
- Participant, Project for African De-colonial and Indigenous Knowledge (PADIK), Three Week Faculty Writing Workshop, Jomo Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya, June 2014.
- "They Were Revolutionaries!" *Malcolm X and Jomo Kenyatta's Pan Africanism, 1960-1965*, Africa Conference, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, April 2014.

- Chair, "Africans Abroad: The Homeland and the Politics of Relevance", Africa Conference, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, April 2014.
- "The Flow of Justice, Reparation and Rhetoric in the Mau Mau Human Rights Case, 2009-2013", African Studies Association Conference. Baltimore, MD, November 2013.
- "Reclaiming the Ritual "Weird Stuff" in African Historiography", Beyond the Boundaries African Historiography Conference, University of North Carolina, Wilmington, NC, Oct. 2013.
- "Ritual Performance, Performativity, and Gendered Spaces in Ukambani, 2008-2011", Mid-America Alliance for African Studies (MAAAS) Conference, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, Sept 2013.
- Chair and panelist, "Mau Mau Reparations, Memorialization, and Kenya's Future" Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA), Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, Sept. 2013.
- "Beating the Kithitu: Revisiting Mau Mau Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Knowledge", African Conference, University of Texas, Austin, TX, March 2013.
- "Mau Mau Hip Hop: Continuity and Activism in Contemporary Kenya", African Studies Association Conference. Philadelphia, PA. November 2012.
- Discussant, "Interpreting the Invisible: Analytical Perspectives of Healing, Protecting and Harming in Africa" African Studies Association Conference. Philadelphia, PA. November 2012.
- "Ni Wakati: The Politics of Memory and Hip Hop Music in Kenya" Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA), Bowling Green, OH, Sept. 2012.
- "Black Power and the Mau Mau Oath", College of Charleston, South Carolina, Sept. 2012.
- "Spirituality, Memory, and Hip Hop Music in Kenya", African Association for the Study of Religions Conference in Africa 2012. Egerton University, Nakuru, Kenya, July 2012.
- "Youth Movements in Kenya from Mau Mau to Mungiki", Africa Conference, Austin, TX, March 2012.
- "We Want Our Freedom and Land: Liberation and the Mau Mau Oath" African Studies Association Conference. Washington D.C. November 2011.
- "Remembering E.S. Atieno-Odhiambo and Conceptualizing the Mau Mau Oath" Symposium on Knowledge, History, and People: Communitarian Threads in the Thought and Works of E.S. Atieno-Odhiambo, Maseno University, Kisumu, Kenya. July 2011
- Chair, Symposium on Knowledge, History, and People: Communitarian Threads in the Thought and Works of E.S. Atieno-Odhiambo, Maseno University, Kisumu, Kenya. July 2011
- "Beyond the Mau Mau Oath", Egerton University, Nakuru, Kenya, July 2011.
- "Expanded African American and African Frameworks: Building Islamic Conceptual Models for Comparative Analysis and Integration" Symposium on New Approaches to the Study of African American Islam, Africana Research Symposium, University of Houston, Houston, TX, April 2011.
- "From the Mtaa plant to the Musical Bow: Ritual Women in Modern Kenya" American Society of Environmental History, Arizona State University, Phoenix, Arizona. April 2011.
- "Gender and Oathing" African Studies Association Conference. San Francisco, CA. November 2010.
- Choreography "Wolosodun Ritual: The African Freedom Spirit" Performance, Sam Houston State University, Performing Arts Center, Huntsville, TX. December 2010.
- "The American Revolution and the Meaning of Freedom" Guest Lecturer, Texas Southern University, History Department, Houston, TX. June 2010.
- "Oath Purification: Managing the Environment in Kenya and Beyond" American Society of Environmental History, Portland State University, Portland, OR. March 2010
- "The Power of the Oath in Black Liberation Movements", National Council of Black Studies, New Orleans, LA. March 2010
- "Revolt and Change in Modern Kenya" Guest Lecturer, University of Houston, History Department, Houston, TX. February 2010.
- "Suppressed Rites of Power: Systems of Colonial Criminalization" African Studies Association Conference. Chicago, IL. November 2008

- *“Was it Black Colonialism? The American Colonization Society in Liberia”* Indiana University, Summer Cooperative African Language Institute, Bloomington, IN. July 2006

## **Fellowships, Grants and Awards**

2015	Junior Scholar Excellence Award in African Studies, University of Texas at Austin
2014	PADIK Grant for Three Week Kenya Writing Workshop, Jomo Kenyatta University
2014	Fulbright Scholars Finalist for Teaching and Research in Kenya
2005-2010	Awarded Tuition Fellowship, Rice University
2010	Awarded American Society of Environmental History Grant
2009	Humanities International Research Award, Rice University
2009	United Kingdom, Archival Research Award, Rice University
2008	Wagoner Dissertation International Research Fellowship, Rice University
2008	Summer Cooperative African Language Fellowship for Kiswahili (Intermediate)
2006	Summer Cooperative African Language Fellowship for Kiswahili (Beginning)

## **Languages**

Swahili: Proficient

## **Professional Affiliations and Service**

Faculty Advisor	Phi Alpha Theta Historical Honor Society, 2012-present
Member	American History Association 2004-present
Member	African Association for the Study of Religions 2012-present
Member	African Studies Association 2004-present
Member	American Society for Environmental History 2009-present
Member	National Council for Black Studies 2009-present
President	Rice University Black Graduate Association 2009-2010
Executive Board	Mid-American Alliance for African Studies (MAAAS) 2013-present
Member	Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA) – 2012-present