

**College of Fellows Young Researcher Award  
CITATION  
Associate Professor Christopher Ouma  
Department of English Language & Literature**

A/Prof Christopher Ouma holds an MA and PhD from the Department of African Literature at University of the Witwatersrand, as well as BA (First Class Hons) from Moi University, Eldoret Kenya. He joined UCT as a lecturer in the English department in 2012, and now has a joint appointment with the department of African Studies. He currently serves as Deputy Dean for Research & Internationalization in the faculty of Humanities. His teaching and research interests and expertise cover Anglophone East, West and Southern African and African Diasporic literary and cultural production. Apart from many book chapters and journal articles, his major contribution to date is his first book published in 2020 (Palgrave Macmillan), *Childhood in Contemporary Diasporic African Literature: Memories and Futures Past*, which explores the ways in which contemporary African and African Diasporic identities are inflected and to some extent organized by the imagination of childhood. Such childhoods include those shaped by contexts of war and migration, those that have emerged in response to debates on gender and sexuality, as well as in relation to the memories of growing up in Cold War Africa. He is the co-editor of another book titled *The Spoken Word Project: stories travelling through Africa* (2014).

A/Prof Ouma's interest in Black/African print cultures is the subject of a second monograph tentatively titled *Small Magazines and Pan-African Imagination, 1955-1975*. This archival project focuses on small/little/literary magazines in mid-century Africa, and the ways in which they brought into intersection anti-apartheid imagination, Civil Rights activism and anti-colonialism as major planks of continental Pan-Africanism, in the wake of the age of decolonization and the Cold War in the 1960s. This period, the book seeks to argue, is particularly crucial in consolidating Black South African intellectual contributions to the imagination of decolonization and to the history of postcolonial literary and cultural studies. In addition to this A/Prof Ouma is currently working on a co-edited volume titled *Black Archives and Intellectual Histories: Cultures of Thought in South Africa and the Black Diaspora*.

A/Prof Ouma has held fellowships at the Open University, London, University of Johannesburg and more recently the prestigious Mandela Rhodes fellow at the W.E.B Du Bois Institute at the Hutchins Centre at Harvard University. He has raised funds and won awards from, amongst others, the Andrew Mellow Foundation, the Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK), the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS), and the National Research Foundation (NRF) where he is Y1 rated as well as a specialist panel member. Apart from his teaching and research interests, A/Prof Ouma believes in active service to the academic community. In this regard, he has served in numerous departmental, faculty and university committees. Moreover, he currently serves as editor of the journal *Social Dynamics: A Journal of African Studies*. A/Prof. Ouma's passion and commitment for the continent drives his role as Deputy Dean for Research and Internationalization at Humanities UCT where he continues to try to create better conditions for research in, on and about Africa.