

Kasyoka Mwanzia

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- 2027 PhD Candidate, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Duke University
Certificate: Information Science+ Studies
Anticipated Defense: July 2027
Dissertation: *Aspirational Economies: Gaming, Work, and Making Futures in Urban Kenya*
- 2017 M.A, Media Art Cultures, Aalborg University
- 1999 B.A, Graphic Design, *magna cum laude*, Concordia University Wisconsin

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts in Submission

- Forthcoming Mwanzia, Kasyoka. *Urban Playgrounds: Gaming, Materiality, and Youth Presence in Nairobi*. Revise and Resubmit: Manuscript in revision.
- Forthcoming Mwanzia, Kasyoka & Jay Shapiro. *Trust in Play: Gaming and the Infrastructures of AI in Kenya*. Manuscript submitted for review.

Conference Proceedings

- 2017 Mwanzia, K. (2017). Case studies on factors influencing game selection and development by business game companies. 7th Irish Conference on Game-Based Learning - Conference Proceedings. Cork City, Ireland, June 2017.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 National Science Foundation (NSF) Cultural Anthropology - Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (\$17,989)
- 2025 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship (\$52,000)
- 2024 Office of Global Affairs, Duke University, fieldwork travel grant (\$1,500)
- 2023 University Scholars Program, Duke University, conference grant (\$525)
- 2022 University Scholars Program Fellowship, Duke University (\$96,243)
- 2022 James B. Duke Fellowship, Duke University (\$20,000)
- 2015 Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Program of the European Commission (46,000 Euro)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Reading the Small/Minor Video Game.” Invited panelist on Playing Africa: Imagining African Lives Panel at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting (ASA), San Francisco, CA. December 1.
- 2023 “Urban Playgrounds: Nairobi’s Video Game Cafés.” Panelist on New Youth Spaces: Reconfiguring African’s Urban Futures at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting (ASA), San Francisco, CA. December 1.
- 2019 “Stories from the Absent in Game Narratives.” Panelist on Game Studies Stream: Affecting and Identity at the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA) Annual Meeting, Irvine, CA. November 7.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

- 2026 Fall Sport and Society, Duke University
- 2024 Spring Anthropology of Design and User Experience (UI/UX) Research, Duke University
- 2023 Fall Anthropology of Money, Duke University

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2026 Peer Reviewer: Journal of Gaming & Virtual Worlds.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 2025 “Playing for Tomorrow: Aspiration in Kenyan Gaming.” Conference Talk at Africa Games Week, Cape Town, South Africa. December 3.
- 2026 “Reclaiming the Narrative.” Invited Panelist at The Games for Change and SDG Summit, Nairobi, Kenya. April 23.

UNIVERSITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2024 Co-convener and organizer, African Thought & Media Speaker Series: Lecture entitled ‘Afrobeats as Counter-Archive in Postcolonial Nigeria’ by Dr. Adeshina Afolayan at Duke University. February 13.
Lecture entitled ‘*Ancestral Cadence: Building a Vibe in Music*’ by Alexandria Eregbu at Duke University. October 10.
- 2023 – 2025 Co-convener, African Thought and Media Graduate Working Group Sponsored by Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University
- 2023 Co-Convener, Tech Ethics of the Global South Graduate Working Group Sponsored by Office of Global Affairs, Duke University