WORLD CONGRESS OF AFRICAN LINGUISTICS (WOCAL)

Call for Papers

WOCAL 11 – NAIROBI, KENYA

African Languages in the Development of Africa

Venue:

University of Nairobi Towers, Main Campus, Harry Thuku Road, Nairobi, Kenya

(Hosted by: Department of Linguistics and Languages, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Nairobi, Kenya)

Conference dates:

August 5 – 9, 2024

Aim and Scope

The research concerns of the World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL) revolve around the status of African languages. Language is a key pillar and resource in the development of any society. For this reason, WOCAL11 is concerned with the gains, milestones and challenges in the use of African languages for development in Africa. It should be noted that globalization has had effects on them, thus creating

new language forms and practices. Since language is a key factor in the development of sustainable societies, the conference aims to bring together linguists, students, policy makers, practitioners and other scholars to discuss in detail the linguistic and cultural issues that affect or influence African languages.

Programme Organization

There will be plenary sessions for keynote addresses and parallel sessions for paper presentations. Poster sessions will also be included. Abstracts for paper presentations or posters are invited on (but not limited to) the following sub-themes:

- African linguistics (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, language documentation, etc.)
- African languages and governance
- African languages and human rights
- African languages and inclusivity
- African languages and gender
- African languages and African history
- African languages and technology
- African languages in education
- African languages and translation
- African languages and interpretation
- African languages and religion
- African languages and culture
- African languages and literatures
- Orthographies of African languages
- Literacy in African languages
- Language diversity in Africa
- Multilingualism in Africa
- Second language acquisition/ learning and use in Africa
- Foreign language learning and use in Africa
- African Sign Languages
- Arabic in Africa
- African languages in the world
- Language endangerment and revitalization in Africa

Apart from completed research, contributions from ongoing research are welcome.

Proposals for organizing special interest panels on themes related to the conference theme are invited. They will be scheduled as parallel panel sessions. The following one panel has already been planned and paper proposals for it are invited:

- The Role of Kiswahili in Africa and the Rest of the world

Submission procedures

- Abstracts should contain a maximum of 500 words, excluding references, and should NOT include the names of author(s) but should include the title of the paper.
- Your name, affiliation and the title of your paper should be sent on a separate sheet alongside the abstract. Please also indicate if you are a student.
- Abstracts should be sent in word document (or PDF if it contains special symbols) to **wocal-11nairobi@uonbi.ac.ke**
- All submissions should be made in Times New Roman, 12pt.
- Paper presentations will be 20 minutes followed by a 10-minute discussion.
- Abstracts for the Kiswahili panel can be submitted in Kiswahili with an English translation.
- Abstracts for African Sign Language can be submitted either in written form in English or video in International Signs, American Sign Language or Kenyan Sign Language. Video Submissions should be maximum of 5min. Once the abstract is accepted, video presentations can also be included; the presentation will be 20 minutes followed by a discussion for 10 minutes.

Should you have queries, please send us an email at: **wocal-11nairobi@uonbi.ac.ke**

You can also find more details on the WOCAL11 webpage:
https://linguistics.uonbi.ac.ke/latest-news/call-papers-world-congress-african-linguistics-11-nairobi

Blended (Hybrid) Conference

It would have been our wish to host a fully physical conference, where linguists and other language practitioners can sit next to each other, in Nairobi, and share ideas. However, because of the prevailing circumstances in the world, in the last 3 years, some linguists may not be in a position to travel to Kenya. We will therefore provide an online presentation platform for them. We hope that most of the participants will make it to Nairobi.

Important dates

The deadline for abstracts submission: December 1, 2023

Notification of acceptance: January 12, 2024

Conference Dates: August 5 – 9, 2024

Conference Fees

Regular researchers: Professors and senior researchers (120 $)

Doctoral/Master students (50 $)

Kenyan students (40 $)

Early birds: April 31st, 2024 (100 $)

Payment method information will be provided later.

Conference Language

The WOCAL11 Nairobi Congress language will be English. Papers can be presented in Kiswahili or English in the Kiswahili panel, however, abstracts of all papers must be submitted in English.

Sign Language Interpreters

There will be interpretation facilities in sign languages. A number of sign language interpreters will be invited to the conference. More details will follow.

Conference Venue

University of Nairobi Towers, Main Campus (Harry Thuku Road, Nairobi, Kenya)

Honorary Local Organising Committee Member

Alfred Buregeya   -   University of Nairobi, (Chair, Department of

Linguistics and Languages)

Local Organising Committee

Jane Akinyi Ngala Oduor   -   University of Nairobi, Department of

Linguistics and Languages, (Chair, LOC)

Kithaka wa Mberia   -   University of Nairobi, Department of

Linguistics and Languages, (Vice-Chair, LOC)

Mohamed Akidah   -   University of Nairobi, Department of

Linguistics and Languages, (Treasurer)

Jacinta Kiranga   -   University of Nairobi, Department of

Linguistics and Languages, (Secretary)

Norbert Basweti Ombati   -   University of Nairobi Department of

Linguistics and Languages, (Vice-secretary)

Jayne Mutiga — University of Nairobi, Department of Linguistics and Languages

Zipporah Otiso — University of Nairobi, Department of Linguistics and Languages

Josphat Gitonga — University of Nairobi, Department of Linguistics and Languages

James Orao — University of Nairobi, Department of Linguistics and Languages

Catherine N. Wotsuna Agoya — University of Nairobi, Department of Linguistics and Languages

Alice Wachira — University of Nairobi, Department of Linguistics and Languages

Yuhjin Park — University of Nairobi, Department of Linguistics and Languages

Ana Alfaiate — University of Nairobi, Department of Linguistics and Languages

Patrick Iribe Mwangi — University of Nairobi, (Chair, Department of Kiswahili)

Onyango Ouma — University of Nairobi (Chair, Department of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies)

Prisca Jerono — University of Nairobi, Department of Kiswahili

Tom Odhiambo — University of Nairobi, Department of Literature

Justine Sikuku — Moi University, Department of Linguistics,

Foreign Languages and Film Studies

Lynn Kisembe - Moi University, Department of Linguistics, Foreign Languages and Film Studies

Martin Njoroge - United States International University, Department of Languages and Literature, Multilingual Education Network (Dean, SHSS)

Benson Oduor Ojwang' - Kaimosi Friends University College, Department of Languages and Linguistics

Florence Indede - Maseno University, Department of Kiswahili and Other African Languages

Kenneth Ngure - Kenyatta University, Department of Literature, Linguistics and Foreign Languages

David Baraza - Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Department of Languages and Literature Education

Evans N. Burichani - Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Department of Social Science

Leonidah Kaula - University of Nairobi, Kenya Sign Language Research Project and Technical University of Kenya, Centre for Language and Communication Studies