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KARATINAUNIVERSITY



STAFF PROFILE TEMPLATE

1. Name: DR. PAULINE THUKU

2. Designation: LECTURER

3. Employment details

School: EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Department: SOCIAL SCIENCES

4. Contact Information

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Research Profile Links

- i. ORCID ID: [0000-0003-2453-8828](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2453-8828)
- ii. Google scholar: [pwanjirut@gmail.com/](https://scholar.google.com/pwanjirut@gmail.com/) pthuku@karu.ac.ke
- iii. ResearchGate: pthuku@karu.ac.ke

5. Profile Summary

Dr. Pauline Thuku is a Sociology lecturer and researcher at Karatina University, Kenya where she has been a faculty member since 2016. Pauline completed her PhD in Sociology (Gerontology) degree at Kenyatta University, Master of Arts degree in Sociology (Counselling) at the University of Nairobi, and Bachelor of Education (Home-Economics) degree at Kenyatta University. Her main areas of research interests include Gerontology, quality of life and wellbeing.

Dr. Thuku has published widely in peer reviewed journals and presented research papers in international conferences. Through collaboration with multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional and international researchers, she has attracted research grants from national and international funders including European Commission and Eureka. She has been the academic leader for B.A Sociology programme at Karatina University since 2019, and the coordinator of Field Practicum at the Department of Social Sciences since 2016. She has served in various university committees and is currently chairing the committee seeking to address the challenge of drugs abuse among Generation Z in Mt. Kenya region.

6. **Area/ Field of Specialization:** Sociology

7. **Research Interests:** Gerontology, Quality of Life, Wellbeing

8. **Published Works Include:**

- i. Chukwuorji, J., **Thuku, P.**, Cassimjee, N., Mbuthia, K & Olawa, B. (2023). Is Geropsychology “Forever Young” on the Mother Continent? Addressing the Limited Research on Psychology of Aging in Africa. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B* 78 (12), 1967-1982. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbad157>
- ii. Miruka, F., **Thuku, P.** & Osamba, J. (2023). Assessment of the Contribution of Various Family Structures on Juvenile Delinquency in Embu County, Kenya. *International Journal of Arts and Social Science*, 6 (8), 163-172
- iii. Kariithi, A., Murage, J. & **Thuku, P.** (2022). Refusing to Eat Pre-chewed Food: Assessment of the Effectiveness of ‘Jitegemea Philosophy’ in the Ecclesiology of the PCEA in Nyeri and Kirinyaga Counties, Kenya (1971-2021). *African Journal of Education, Science and Technology*, 7 (2), 350-365. <https://doi.org/10.2022/ajest.v7i2.801>
- iv. Mbaabu, K., Kinyua J. & **Thuku, P.** (2022). Strategies of addressing Spiritual, Emotional and Material Challenges amid Widows coping with Bereavement in ACK Diocese of Embu, Kenya. *Journal of Arts & Humanities*, 11 (5), 33-40. <https://doi.org/10.18533/jah.v11i05.2276>

- v. **Thuku, P.** (2022). The Relationship between Community Adherence to COVID-19 Containment Measures and the Wellbeing of Older Adults in Rural Kenya. *Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine*, 8, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23337214221105981>

9. Paper Presentations at Academic Conferences

- i. Thuku, P. (2024, February). Measuring Community Wellbeing in the Changing African Society: The Kenyan Situation. International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS) Winter Virtual Conference
- ii. Thuku, P. (2023, May). Climate Change and Wellbeing: The Health, Social, Psychological and Economic Wellbeing of Individuals and Communities in Developing Countries [Paper Presentation]. International Conference on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Karatina University, Kenya
- iii. Thuku, P. (2021, August). Effect of Community Response to COVID-19 Pandemic on the Well-being of Older Persons in Kenya. International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS), Virtual Conference
- iv. Thuku, P. (2021, May). Shared Social Responsibility in Promoting Sustainable Social Development and Cohesion in Kenya: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Karatina University, 5th International Conference, Karatina, Kenya
- v. Thuku, P. (2020, August). Life-course Factors influencing Retirement Happiness in the Changing African Society. International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS), Virtual Conference
- vi. Thuku, P. (2020, August). Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Quality of Life of Older Persons in Rural Kenya. International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS), Virtual Conference

10. Research Grants awarded:

- i. **‘Wellbeing in a Sustainable Economy Revisited (WISER) Project’ Research grant:** The WISER Project 101094546 has been funded by the European Commission and runs for three years from October 2023 to September 2026. The project whose consortium consists of twenty-four institutions from eighteen different countries has received a grant of 2,915,673.25 euros.
- ii. **The EUREKA Globalstars research grant:** Awarded to fund the collaborative research project ‘Banana-Based Food and Feeds: Enhancing Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods through the National Research Fund (NRF). A grant of ten million shillings (KES 10,000,000.00) has been awarded.