

MASENO UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC STUDIES

Guest Lecture Series

Date: Tuesday 20 February 2024

Time: 2.00Pm - 4.30PM (EAT)

Venue: Kisumu Campus/8th Floor, Left Wing

Guest: Louisa Brain (Leverhulme Trust Doctoral Scholar School of Geography, Queen Mary University of London)

How people living in and around floodplains in Kenya navigate im/mobility

Abstract

The relationship between environmental change and mobility is receiving growing attention, for example debates around adaptive migration, or environmental displacement. An emerging literature is also identifying risks faced by those who do not/cannot move away, particularly focusing on people becoming trapped in places of environmental risk or crisis. Yet by continuing to privilege movement and relegating immobility as secondary to analysis, this work tends to set up mobility and immobility in static, binary terms. Through a case study exploring how people living in and around floodplains in Kenya navigate im/mobility, this presentation seeks to move beyond a mobility—immobility binary, to reframe im/mobilities as process, as relational and as co-constituted. It draws on oral histories, focus group discussions and key informant interviews conducted as part of my PhD research in 2022-23.

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