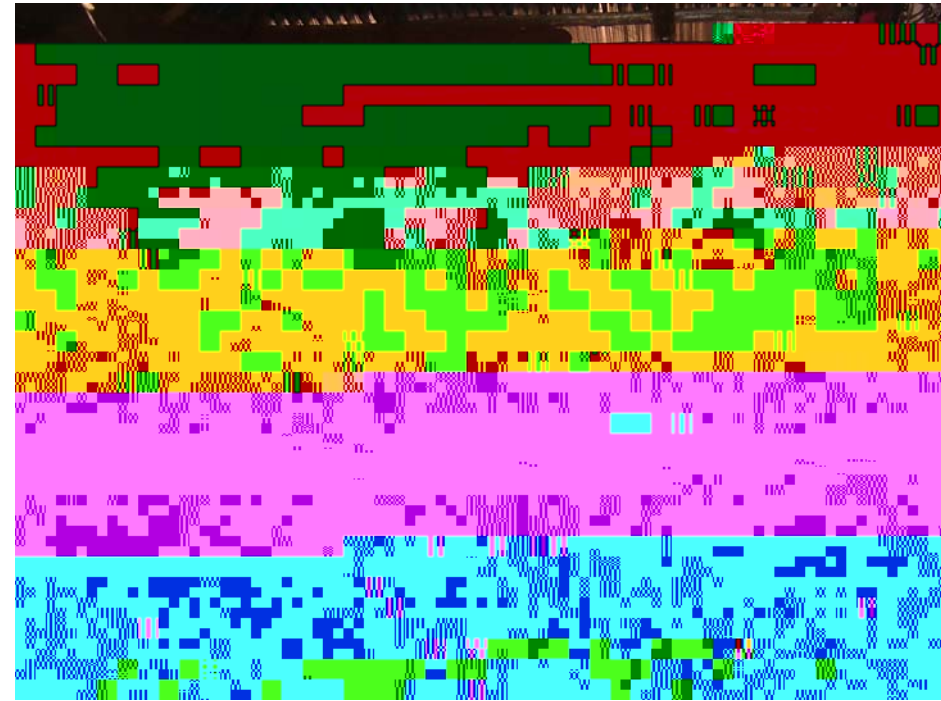


Mary Amuyunzu-Nyamongo
&
Paul Francis

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- › Kenya's economy stagnated from the early 1980s, largely due to:
 - £ adverse world prices for its cash crops
 - £ corruption
 - £ mismanagement
 - £ failure of the government to identify and support indigenous institutions and capacity
 - › Income poverty reached 57 percent in 2004
 - › The country's Human Development Index declined from 0.533 in 1990 to 0.520 in 2004
 - › It noteworthy that Kenya is the world's fourth most unequal society, with the top 10 percent controlling 48 percent of national income
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- › 65 percent of Kenyans live in rural areas where agriculture remains the most important source of livelihood (supporting about 80% of the people)
 - › In the last five years, the country has experienced a marked increase in rural crime
 - › Changes in gender roles and relations in Kenya have occurred mainly due to:
 - £ intensifying poverty and inequality
 - £ increasing levels of unemployment
 - £ the erosion of livelihood systems
 - £ women's increasing participation in household provisioning
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- › The study was conducted in 2005 in 6 districts of Kenya representing 6 of the 8 provinces
 - › Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used for data collection
 - › Focus group discussions were held with 51 groups of men, women, male youth, female youth and solidarity groups
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- › The six districts involved in this study had experienced changes in the nature and form of the main sources of livelihoods:
 - £ Decline in livestock economy due to conflict and drought
 - £ Reduced opportunity for migrant labor (increased levels of unemployment)
 - £ Collapse of agricultural industries (due to changes in world prices, official complacency, mismanagement and corruption)
 - £ Poor performance of the cooperative movement
 - £ The high prevalence of HIV (6.7 percent) which has affected all sectors of development including agriculture, health and education
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- › Male power has traditionally been reinforced through rites of passage, bride wealth payments and patrilocal residence
 - › Inter-marriages are becoming common, which is challenging culturally-based power and norms
 - › Young men's inability to pay bride wealth (due to poverty and commercialization of payments) - this is a gain for elderly men in polygamous communities
 - › '*Come-we-stay*' (informal) unions are becoming common and are posing challenges to patriarchy
 - › Marriages that are not sanctioned through bride wealth have been found to deny men traditional rights over women
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- › Domestic violence is a major problem in all the districts
 - › Culture permits men to ‘discipline’ their wives and women seem to have accepted this as a way of life
 - › Women in the wealthier category, well educated and in gainful employment experience more physical violence while the others experience more emotional violence
 - › The findings illustrate the potential tension between the contribution of a working woman to her household’s income and the challenge this may pose to the man
 - › The sense of irrelevance that men feel, coupled with poverty, undermines their self-esteem leading to disruptive behavior intended to “put the woman in her rightful place”
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Table 3: Marital Violence¹

<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Nakuru</i>	<i>Bungoma</i>	<i>Kisii</i>	<i>Kiambu</i>	<i>Kwale</i>
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- › Increased alcohol consumption is related to the collapse of the agricultural industry
 - £ “The men are idle most of the time and end up spending their time and the meager household resources on alcohol”
 - › Male youth and adult men are the main consumers of alcohol whereas women are the main traders, which could be due to:
 - £ men have become increasingly idle and therefore pass the time drinking
 - £ women have turned to alcohol brewing in order to make a living, thus inadvertently increasing the amount of alcohol in the communities and reducing its cost
 - £ due to poverty, men can only afford local brews, which has enhanced the popularity of these drinks
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- › Tension between parents and their children is high in the country (based on a media review conducted as part of the study covering 1999-2004)
 - › Among the pastoralists, the education system alienates the male youth from the traditional way of life (herding) but does not provide them with viable alternatives
 - › Households with fathers who abuse alcohol experience more tension and conflict
 - › Tensions between children and their parents are more likely in polygamous households
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- › Land is the leading cause of intergenerational tension, followed by alcohol consumption and lack of school fees

Causes of Intergenerational Violence (percentage of reports)

<i>Cause</i>	<i>Kiambu</i>	<i>Kwale</i>	<i>Isiolo</i>	<i>Kisii</i>	<i>Nakuru</i>	<i>Bungoma</i>
Lack of food	7.5	17.4	32.2	30.3	25.4	11.4
Inadequate access to livestock	0.8	3.7	12.4	7.6	15.3	6.5
Lack of access to land	65.01	7	2.1028	7	0	19.7787

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- › The socio-economic changes have largely impacted aspects of male domain - cash crop farming, livestock and formal and informal employment
 - › The disenfranchisement of men stems from their socialization, expectations of themselves and of the community regarding what a man should be
 - › Impacts of social change clearly go beyond physical consequences to psychological and to the overall quality of life of the affected individuals
 - › As men have opted out of their traditional responsibilities because of their inability to fulfill their roles, women have been forced to take on new roles under harsh conditions
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- › Women's economic independence threatens male ego, worthiness and honor leading to tension and conflict
 - › Well educated women and those engaged in income-generating activities were more susceptible to physical abuse
 - › Men's feelings of frustration at their marginalization may lead them to aggressively dominate their children who are the most accessible and vulnerable targets
 - › Fear and anger are common reactions to household poverty, especially among women
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- › Men find themselves caught between cultural expectations that they can hardly meet and the powerlessness they feel due to their inability to meet their families' economic needs
 - › Marginalized men look for different ways of asserting their authority – mainly through violence
 - › Disempowered men increase the vulnerability of women to violence and other risky activities (including extra marital sex)
 - › Disempowerment is related to increased alcohol consumption and depression for both sexes
 - › The relationship between the generations has suffered due to the pervasive poverty in rural areas
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- › Development focus should target the poor in rural areas
 - › Rural economies should be revitalized to generate opportunities for formal and informal income-generation
 - › Economic empowerment should focus on both men and women in an effort to facilitate common grounds for development
 - › A more household-oriented approach is necessary but would require reassessing the current approaches with a view to making them contextually relevant, and ensuring that new kinds of vulnerabilities are not created for women and children/youth
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- › The rule of law should be enforced to improve security - there is need to better understand the causes of violence in rural areas
 - › Mechanisms to address gender violence should be put in place taking into consideration the social, cultural and economic contexts
 - › An analysis of the kinds of programs that can be effective in supporting the redefinition of male identities and their roles in Kenyan households is necessary
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Thank you!
Ahsante sana!!
