



## **AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE**

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**TITLE: CULTURE THROUGH AFRICAN LITERATURE: THE IMPACT AND  
SHIFTING IDENTITY OF KISWAHILI OUTSIDE THE AFRICAN CONTINENT**

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### **ABSTRACT: T**

The University of Naples (Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale") stands as a unique example in Europe and the USA of the way African culture is moving beyond the African continent through Swahili literature. The teaching of Kiswahili language with an emphasis on its literature has made the program at Napoli not only unique but also popular. Using the Napoli example as a point of departure, the paper will examine the way elements of African culture as illustrated in the Swahili fictional world both in written and orature, have travelled to different places in Europe. The paper will proceed to show the movement and impact of the Swahili culture outside Africa, citing examples of Swahili popular music and novels. Along side these literary genres, we will discuss the shifting identities of the Swahili language and their meaning to people in the diaspora. Using the linguistic ecological theory, the paper looks at the way the movement of Kiswahili has transcended the geographical and cultural boundaries to embrace a larger transcultural body.