Impossible stories, sympathetic critiques, & histories of scientific research in Kenya

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This paper considers the tensions in curating the stories of an elite African scientist with debatable histories and somewhat impossible stories. Focusing on the work of Davy Koech, Kenyan immunologist and director of the Kenya Medical Research Institute who has been entangled in multiple scientific and political controversies, I consider how one might construct a sympathetic critique that accounts for refractory evidence, public secrets, and antagonistic tensions in a life story narrative.