AFRICA’S CONTEMPORARY SECURITY CHALLENGES

12-14 September 2018

Washington, D.C.

BIOGRAPHIES

LEADERSHIP

**Ms. Kate Almquist Knopf** has served as director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, an academic institution within the U.S. Department of Defense, since July 2014. Established by the U.S. Congress for the study of security issues relating to Africa, the Center serves as a forum for bilateral and multilateral research, communication, and the exchange of ideas. It aims to be an objective source of strategic analysis on contemporary and over-the-horizon security issues for African security sector professionals, policymakers, scholars, media, and civil society, as well as international partners.

Ms. Knopf has spent most of her career focused on the intersection of security and development in Africa. From 2001 to 2009, she held several senior positions at the U.S. Agency for International Development, including as assistant administrator for Africa, Sudan mission director, deputy assistant administrator for Africa, and special assistant and senior policy advisor to the administrator.

Ms. Knopf has also been a senior advisor for the Crisis Management Initiative, a conflict mediation organization founded by former Finnish President and Nobel Laureate Martti Ahtisaari, and a visiting policy fellow at the Center for Global Development. Prior to federal service, she was chief of staff for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and for the Executive Office for Administration and Finance of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She began her career at World Vision, an international nongovernmental organization.

Ms. Knopf holds an M.A. in international relations with concentrations in African studies and conflict management from Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC, and a B.A. in international relations from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD.

**Dr. Raymond Gilpin** is the Academic Dean at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. In this capacity he directs the design, development and implementation of the Center’s programs, and provides leadership on all academic matters. Prior to joining the Africa Center he served as director of the Center for Sustainable Economies at the United States Institute of Peace (*in which capacity he also chaired the taskforce on business and peace, managed the web-based International Network for Economics and Conflict, and taught courses on economics and conflict at the USIP Academy*); academic chair for defense economics at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies; director for international programs at Intellibridge Corporation (now part of Eurasia Group); senior economist at the African Development Bank Group; research director at the Central Bank of Sierra Leone; and economist at the World Bank.

Dr. Gilpin’s research interests include Africa’s security challenges, energy and security, resource management and conflict dynamics, financial management in Africa’s security sector, and public-private partnerships and peace. Dr. Gilpin is a regular blogger and featured media commentator on African affairs, US-Africa policy, energy and security, and economic dimensions of peace. Recent publications include: “Economic Drivers of Conflict,” in *Conflict Management and Global Governance in an Age of Awakening*, edited by Pamela Aall, Chester Crocker and Fen Hampson (forthcoming 2013); “Tackling Energy Infrastructure Vulnerability in Violence-Prone Zones” (2013); “Using Entrepreneurship to Promote Stability in Fragile Regions” (2012); “Trade and Resource Management: A Development Perspective,” in *Nexus Between Security and Development*, edited by Joanna Spear and Paul Williams, (2012); “China in Africa,” in *African Security and the African Command: Viewpoints on the US Role in Africa*, edited by Terry Buss, Joseph Adjaye, Donald Goldstein and Louis Picard (2011). Dr. Gilpin holds a doctorate in development economics from Cambridge University in the United Kingdom and an executive certificate in international finance and capital markets from Georgetown University.

**Dr. Joseph Siegle** is director of research at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Dr. Siegle directs the Africa Center’s research program, which produces the Center’s *Africa Security Briefs*, *Research Papers*, and *Special Reports* with the aim of generating policy relevant analyses that contribute to addressing Africa’s security challenges. Dr. Siegle’s research focuses on the relationship between governance, security, and development; stabilization of fragile states; democratic transitions; and strengthening institutions of accountability.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, he was a Douglas Dillon Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a senior research scholar at the University of Maryland’s Center for International and Security Studies, and a senior advisor for democratic governance at DAI. He also previously served in various field capacities in Africa, Asia, and the Balkans with the international NGO World Vision, and was a Peace Corps Volunteer. Dr. Siegle has a Ph.D. in international security and economic policy from the University of Maryland School of Public Policy and an M.A. in agricultural economics, with an emphasis on African food security, from Michigan State University.

Dr. Shannon Smith serves as a professor of practice and director of engagement at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. In this capacity, she leads the Africa Center’s efforts to develop its alumni network and to engage the broader policy community focused on African security issues. Her areas of expertise include U.S.-Africa policy, East Africa, global health and development policy, and the role of Congress in foreign relations.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Smith served as deputy assistant secretary of state for Africa, where she oversaw U.S.-East Africa policy (and previously Southern Africa) and spearheaded Africa Bureau efforts on Sudan and South Sudan, global health, and the environment. She led diplomatic missions, developed bilateral and multilateral policies, engaged with key interlocutors, and represented the State Department in a variety of national and international forums, including before Congress.

Dr. Smith spent a number of years on Capitol Hill, where she was the senior policy adviser for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Africa for global health, peacekeeping, and conflict issues. She also served as the national security adviser for the assistant majority leader of the Senate. As a Senate staffer, she shepherded successful legislation on HIV/AIDS, war crimes, and global climate change, among other issues. She is a summa cum laude graduate of Texas A&M University and holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University where she was a Mellon Fellow in the Humanities.

SPEAKERS (in alphabetical order)

Dr. Laia Balcells is Associate Professor of Government and professor in Georgetown University's Conflict Resolution MA program. Before joining Georgetown, she was Assistant Professor at Duke University, and during the academic year 2015-2016 she was a fellow at the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance at Princeton University. Her research explores the determinants of political violence and civil wars, warfare dynamics during conflict, and nationalism and ethnic conflict. Her first book, entitled Rivalry and Revenge: the Politics of Violence during Civil War has been published by Cambridge University Press in 2017. She has also published in the American Political Science Review, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Conflict Resolution, International Studies Quarterly, Politics & Society, and Nationalism and Ethnic Politics, among other journals. She has been recipient of the APSA Luebbert Prize for Best Article in Comparative Politics and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Research grant. Dr. Balcells earned her Ph.D. from Yale University in 2010.

**Dr. Dorina A. Bekoe** is Associate Professor, Conflict Prevention, Mitigation, and Resolution at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, where she focuses on Africa’s peace operations and security challenges. She has also worked on issues concerning Africa’s political development; institutional reform, including the New Partnership for Africa’s Development and the African Peer Review Mechanism; peace agreements; and electoral violence. Her most recent book is Voting in Fear: Electoral Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa (USIP Press, 2012), an edited volume. She is also the author of Implementing Peace Agreements: Lessons from Mozambique, Angola, and Liberia (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008) and the editor of East Africa and the Horn: Confronting Challenges to Good Governance (Lynne Reinner Publishers, 2005). She has a B.A. in economics from Franklin and Marshall College, an M.S. in public policy from Carnegie Mellon University, and a Ph.D. in public policy from Harvard University.

Dr. Charles “Chuck” Call, an associate professor of International Peace and Conflict Resolution, focuses on post-war peacebuilding, statebuilding, democratization, human rights and police and justice reform. He has conducted field research in Central America, West Africa, the Balkans, Colombia, Haiti and Afghanistan. In 2012-14 he served as senior advisor in the State Department. In 2017 he was senior external advisor to the World Bank/UN report Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict, and spent 2004-05 working at UN headquarters. He has consulted for Human Rights Watch, the UN Development Programme, and the European Commission.

**Mr. Judd Devermont** is the Director of the Africa Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Prior to that, Mr. Devermont was the National Intelligence Officer for Africa at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. In that position, he lead the US intelligence community’s analytic efforts on all sub-Saharan African issues and served as the DNI’s personal representative at interagency policy meetings. He previously was the U.S. Government's senior political analyst on sub-Saharan Africa. From 2011 to 2013, Mr. Devermont served as the National Security Council Director for Somalia, Nigeria, the Sahel, and the African Union. He spent two years abroad working at the US Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria from 2008 to 2010. Mr. Devermont also has lived in South Africa and Cote d’Ivoire. He has a master’s degree in African Studies from Yale University and bachelor’s degree in History from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Ms. Corinne Dufka** is the West Africa Director at Human Rights Watch and in charge of the organization’s work on West Africa with expertise in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Mali, and Côte d’Ivoire. From 1999-2003, she was based in Freetown, Sierra Leone, both as a researcher for Human Rights Watch and, in 2002 during a year’s sabbatical, as a criminal investigator for the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. She ran HRW’s field office in Dakar, Senegal from 2005-2011. Prior to joining Human Rights Watch, Dufka worked as a photojournalist for the Reuters News Agency and from 1987-1999 covered conflicts in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Bosnia, Rwanda, Somalia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Before becoming a photojournalist, Dufka worked as a psychiatric social worker in San Francisco. Ms. Dufka holds a Masters in Social Work degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

**Dr. Christopher Fomunyoh** is currently senior associate and regional director for Central and West Africa at NDI. He has organized and advised international election observation missions to Benin, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. He has also designed and supervised country specific democracy support programs with civic organizations, political parties and legislative bodies in Benin, Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mali, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, The Gambia, Senegal and Togo. In the course of his work, Dr. Fomunyoh interacts regularly with heads of state and government, cabinet ministers, elected officials and political and civic leaders. He recently designed and helped launch the African Statesmen Initiative (ASI), a program aimed at facilitating political transitions in Africa by encouraging former democratic Heads of State to stay engaged in humanitarian issues, conflict mediation, public health and other key sectors of political, economic and human development on the continent. As an expert on democratization in Africa, Dr. Fomunyoh makes frequently guest appearances on major radio and television networks including CNN, BBC, NewsHour, National Public Radio, Voice of America, and *Radio France Internationale*, and provides interviews for major national and international newspapers, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Washington Times*, *Le Monde* and *International Herald Tribune*. He has published a number of articles in academic journals on African politics and democratization. Dr. Fomunyoh has traveled extensively in Africa, Europe and North America, and is perfectly bilingual in English and French. He holds a *Licence en Droit* from Yaoundé University in Cameroon, a Master’s Degree (LL.M.) in International Law from Harvard Law School; and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Boston University. Dr. Fomunyoh is an adjunct faculty at the African Center for Strategic Studies and a former adjunct professor of African Politics and Government at Georgetown University. He also is the founder of a non-profit organization www.tffcam.org interested in supporting democracy and humanitarian causes in Cameroon.

**Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly** is an Advisor in the Research, Evaluation, & Learning Unit at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), as well as a Penn Kemble Democracy Forum Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy.Dr. Kelly is a West and Central Africa specialist fluent in French and proficient in Wolof who also writes and consults about regional democracy, rule of law, and governance issues.Dr. Kelly has also been a Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Public Fellow, a Postdoctoral Fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, and a West Africa Research Association postdoctoral grantee.

Dr. Kelly holds a Ph.D. (2014) from Harvard University in the Department of Government, where she was an interdisciplinary Graduate Student Associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs as well as a Harvard Sciences-Po Exchange Fellow. Previously, as a Fulbright Scholar, she earned a Post-Graduate Certificate in International Politics from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (2007), with a specialization in “Europe, Conflict Resolution, and Peacebuilding." I have a B.A. summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis (2006).

As a practitioner, Dr. Kelly analyzes post-conflict security and justice, judicial training, legal aid, sexual and gender-based violence, and countering violent extremism. This work has allowed her to travel to Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and South Africa. Her academic work is on the comparative politics of Africa, especially party building, democratization, and Islam in politics, with a focus on Senegal, where she spent eighteen months conducting dissertation fieldwork. Fieldwork and language acquisition have deeply informed her teaching, most recently as a West Africa Course Coordinator at the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute, and previously as the leader of advanced undergraduate courses of her own design at Washington University in St. Louis and Harvard University.

**Dr. Luka Biong Deng Kuol is** professor of practice for security studies at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Dr. Kuol supervises curriculum and program planning and specializes in national security strategy development, the security-development nexus, and security sector reforms. He is currently conducting research on the links between migration, food security, conflicts and youth in Africa; the link between military expenditure, military professionalism, human security, development and conflict in Africa; and the devolution of the security-development nexus to the national level in Africa. Dr. Kuol is a global fellow at Peace Research Institute Oslo and a fellow at Rift Valley Institute. He is also South Sudan Alumni Ambassador of the Institute of Development Studies in the United Kingdom.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Kuol served as director of the Centre for Peace and Development Studies and associate professor of economics at the College of Social and Economic Studies at the University of Juba in South Sudan. He was also on the teaching staff of the Faculty of Economics and Rural Development at the University of Gezira in Sudan. He was a fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard Kennedy School and a visiting fellow at the Institute of Development Studies in the United Kingdom. He served as Minister of Presidential Affairs for the Government of Southern Sudan and as National Minister of Cabinet Affairs for the Republic of Sudan. He has also worked as a senior economist for the World Bank in Southern Sudan.

He received his BSc with honors from the Faculty of Economics and Social Studies at the University of Khartoum, an M.A. in Economics, an M.B.A. from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and a Ph.D. from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex.

**Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Baptiste Matton** is the senior French representative at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. As senior French representative, Lieutenant Colonel Matton serves as a liaison between the Africa Center and the French Ministry of Defense, coordinating exchanges on security-related Africa policy and scholarship. He also serves as a facilitator and speaker at Africa Center academic programs. LtC Matton also serves as the French liaison officer in the Transregional Threat Coordination Cell for the Joint Staff at the Pentagon in charge of the estimates, strategy, and plans section. LtC Matton specializes in military coalition and peacekeeping operations in Africa, the Balkans, and Afghanistan and has substantial experience in training and team management under challenging conditions.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, LtC Matton served as executive assistant to the head of the Department of International Military Affairs at the Joint Staff College in Paris. From 2014 to 2016, he was the chief of operations for the 28th Intel Battalion in Issoire, France, which included a six-month deployment to Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. Additionally, LtC Matton has served as a J3 staff officer deployed to the Kapisa Valley in Afghanistan, company commander at Saint-Maixent-l’Ecole, company commander of a Marine Corps regiment in French Guyana, and platoon leader at the Military Academy of Saint-Cyr and at Agen. He served tours in the former Yugoslavia in 2001 and Kosovo in 2003 under NATO command.

LtC Matton holds a degree in economics from the Sorbonne University in Paris, an M.A. in international affairs from Saint-Cyr, an M.A. in strategy and international affairs from the Joint Staff College in Paris, and an M.A. in international affairs from the American University of Paris.

**Mr. Paul Nantulya** is a research associate at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Mr. Nantulya researches and prepares written analysis on contemporary Africa security issues. His areas of expertise include governance, mediation, peace processes, peacekeeping, and East Africa.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Mr. Nantulya served as a regional technical advisor on South Sudan for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) from 2009 to 2011, where he supported crisis mitigation for the Government of South Sudan including writing policy analyses for the Ministry of Peace and Comprehensive Peace Agreement Implementation. In 2005–09, Mr. Nantulya was CRS/Sudan’s governance manager in Juba, in which capacity he coordinated technical assistance for the Office of the President on establishing functional systems of state and local government.

Previously, Mr. Nantulya worked for the South Africa-based Africa Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) on civilian and military peacekeeping in the Southern African Development Community. Additionally, he was part of the ACCORD team that worked with President Nelson Mandela on the Arusha Peace Process on Burundi (1999–2001), President Thabo Mbeki and Deputy President Jacob Zuma on ceasefire talks (2001–03), President Ketumile Masire on the Inter-Congolese Dialogue (2002), and Dr. Nicholas Haysom on the Sudan peace process (2002–03).

Mr. Nantulya holds a B.A. in international relations from United States International University in Nairobi, Kenya, and an M.S. in defense and strategic studies from Missouri State University in Springfield, MO.

**Dr. Benjamin Nickels** is Associate Professor and Academic Chair for Transnational Threats and Counterterrorism at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS). In this capacity, Dr. Nickels partners with African civil society and government leaders on global security solutions that promote human rights, democratic values, and civil–military relations. He has worked with security professionals on the ground in 20 African countries and several European nations. Dr. Nickels’ research focuses on terrorism and counterterrorism, political violence, and human security in the Sahel, North Africa, and the Horn, as well as security cooperation in Africa and the role of U.S., European, and other international actors. Prior to joining ACSS, Dr. Nickels was faculty researcher at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), where he analyzed the impacts of counterterrorism campaigns against Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), homegrown Islamist terrorism in the United Kingdom, and other threats. Fluent in French and familiar with Arabic, Dr. Nickels has lectured in French and English at government meetings, international forums, and leading academic institutions, including the *Ecole normale supérieure* (Paris) and Harvard University. He publishes frequently and serves as regular contributor on Sahel and North African security for Sada, a journal of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Dr. Nickels is the recipient of numerous academic awards, including a Fulbright scholarship to Morocco and a Chateaubriand fellowship in France. He holds a doctorate in history from the University of Chicago.

Ms. Marie O’Reilly is Director of Research and Analysis at Inclusive Security, examining why women’s inclusion matters for peace and how it can be achieved. She designs institutional research strategies, oversees multi-country research projects, and formulates evidence-based policy recommendations. She writes and speaks about women’s roles in peace processes, inclusive constitution making, and the nexus of gender and power.

Prior to joining Inclusive Security, Ms. O’Reilly was Research Fellow for women, peace, and security at the International Peace Institute in New York. There, she also served as Editor of the institute’s research and Co-Editor of its policy analysis website The Global Observatory. Ms. O’Reilly’s commentary and analysis has been published by outlets such as Foreign Policy, Public Radio International, The American Prospect, Ms. Magazine, Women in the World, The Global Observatory, Policy Innovations, talkRADIO, and the German television channel ARD. Her research has been published by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Clinton Foundation, the US Institute of Peace, the International Peace Institute, the Journal of International Affairs, Stability journal, and PRISM.

She has also lectured at academic institutions, such as Harvard, Tufts, New York University, and the National University of Ireland Galway, and delivered talks for the UN Development Programme, UN Women, the Bruno Kreisky Forum, and the Strata Data Conference.

Ms. O’Reilly holds a Masters of international affairs from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs and an MA in international security and conflict studies from Dublin City University. Most recently, she was a Visiting Fellow at Tufts University. While earning her BA in European studies, Ms. O’Reilly studied at Trinity College Dublin, Sciences Po Paris, and Humboldt University in Berlin. She speaks French, German, and Irish.

**Dr. Paul D. Williams** is Associate Professor of International Affairs and Associate Director of the Security Policy Studies M.A. program. Dr. Williams is also a Non-Resident Senior Adviser at the International Peace Institute in New York and a Global Fellow associated with the Woodrow Wilson Center's Africa Program.

During 2014-15, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. From 2011 to 2014, Dr. Williams worked as a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He previously taught at the Universities of Aberystwyth, Birmingham, and Warwick in the United Kingdom and has been a Visiting Scholar at Georgetown University and the University of Queensland, Australia. Dr. Williams currently serves on the editorial board of several scholarly journals including African Affairs, International Peacekeeping, Global Governance, and Global Responsibility to Protect. He is also managing the Providing for Peacekeeping Project, an independent research project which analyzes how to develop more effective United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Dr. Elke Zuern is faculty at Sarah Lawrence College. Her research interests include social movements in new democracies, popular responses to poverty and inequality, violence in democratization processes, reparations, collective memory, memorials and reconciliation. Her regional specialization includes: sub-Saharan Africa, with extensive fieldwork in South Africa and Namibia. Dr. Zuern is the author of The Politics of Necessity: Community Organizing and Democracy in South Africa (University of Wisconsin Press, 2011). She is also the recipient of a Mellon postdoctoral fellowship at Amherst College and a Lowenstein fellowship. Additionally, she is the former Van Zyl Slabbert Chair at the University of Cape Town and Visiting Scholar at the University of Johannesburg. Her articles have been published in Democratization, Comparative Politics, African Affairs, Journal of Modern African Studies, Politique Africaine, Transformation, and African Studies Review, among others. Dr. Zuern has received an AB from Colgate University, an MA, MPhil, and PhD from Columbia University.