



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

BIOGRAPHIES

Webinar 1: Understanding Transnational Organized Crime in Africa: Introduction to the ENACT Organized Crime Index and Related Learning

Panelists

Ms. Laura Adal is a Senior Analyst at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. While she provides research for a number of Global Initiatives projects, analysing a diverse range of organized crime flows across the world, her current focus relates to organized crime in the Middle East, and the organized crime-conflict nexus. Laura also leads the development of the Organized Crime Index, assessing the scope and scale of organized crime and countries' capacity to respond. Prior to joining the Global Initiative, Laura worked with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Terrorism Prevention Branch, where she engaged in research related to terrorism and violent extremism and provided legal counter-terrorism technical assistance to Member States. Laura previously worked with STATT, a boutique global consulting firm, where she concentrated on human rights and prison reform, as well as migration flows. Laura is a licensed attorney, holding a J.D. from South Texas College of Law, and a B.A. in International Studies from the University of St. Thomas.

Mr. Martin Ewi is Technical Coordinator of the ENACT (Enhancing Africa's Response to Transnational Organized Crime) Project at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Pretoria, South Africa. In this capacity, he conducts research and analysis; coordinates and manages the five regional organised crime observatories in Africa; monitors trends, issues recommendations, and provides training and technical assistance. Previously, he served as a senior researcher at the ISS on terrorism, counter-terrorism, radicalization, and violent extremism in Africa. Prior to joining the ISS in 2010, Martin also served as Political Affairs Officer at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague and as the officer in charge of the African Union strategic security unit and counter-terrorism analysis.

Moderator

Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly is an assistant professor responsible for overseeing the Africa Center's portfolio on justice, rule of law, and governance and integrating these

considerations into academic programming, research, and outreach. Her work focuses on citizen security, party politics and democratization, the rule of law and stabilization, and transnational organized crime.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Kelly was an advisor at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative and collaborated with teams in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Mauritania, and Somaliland. As a postdoctoral fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, she designed and taught courses on contemporary Africa and democracy, and at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute, Dr. Kelly taught the West Africa course and co-taught the governance and religion modules in the Area Studies course. She has been awarded numerous fellowships and grants, including a Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Public Fellowship, a West Africa Research Association grant, and two U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship for the Wolof language and doctoral research in Senegal. Her work has been published extensively in policy and academic journals.

Dr. Kelly holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in government from Harvard University, a Graduate Certificate in international politics (Europe, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding) from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and a B.A. summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis.