



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' FORUM 2021: OVERSIGHT OF THE SECURITY SECTOR 3-25 March 2021

Virtual Academic Program

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. 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.

Dr. Luka Biong Deng Kuol is Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Practice for Security Studies. As Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Luka Kuol directs the Africa Center's academic programs, linking them with Center's Research, Outreach, and Alumni initiatives. In addition, he is the faculty lead of three academic programs: National Security Strategy Development, Managing Security Resources, and Emerging Security Sector Leaders. His work focuses on national security strategy, security sector budgets, social contracts, food security and resilience, and the security-development-governance nexus.

Dr. Kuol is also a Global Fellow at the Peace Research Institute in Oslo, a Fellow at the Rift Valley Institute, and an Associate Professor of Economics (on leave) at the University of Juba in South Sudan. He also sits on the editorial board of the Disasters Journal, published by the Overseas Development Institute.

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 Bachelor of Science 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 in the United Kingdom.

FACILITATORS

Ambassador (ret.) Phillip Carter III is President of the Mead Hill Group, an international executive advisory service for individuals and organizations engaged in the global marketplace of ideas, markets, and opportunities, particularly in the developing world.

Prior to that, he was the Senior Foreign Service American diplomat and was United States Ambassador to Ivory Coast from 2010 to 2013. Ambassador Carter holds the diplomatic rank of Minister Counselor. From 2013 – 2015, he was Deputy to the Commander for Civil Military Engagements, United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) in Stuttgart, Germany.

Prior to his appointment as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Ivory Coast, Phillip Carter served as a Senior Advisor to the Africa Bureau and previously as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary from 2008 to 2010. He also served as the Africa Bureau's Acting Assistant Secretary during the transition between the Bush and Obama Administrations. From 2007 to 2008, Phillip Carter was the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea. Ambassador Carter has also served as the Director for West African Affairs and the Deputy Director in the Office for East African Affairs at the U.S. State Department.

Prior to that assignment, he was the Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) at the U.S. Embassy in Antananarivo, Madagascar and DCM in Libreville, Gabon. Before his arrival in Gabon in 1997, he was an international financial economist in the State Department's Office of Monetary Affairs in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. During this period, he dealt with international debt and capital matters and served as the Department's point-person on International Monetary Fund issues with Africa. From 1992-1994, he served as the Economic and Commercial Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Ambassador Carter received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and History from Drew University in 1980, and a Master of Arts Degree in International and Development Economics from Yale University in 1995.

Mr. Mvemba Phezo Dizolele has over two decades of experience in international affairs, foreign policy analysis, defense and security, democratization, corporate governance, advocacy and strategic communication. He is a former Peter J. Duignan Distinguished Visiting Fellow and a former National Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution.

Dizolele's analyses have been published in the Washington Post, Journal of Democracy, New York Times, Newsweek International, International Herald Tribune, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, and other outlets.

A frequent commentator on African affairs, he has been a guest analyst on PBS's NewsHour and Foreign Exchange; NPR's Tell Me More and Weekend Edition, On Point, and the Diane Rehm Show; BBC's World News Update; and Al Jazeera's The Stream, NewsHour, and Inside Story.

He has testified before various subcommittees of both chambers of the United States Congress, as well as before the United Nations Security Council. He was a grantee of the Pulitzer Center on

Crisis Reporting and covered the 2006 elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where he was embedded with UN peacekeepers in Congo's Ituri district and South Kivu province as a reporter.

With the Pulitzer Center, he produced Congo's Bloody Coltan, a documentary report on the relationship between the Congo conflict and the scramble for mineral resources.

He is a lecturer in African studies at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and a non-resident senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Dizolele holds an International MBA and an MPP from the University of Chicago, and he graduated magna cum laude with a BA in political science and French from Southern Utah University.

He is a veteran of the US Marine Corps Reserve, and he is fluent in several languages, including French, Norwegian and Kikongo.

Dr. Elizabeth Kariuki is an accomplished public sector policy and management professional with over thirty years of experience providing consulting and business advisory services primarily to public sector organisations in about 30 countries in Sub Saharan Africa. She is currently a director at Africa Policy Research Institute Limited, and consults for among others the African Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, European Union, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and United States Agency for International Development on public financial management, tax policy and administration and public sector management.

Dr. Sophia Moestrup is the Deputy Director for Central and West Africa at the National Democratic Institute (NDI). She has worked for NDI since 2005 on the design and implementation of democracy support programs in the region. Prior to joining NDI, Dr. Moestrup spent six years in Francophone Africa, working for the United Nations in Cameroon, and for the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) in Niger where she served as Country Representative. She has been a consultant for the World Bank on public expenditure management and social accountability issues, authoring a number of chapters for the World Bank's Social Accountability Sourcebook. Dr. Moestrup has coedited four books on semi-presidentialism. Dr. Moestrup holds B.A and M.A degrees in Economics from the University of Copenhagen, and a Ph.D. in political science from the George Washington University.

Dr. Ibrahim Wani is an independent consultant that served as the Senior Advisor to the Africa Center for Strategic Studies' Senior Leaders Seminar. Dr. Wani was the Chief of the Research and Right to Development Division at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland and previously served as the Regional Representative in the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Dr. Wani served as a member of the faculty and as Academic Dean at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) until 2002. Dr. Wani came to ACSS after a career in academia, international and institutional development and public service. He was a Professor of Law at the Schools of Law at the

University of Virginia and the University of Missouri in the USA. Dr. Wani served at the World Bank in several capacities at the Bank's headquarters in Washington, D.C. and as the Legal Counsel of the World Bank-sponsored African Capacity Building Foundation in Harare, Zimbabwe. Dr. Wani was also the Director of the Africa Program at the International Human Rights Law Group (now Global Rights) in Washington, D.C., from 1997 to 1999. He started his career in the diplomatic service in Uganda where he served as the Legal officer in the Mission of Uganda to the United Nations and participated in a number of UN treaty conferences, including the 3rd UN Conference on the Law of the Sea and the UN Conference on International Trade Law. Dr. Wani received a Bachelor of Laws degree (LL.B) from Makerere University in Uganda and the LLM and SJD degrees from the University of Virginia School of Law. Dr. Wani has been involved in numerous Africa Center programs, including events in Botswana (2000), Ethiopia (2003), Gabon (2001), Ghana (2001), Kenya (2000, 2001, 2002), Senegal (1999, 2002), Togo (2000), and Washington, D.C. (2000, 2001, 2002).

Ambassador David Bruce Wharton (Ret) works with the U.S. Army Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, Louisiana training U.S. and international military partners in transitions from combat to peacetime operations. Since 2017 he has also worked with U.S. research and policy institutes on U.S. relationships with Africa and is active on the boards of non-profit organizations supporting education in Zimbabwe and Guatemala.

In his career with the U.S. Foreign Service, his last assignment was as the Acting Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, a position he held from December 2016 to October 2017. In this role, he provided global strategic leadership of all Department of State public diplomacy and public affairs engagement and oversaw the bureaus of Educational and Cultural Affairs, International Information Programs, and Public Affairs, and the Global Engagement Center.

Ambassador Wharton served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of African Affairs from 2015-2016. Prior to that he served as the U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe from September 2012 to November 2015. He has also served as the Bureau of African Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy, African Affairs Director of the Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, and Deputy Coordinator of the Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs. From 2003 to 2006 he was the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala.

Bruce Wharton entered the Foreign Service in 1985 and has served at U.S. embassies in Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. In Africa, he has also had temporary duty in Tanzania, Nigeria, Kenya, and Ghana. From 1992 to 1995 he worked in Washington, D.C. on Andean Affairs and Western Hemisphere policy issues. He has received Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards from the Department of State and the U.S. Information Agency, and was the 2011 recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Public Diplomacy.

He is a graduate of the University of Texas in Austin and speaks Spanish and German.

SPEAKERS

Mr. David Abramowitz is General Counsel and Parliamentarian at the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Financial Services. Previously, Mr. Abramowitz was chief Counsel for the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, where he worked for over 10 years and was deeply involved in matters including the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, legislation providing funding for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and measures to promote human rights and democracy. Mr. Abramowitz also was a Managing Director at Humanity United, a foundation that works to promote human dignity and reduce human suffering. He also has broad experience on strategy, management, facilitation, and innovation, with a current focus on both creating greater financial inclusion and fairness and combating modern slavery. Mr. Abramowitz has earned a J.D. degree from the University of Michigan Law School and a Bachelor of Arts from the Kalamazoo College.

Ms. Majda El Bied is the Resident Program Director in CAR and DRC for the International Republican Institute-IRI since July of 2019. Ms. El Bied has worked in the field of parliamentary and political party strengthening for more than 10 years and has in-depth experience implementing democracy programming in Africa (CAR, DRC, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Tanzania, South Africa and Botswana). She implemented several programs focused on increasing women's political empowerment, financial oversight, public outreach, evidence-based policy, election management, civic education, citizen engagement, etc. While at the Westminster Foundation for Democracy-WFD, she served as the Deputy Director of the Africa Division and she managed a large EU-funded election project in the DRC focused on political party agents and election monitoring for the 2018 election. A native French speaker, Ms. El Bied has a BA (hons) in Journalism and an MA in Communication Studies from the Institute des Hautes Etudes des Communications Sociales, Brussels (IHECS). She also completed a program on 'Understanding Women's Human Rights' at the London School of Economics and was a guest speaker on the 'Impact of Policy Implementation in Africa' for LSE masters students.

Prof. E. Gyimah-Boadi is a co-founder of Afrobarometer and served as its Executive Director from 2008 to 2019, when he became chairman of the Board of Directors (and interim CEO) of the newly registered non-profit corporation, Afrobarometer. He is also co-founder and former executive director of the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana).

A former professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Ghana, Legon, he has held faculty positions at universities in the United States, including the School of International Service of the American University (Washington, D.C.), and fellowships at the Center for Democracy, Rule of Law and Development (Stanford University), the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the U.S. Institute of Peace, and the International Forum for Democratic Development (all in Washington, D.C.). A fellow of the National Academy of Sciences (U.S.) and the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, Prof. Gyimah-Boadi is also a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Democracy and the International Advisory Council of the Institute for Integrated Transitions (Barcelona).

He received his doctorate from the University of California (Davis) and undergraduate degree from the University of Ghana, Legon.

Prof. Gyimah-Boadi's articles on African democratization processes have appeared in the Journal of Democracy and UNU-WIDER, among others. He is editor of Democratic Reform in Africa: The Quality of Progress, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers (2004) and co-author of Public Opinion, Democracy, and Market Reform in Africa (Cambridge University Press, 2005).

He has received a myriad of awards, including the 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Peace and Social Justice for advancing democracy.

Mr. Neil Cole currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI); an inter-governmental organisation that provides a platform for peer-learning and exchange for approximately 30 African ministries of finance and planning. CABRI's work covers fiscal and budget policy; budget transparency and accountability; and public debt management. In addition to his role at CABRI, Neil Cole has been a co-faculty member of the Harvard PFM Executive Training Course. In 2016 he was invited to be a co-faculty member of the Harvard Ministerial Leadership Forum. He is also a part-time faculty member of the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Between 2001 and 2013 he worked for the National Treasury of South Africa in senior management positions in the Budget Office and in the International Economic Policy divisions. His responsibilities included: policy advice and implementation of budget reforms; expenditure planning of national government; co-ordination of the national budget process; policy advice on South Africa's engagement with the rest of Africa; and served as a representative to several bilateral forums and multilateral development banks.

Neil Cole has participated in many global forums on development effectiveness and represented South Africa on the committees that drafted the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership agreement.

Dr. Willene A. Johnson is a consultant whose work currently focuses on economics and peacebuilding. She has facilitated workshops for African peacekeepers and conducts courses on economic reconstruction at the U.S. Institute of Peace. Dr. Johnson has worked extensively in Africa and was selected by President Clinton to serve as the U.S. Executive Director at the African Development Bank. Her contributions to African development were evident in her work as a member of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy and chair of the Sub-Saharan Africa Advisory Committee of the United States Export-Import Bank. Dr. Johnson's work on Africa benefits from her global experience with economics and finance, gained from twenty years in the Federal Reserve System, where her assignments included research and operational responsibilities in foreign exchange and international financial markets. She speaks French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swahili and holds degrees in social studies (Radcliffe College) and African history (St. John's University) as well as a doctorate in development economics (Columbia University).

Ms. Aminata Kassé is NDI's senior resident director in Burkina Faso, where she has worked since 2004 to strengthen Burkinabe political parties. She has worked with parties to build coalitions, develop policy positions and political messages, engage in strategic planning and promote greater women's participation and leadership in politics. Ms. Kassé has also supported NDI's regional programming through technical assistance to program participants in Guinea and Mali.

Ms. Kassé is a former member of parliament in her native Senegal and was elected twice to local office. She served as president for the Senegalese Council of Women (COSEF) from 1998 to 2004.

Ms. Kassé holds a master's degree from the University Paris X, Nanterre.

'Kemi Okenyodo is the Executive Director of the Rule of Law and Empowerment Initiative also known as Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), a non-governmental organization dedicated to enhancing citizens' participation and improving security governance in Nigeria and West Africa broadly.

She was the Team Lead of the Policing Component of the Security Justice Reform Program supported by the UK Government Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) where she provides technical, strategic and programmatic leadership for the Nigeria Policing Programme (NPP), a program working with policing providers, government and civil society for accountable policing services in Nigeria, and where applicable programme partners. From August 2015 to December 2016, she provided support to the Head- West Africa Conflict Security & Stabilization Unit on Transition from Military Operations to a Stabilized Community Policing Approach in the North East. She has also previously served as the Team Lead of the Component Intervention Program 'Police Accountability' of the Justice 4 All (J4A) Program- a justice sector programme, funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and implemented by the British Council.

Kemi has over 15 years' experience in justice / security sector and governance issues in Nigeria and West Africa, and NGO management. She is particularly interested in police accountability, citizens engagement with security institutions, evolution of non-state actors and their contributions to improving public safety and security environment, gender and policing, criminal justice system reforms- in particular judicial reforms and legal defence of indigent persons, mainstreaming women's participation both in security and governance issues and election security management.

She's a graduate of the Faculty of Law, University of Lagos, a member of the Nigeria Bar Association, the Africa Security Sector Network and an alumna of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) and the Secretary General of the Nigeria Chapter Alumni Chapter.

Dr. Ken Opalo is an Assistant Professor in the School of Foreign Service. His research interests include the political economy of development, legislative development, electoral accountability under decentralized government, and electoral politics in emerging democracies. Ken's first book, *Legislative Development in Africa: Politics and Postcolonial Legacies* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), examines the evolution of legislatures in emerging democracies, with a focus on explaining the observed variation in the institutionalization and strength of legislatures

in African states. Ken's work has been published in the *British Journal of Political Science*, *Governance*, the *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, and the *Journal of Democracy*.