



# AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

## Cyber Dimensions of Violent Extremism in Africa

**Dr. Audrey Kurth Cronin** joined the faculty of the School of International Service in August 2016. She is the Founding Director of the Center for Security, Innovation and New Technology at AU. Professor Cronin's career has combined academic positions and government service. She was a faculty member and director of the core course on War and Statecraft at the U.S. National War College (2007-2011). Before that she was Academic Director of Studies for the Oxford/Leverhulme Programme on the Changing Character of War at Oxford University (Nuffield College), from 2005 to 2007. Prior to that, she was Specialist in Terrorism at the Congressional Research Service, responsible for advising Members of Congress in the aftermath of 9/11. She's served in the U.S. Executive branch, including the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy. She frequently consults at the most senior levels of the U.S. government. Professor Cronin is widely published on strategy and nonstate actors. An award-winning author, her best-known book is *How Terrorism Ends: Understanding the Decline and Demise of Terrorist Campaigns* (Princeton University Press), which *The New Yorker* called "a landmark study." Her latest book, *Power to the People: How Open Technological Innovation is Arming Tomorrow's Terrorists* (Oxford University Press, 2020), analyzes the risks and opportunities of emerging technologies, especially their use by individuals, terrorists, insurgents, militias, proxy armies, and other private actors. It won the 2020 Airey Neave international prize for "the most significant, original, relevant, and practically valuable contribution to the understanding of terrorism."

**Dr. Christopher Anzalone** is Research Assistant Professor with Middle East Studies at Marine Corps University and the Krulak Center. He is also an affiliate scholar with the Center for Global Islamic Studies at George Mason University. His research focuses on political Islam and Muslim political movements including militant Islamist organizations, religion and sectarianism, Shi'ite Islam, and political violence and civil wars. He has published journal articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia articles on these topics including in volumes from Oxford University Press and Princeton University Press. He has a Ph.D. in Islamic, Middle Eastern, and African studies from McGill University, an M.A. in Near Eastern Studies from Indiana University, Bloomington, and a double B.A. in History and Religious Studies from George Mason University. He was formerly a Research Fellow with the International Security Program at Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

**Dr. Anouar Boukhars**, is a professor of counterterrorism and countering violent extremism who works closely with African government and nongovernmental security sector leaders on developing and implementing activities and programs relating to counterterrorism and countering violent extremism. His research focuses on the dynamics of radicalization and violent extremism in Africa.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Boukhars was a nonresident fellow in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and an associate professor of

international relations at McDaniel College. He has served on several advisory boards and committees on the Sahel and North Africa, including at the African Peacebuilding Network at the Social Science Research Council. From August 2015 to July 2017, Dr. Boukhars served at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as lead facilitator of its flagship program, the Executive Masters in Managing Peace and Security in Africa. His research has been published in numerous leading policy publications and academic journals. He routinely conducts fieldwork in Africa and consults frequently for the African Union, World Bank, United Nations, U.S. State Department, and European governments.

Dr. Boukhars holds a Ph.D. in international studies from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia; an M.A. in applied humanities from Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco; and a B.A. in English literature from Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra, Morocco.