WHY DOES RULE OF LAW MATTER FOR SECURITY SECTOR EFFECTIVENESS IN AFRICA?

BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly is an associate 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 transnational organized crime. She is also a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Kelly was an advisor at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, where her work took her to Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Republic of Congo, and Rwanda. She designed and taught courses on contemporary Africa and democracy as a postdoctoral fellow at Washington University in St. Louis. 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 Fulbright Fellowship, a Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Public Fellowship, a West Africa Research Association grant, several Harvard University grants, 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, both in book form and 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.

General Thiaca THIAW is a doctor of law since 2013 after defending his thesis at the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (UCAD) on the international protection of human rights under states of emergency in Africa. He previously obtained a postgraduate degree in fundamental rights at the University of Nantes. In terms of military background, he is a graduate of the Royal Military Academy of Meknes (Morocco), the Staff College of Koulikoro (Mali), and the National Defense University (College of International Security Affairs) in Washington DC (USA).
A specialist in peace and security issues, rule of law and good governance, police reform, and the protection of civilians in conflict zones, he has carried out several field missions both in Senegal and abroad, notably in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Haiti for United Nations peacekeeping operations.

He teaches at the Institute of Human Rights and Peace of the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD) and at the Center for Advanced Studies in Defense and Security (CHEDS). He was also a member of the scientific committee of the Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa.

Dr. Thiaca THIAW has published the following books: La protection internationale des droits de l'Homme dans les situations de crise en Afrique : le droit à l'épreuve des faits / The international protection of human rights in crisis situations in Africa: the law tested by facts (Harmattan, 2014); La protection des infrastructures, activités, et ressources d'importance vitale au Sénégal: législation et pratiques / The protection of infrastructure, activities, and resources of vital importance in Senegal: legislation and practices (Harmattan, 2018). His post-graduate thesis was on “The challenges of teaching and popularizing human rights among the defense and security forces: the case of Senegal”

General Officer of the Gendarmerie, he currently holds the position of Deputy Commander of the National Gendarmerie and Deputy Director of Military Justice.

Dr. Ibrahim J. Wani is an independent consultant, specializing in international human rights, transitional justice, governance and institutional reforms and capacity building. He possesses extensive professional experiences, including nearly fifteen years of senior leadership positions with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and policy and management assignments in the public sector, NGO leadership, and more than a decade as an academic.

From 2013 until his retirement in 2016, Ibrahim Wani served as the Director of the Human Rights Division at the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of South Sudan. Previously, he was Chief of the Africa Branch in OHCHR (2010-2013) and served as the Chief of the Research and the Right to Development Branch and Director, a.i. (2006-2010). He served as the Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Eastern Africa and to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union (2002-2005).

Prior to joining the United Nations, Ibrahim Wani was a Professor of Law at the University of Virginia and the University of Missouri Law Schools where he taught courses in public and private international law, conflict of laws, immigration law and human rights. Subsequently, he served with the World Bank, working on capacity building and institutional reform issues in Africa, after which he headed the Africa Program at the
International Human Rights Law Group (now Global Rights) where he oversaw the implementation of a wide-ranging program to enhance the institutional capacity of human rights organizations across Africa. He also served as the Academic Dean at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies in Washington D.C. (1998-2002) from where he joined the United Nations. Ibrahim Wani started his career as a Foreign Service Officer in the Diplomatic service in Uganda. He received his law degree (LLB) from Makerere University in Uganda, and the LLM and SJD degrees from the University of Virginia, School of Law, in the USA.


Moderator

Dr. Luka Kuol is the Academic Dean at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. As the dean, 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 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.