



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

Taking Stock of African Peace Operations: The African Union Regional Task Force Against the Lord's Resistance Army

Panelist Biographies:

Dr. Christopher Day is Associate Professor at the Charleston College Department of Political Science, joining the university in 2012. His teaching and research interests are in comparative politics, with a particular emphasis on issues of peace and security in Africa. A former disaster relief worker with Médecins Sans Frontières, he is also interested in humanitarian affairs. He offers courses on the Politics of Africa, the Model African Union, Global Political Thought, and World Politics.

Day earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Northwestern University in June 2012. He also holds an M.A. from the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Day earned a B.A. in Political Science and a B.S. in Anthropology from the College of Charleston. He has published articles in *Comparative Politics*, *Civil Wars*, the *Journal of Modern African Studies*, and has written opinion pieces for *Al-Jazeera*, *The Daily Beast*, and the *Post & Courier*. He is also the author of *The Fates of African Rebels: Victory, Defeat, and the Politics of Civil War* https://www.rienner.com/title/The_Fates_of_African_Rebels_Victory_Defeat_and_the_Politics_of_Civil_War

Day is currently pursuing three interrelated research projects: 1) the militarization of park rangers in Africa 2) civil-military relations in Africa, and 3) the history of proxy warfare in Africa.

Betty Bigombe is the former Senior Director for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence programs at the World Bank Group. She is a Ugandan national and has played a key role in conflict resolution in Africa. She led the peace and humanitarian efforts in northern Uganda, first in the 1990s as Minister of State for Northern Uganda and again as chief mediator to the conflict in the mid-2000s.

In 2014, she received the Ordre National de la Legion d'honneur, one of a number of awards honoring her long-standing commitment to peace and humanitarian affairs throughout her career. Prior to her appointment to the World Bank Group, Ms. Bigombe served as State Minister for Water Resources in the Ugandan Cabinet and Member of Parliament.

She has been a visiting scholar at John Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, the Woodrow Wilson Center and a Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace, consulting on the impact of war and violence. She has served as a Commissioner for the Women's Refugee Commission and led election observer missions in Zimbabwe and Rwanda.

Her career has included a development focus in previous positions at the African Development Bank and at the World Bank where she was a Senior Social Scientist focusing on gender and conflict, disarmament, and child soldiers. Ms. Bigombe holds a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Rural Economy from Makerere University in Uganda.

Dr. Jide Martyns Okeke is a Coordinator of the UNDP Regional Programme for Africa. He previously worked at the AU Commission as the Head of Policy Development on Peace Support Operations (PSOs) responsible for the formulation, oversight, and assessment of PSO policies in Somalia, Mali, Central Africa Republic, Lake Chad Basin region, as well as supporting the development of an exit strategy for the RCI-LRA. He also previously worked for research think tanks such as Institute for Security Studies, SIPRI, and IPSS. He holds a Ph.D. in Development Politics from Leeds (2010), MA in Conflict Resolution (Bradford) and an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School. He remains engaged in research, programmes, and policy advice on issues relating to governance, peace and security in Africa.