

## EMERGING SECURITY SECTOR LEADERS SEMINAR ACADEMIC PROGRAM BIOGRAPHIES

## **Program Leadership**

**Ms. Amanda Dory** is the Director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, located at the National Defense University in Washington, DC. Prior to this appointment, she held the position of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs. Ms. Dory is a career member of the Senior Executive Service.

Ms. Dory has served in multiple leadership roles in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy, including Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, and acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Plans and Posture. She also served on the National War College faculty and as associate dean for outreach.

She is an alumna of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and received a master's degree with concentrations in international economics and African studies from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

**Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly** is Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Justice and Rule of Law at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Her work focuses on party politics and democratization, rule of law and security sector governance, and transnational organized crime. She is faculty lead for the rule of law and security sector governance portfolio, as well as the countering transnational organized crime portfolio.

Previously, Dr. Kelly was an Advisor in the Research, Evaluation, and Learning Division at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, where her work on judicial training and grassroots legal empowerment took her to Burundi, CAR, DRC, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Republic of Congo, and Rwanda to work with a range of national and local judicial officials, paralegals, and civil society. Fluent in French, Dr. Kelly has also designed and taught courses on contemporary Africa as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, and on West Africa and Area Studies at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute. Dr. Kelly has earned fellowships from Fulbright, American Council of Learned Societies, West Africa Research Association, Harvard University, and the U.S. government's Foreign Language and Area Studies program for the Wolof language. Her book, *Party Proliferation and Political Contestation in Africa: Senegal in Comparative Perspective* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), is based on 18 months of research in Senegal. Her work has been published in *African Security, Journal of Democracy, Comparative* 

Politics, The Washington Post, Democracy in Africa, numerous edited volumes, and American Bar Association white papers.

Dr. Kelly holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in government from Harvard University, a Graduate Certificate in international politics from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and a B.A. summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis. She is a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member.

**Dr. Nathaniel Allen** is an Assistant Professor for Security Studies, responsible for overseeing the Africa Center's academic programming on cybersecurity and peace support operations and integrating these considerations into the Center's research and outreach. His work focuses on cyber issues, emerging technology, civil-military relations, and regional security partnerships across Africa.

Prior to the joining the Africa Center, Dr. Allen was a policy advisor at the U.S. Institute of Peace Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States. He has also worked at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, for the Foreign Affairs and the Armed Services Committees of the U.S. House of Representatives, and with NORC at the University of Chicago's International Projects Department. Dr. Allen's research has been published in leading policy journals and newspapers. He has received fellowships from American University, the Robertson Family Foundation, and the U.S. Institute of Peace, where he was a 2016-2017 Williams Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar. He is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Dr. Allen holds a Ph.D. in international relations and African studies from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, an M.A. in development studies from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, and a B.A. in political science from Swarthmore College.

## **Moderators and Panelists:**

**Dr. Joel Amegboh** is an Assistant Professor for African Security Studies, responsible for overseeing the Africa Center's academic programming on National Security Strategy Development and Youth, Peace, and Security and integrating these considerations into the Center's research and outreach.

Prior to joining the Africa Center for Security Studies, Dr. Amegboh worked for several agencies and departments under the United Nations. These include the Educational Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information (DPI) and the Mali Integrated Operational Team, located in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. His research interests include advocacy for, and paradigm shifts in peacebuilding in Africa, terrorism and counterterrorism efforts, human security, security-development-governance nexus, and the role of youth in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

Dr. Amegboh holds a Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University, an M.A. in Global Development and Peace Studies, and a B.A. in International Political Economy and Diplomacy from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut.

Ms. Alexis Arieff is a Specialist in African Affairs at the Congressional Research Service, where she supports Members of Congress and their staff with independent, nonpartisan policy analysis regarding North, West, and Central Africa. In her eleven authored reports on U.S. years at C RS, Alexis has policy responses to security challenges in the Sahel, political change and contestation in the Maghreb, and conflict and humanitarian crises in Africa's Great Lakes region, among other topics. Alexis has been detailed to policy offices at the State Department (in 2015) and Defense Department (in 2010), and has served as an international election observer in Tunisia and Guinea. She was a Fulbright scholar in Conakry, Guinea, in 2008/09. Before joining CRS, Alexis worked as a researcher on Africa for the Committee to Protect Journalists for three years, and completed shorter stints as a research fellow in the International Crisis Group's West Africa field office in Dakar, Senegal, and as a contributing writer to Freedom House. She has an MA in international relations from Yale University, focusing on security studies in Africa, and a BA from Brown University.

**Dr. Dorina Bekoe** is a research staff member with the Africa program at the Institute for Defense Analyses. Previously, she was an associate professor of conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Dr. Bekoe's areas of expertise include Africa's political development, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, peace agreements, electoral violence, and institutional reform. She is the editor of Voting in Fear: Electoral Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa (2012). Dr. Bekoe has also worked at the United States Institute for Peace and International Peace Institute. She received a B.A. in economics from Franklin and Marshall College, an M.S. in public policy from Carnegie Mellon University, and a Ph.D. in public policy from Harvard University.

**Dr. Lina Benabdallah** is an Assistant Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Wake Forest University. Her research focuses on international relations theory, foreign policy, critical theories of power, politics of the past, and knowledge production and hegemony in South-South relations.

Her most recent book, *Shaping the Future of Power: Knowledge Production and Network-Building in China-Africa Relations* (July 2020), probes the type of power mechanisms that project, diffuse, and circulate China-Africa relations. The crux of the argument is that it is necessary to take into account the processes of knowledge production, social capital formation, networks, and skills transfers in Chinese foreign policy towards African states to fully understand how power permeates these encounters.

Her scholarship has been published in International Studies Quarterly, International Studies Review, Foreign Affairs, Third World Quarterly, Journal of International Relations and

Development, African Studies Quarterly, and Rising Powers Quarterly among others. My research was featured and/or quoted in Foreign Policy, Washington Post, Aljazeera, The Guardian, Le Monde, The Economist, BBC, The New York Times, CNN, Voice of America, Sputnik International, Mail & Guardian, The Diplomat, The South China Morning Post, The New Republic, SupChina, The Strait Times, etc. as well as in Africa is a Country where I am a Contributing Editor.

In addition to her scholarly research and teaching, she regularly participate in workshops, roundtables, and consultation briefings that aim to bridge the gap between academic scholarship and public-facing and foreign policy making outlets. Starting September 2022, she will join the editorial team of PS: Political Science and Politics as a co-editor along with Betina Cutaia Wilkinson, Justin Esarey, and Peter M. Siavelis.

She is now working on a new book which studies current Chinese government-issued discourses and narratives about the New Silk Road being a continuation of Sino-centric 15th Century Indian Ocean exchanges. The project investigates the degree to which Chinese foreign policy is successful (or not) in impacting local elites and citizens' perceptions of China in countries with New Silk Road projects.

**Ms.** Chidi Blyden is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs. Ms. Blyden is an expert and socio-cultural advisor on Africa's conflicts, security, and development issues. She comes to the role with policy, national security, and practitioner experience from her career in government, academia, and non-profit sectors. Her work focuses on the impact of culture in developing policy and community-centric approaches to security challenges in African nations, underscoring the role of women and youth in peace and security.

Ms. Blyden served in the Obama Administration as the Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs from 2013-2017. She managed several functional and regional responsibilities including U.S.- Africa defense policy for East and Central Africa, served as the Africa Peacekeeping Advisor to the Stability and Humanitarian Affairs office, and was the department's lead on the President's Africa Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership (APRRP) initiative. She has received several awards for her time in public service, including the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service.

Ms. Blyden began her career in security studies at the National Defense University's Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) as the Senior Academic Research Associate and Academic Operations Coordinator. From 2007-2013 she contributed to the academic curriculum and led the execution of over 30 programs on counterterrorism, defense economics, conflict management, security studies, and civil-military relations for Africa's security sector professionals. She was the first Africa Director at the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) where she led the design and implementation of culture-specific training for the Nigerian Armed Forces on civilian harm.

Ms. Blyden recently served in Congress on the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) Policy Team, advising on Africa and South America's defense equities. She is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University, in the Security Studies Program. She is a graduate of Texas A&M

University (BSc, Sociology) and the Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University (MSc, Conflict, Analysis, and Resolution) and serves on the Leadership Council for Memunatu Magazine, a nonprofit social enterprise that promotes literacy, leadership, and empowerment for teen girls in Africa and the diaspora.

**Dr. Anouar Boukhars** is Professor of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism with the Africa Center for Strategic Studies and 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 Akhaweyn University in Ifrane, Morocco; and a B.A. in English literature from Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra, Morocco.

**Ms. Kamissa Camara** is a Senior Visiting Expert for the Sahel at the U.S. Institute of Peace. She is a sub-Saharan Africa policy analyst and practitioner with 15 years of professional experience.

She has served as Mali's minister of foreign affairs, minister of digital economy and planning, and most recently, as chief of staff to the president of Mali. Previous to that, she served as senior foreign policy advisor to the president.

Prior to working with the Malian government, Camara held leadership positions in Washington, D.C. with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and PartnersGlobal. At NED, Camara co-founded and co-chaired the Sahel Strategy Forum. She also spearheaded a multi-million-dollar program supporting civil society initiatives in West and Central Africa, with a particular focus on the Sahel.

From 2015 until 2018, she was the Sahel and sub-Saharan Africa instructor at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute where she trained U.S. diplomats before their postings in the region

A well-published political commentator and television pundit, Camara has been featured, heard, and seen on CNN, Aljazeera, Voice of America, The Washington Post, France24, and RFI, among others. Camara holds a master's in international economics and development from Université Grenoble Alpes and a bachelor's in international relations from Université de Paris.

**Dr. Daniel Eizenga** is a Research Fellow responsible for conducting policy-relevant research advancing understanding of pressing security challenges facing Africa. Dr. Eizenga's research primarily focuses on countering violent extremism in the Sahel and the intersecting roles of civil-military relations, traditional institutions, and civil society across various regime trajectories of African states. He has published his work in a variety of academic and policy outlets and regularly offers expert interviews to the media.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Eizenga was a postdoctoral fellow with the Centre FrancoPaix at the Université du Québec à Montréal and a research associate with the Sahel Research Group based at the University of Florida. He has presented his research to and collaborated with several academic and government institutions in both the United States and Canada, including the Canadian Forces College, the Joint Special Operations University, Special Operations Command Africa, the Royal Military College in St. Jean, Québec, the George C. Marshall Center, the United States Institute of Peace, and Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center at the Presidio in Monterey. He also contributes regularly to academic conferences.

Dr. Eizenga holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in political science with specializations in African studies from the University of Florida, as well as a B.A. in international development studies with a minor in African studies from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**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, counterterrorism, 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.

**Dr.** Christopher Fomunyoh is currently senior associate and regional director for Central and West Africa at NDI. He has organized and advised international election observation missions to Benin, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. He has also designed and supervised country specific democracy support programs with civic organizations, political parties and legislative bodies in Benin,

Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mali, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, and Togo. In the course of his work, Dr. Fomunyoh interacts regularly with heads of state and government, cabinet ministers, elected officials, and political and civic leaders. He recently designed and helped launch the African Statesmen Initiative (ASI), a program aimed at facilitating political transitions in Africa by encouraging former democratic heads of state to stay engaged in humanitarian issues, conflict mediation, public health, and other key sectors of political, economic and human development on the continent.

As an expert on democratization in Africa, Dr. Fomunyoh makes frequent guest appearances on major radio and television networks including CNN, BBC, NewsHour, National Public Radio, Voice of America, and Radio France Internationale, and provides interviews for major national and international newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times, Le Monde and The International Herald Tribune. He has published a number of articles in academic journals on African politics and democratization.

Dr. Fomunyoh has traveled extensively in Africa, Europe and North America, and is bilingual in English and French. He holds a Licence en Droit from Yaoundé University in Cameroon, a master's degree (LL.M.) in international law from Harvard Law School, and a Ph.D. in political science from Boston University. Dr. Fomunyoh is an adjunct faculty at the African Center for Strategic Studies and a former adjunct professor of African politics and government at Georgetown University. He also is the founder of a nonprofit organization interested in supporting democracy and humanitarian causes in Cameroon.

**Colonel (Ret.) Daniel Hampton** brings more than 25 years of experience developing and implementing U.S. defense policy and strategy in Africa. As Acting Director and professor of practice in security studies, he oversees curriculum and program management in the areas of defense institution building, national security strategy, and civil-military cooperation.

During the course of his military career, Col. Hampton served as the U.S. senior defense official to South Africa and defense attaché to Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. Additionally, he was a senior policy adviser to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the Horn of Africa region. Col. Hampton holds an M.A. in African studies from the University of Illinois; an M.A. in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA; and a B.A. in history from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC.

**Dr. Luka Biong Deng Kuol** is an independent consultant and an adjunct distinguished professor of African security studies with the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at National Defense University in Washington. His areas of expertise include Development – Security – Governance Nexus, Public Policy Design, Implementation and Evaluation, National Security Strategy Development and Implementation in Africa, Management of Security Resources in Africa, Post-

Conflict Transitions, Peacebuilding and State building, Livelihoods, Vulnerability and Food Security and Humanitarian - Development Nexus.

Dr. Kuol is also a Global Fellow at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), a Fellow at the Rift Valley Institute, and an Associate Professor of Economics (on leave) at the University of Juba in South Sudan. He is a member of the United Nations Security Sector Advisory Council, a member of the African Security Sector Network and a founding member of South Sudan Studies Association. He also sits on the editorial board of the Disasters Journal, published by the United Kingdom Overseas Development Institute.

He was the Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. In addition, he was the faculty lead of three academic programs: National Security Strategy Development and Implementation in Africa, Managing Security Resources in Africa, and Emerging Security Sector Leaders in Africa. Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Kuol served as the director of the Institute of Peace, Development and Security Studies at the University of Juba in South Sudan. He was also a member of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Economics and Rural Development at the University of Gezira in Sudan. He was a resident fellow at Harvard Kennedy School and a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies at University of Sussex in the United Kingdom. He served as a Minister of Presidential Affairs for the Government of Southern Sudan and as a 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 was the founder of the New Sudan Center for Statistics and Evaluation that became the South Sudan Bureau of Statistics.

He has published scholarly articles in a wide array of prestigious international journals and contributed with many peer-reviewed chapters in various books and peer reviewer for more than fifteen renowned peer-reviewed journals. He is the lead author of the National Security Strategy Development in Africa: Toolkit for Drafting and Consultation published by the Africa Center. He is a co-editor of a book entitled "The Struggle for South Sudan: Challenges of Security and State Formation", co-editor of a book entitled "Abyei: Between Two Sudans" and author of two books entitled "Confronting Civil War: Vulnerability and Resilience in South Sudan and Sudan" and "Why Does Famine Persist in Africa?"

He received his Bachelor of Science from the Faculty of Economics and Social Studies at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, master's degree in economics and Master of Business Administration from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and a Ph.D. from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom.

**Dr. Gary Milante** is Program Director and Focal Point for the Global Registry of Violent Deaths (GReVD) initiative. His research focuses on measuring and monitoring security and socioeconomic development through indicator and metric design, applied econometrics, statistical analysis and modeling. Dr Milante uses systems approaches to make the complex problems associated with sequencing of institutional reforms, development portfolio design, strategic planning and needs assessment accessible to policymakers and practitioners in the field, with a special focus on the needs of fragile and conflict-affected states. He has worked for the World

Bank and advised multilateral institutions (OECD, IMF, UN agencies), civil society organizations and the governments of developing and developed countries.

**Dr. Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood** is a lecturer at the University of St Andrews in the United Kingdom. Dr. Okafor-Yarwood's research to date has generated critical insights around the blue economy, environmental justice, human security, maritime governance, and security. She brings a critical lens to the concept of sustainable development in relation to the management of marine and other natural resources and challenges the dominant assumptions on the areas of security, environmental justice, and maritime governance. Her multidisciplinary research combines empirical (indigenous epistemologies), doctrinal, historical, and theoretical analysis to investigate the complexities that shape environmental justice, maritime and natural resource governance and security in Africa.

She currently leads a research team exploring the gendered dimensions of maritime (in)security in the Gulf of Guinea (GOG) and in light of the effects of the global Covid-19 pandemic across the region's maritime domain and security. This project responds to research and knowledge gaps around the gendered construction and experiences of maritime security. It aims to generate a multi-level understanding of the gendered dimensions of maritime insecurity in the GoG. This research explores gender considerations in relation to the region's maritime security architecture and unpacks the gendered implications of the current Covid-19 pandemic on experiences of maritime insecurity and ocean optimism across the GoG.

Mr. Matt Petit is the Director for the Sahel in the National Security Council's Africa Directorate. Matt is a State Foreign Service Officer and previously served as the Senior Sudan Desk Officer in the Bureau of African Affairs. Before that assignment, he originated the Department's Iran Watcher position in Yerevan, Armenia. Matt's prior experience includes four years at the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia, where he was the Deputy Chief of Political/Economic Affairs. On a previous assignment in the Africa Bureau, Matt served as the Eritrea/Djibouti Desk Officer and on the Somalia desk. After joining the Foreign Service in 2008, Matt was a Vice Consul at the U.S. Consulate General in Chennai, India. Matt speaks Persian, Spanish, and some Russian, Armenian, Tamil, German, and French.

Ms. Nanjira Sambuli is Technology and International Affairs fellows at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Ms. Sambuli is a researcher, policy analyst, and strategist working on understanding the impacts of ICT adoption on governance, media, entrepreneurship and culture. She is a commissioner on the Lancet & Financial Times Global Commission (Governing Health Futures 2030), president and co-chair of the Transform Health Coalition, a board member at The New Humanitarian, Development Gateway, and Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL). She is also a Ford Global Fellow. She was named as one of BBC's 100 most inspiring and influential women in 2019.

**Dr. Joseph Siegle** leads the Africa Center's research program, which produces the Center's Africa Security Briefs, Research Papers, Special Reports, Spotlights, and Infographics series with the aim of generating policy relevant analyses that contribute to addressing Africa's security challenges. Dr. Siegle's research interests include understanding the role of governance in advancing security and development; security trends in Africa; stabilization of fragile states; democratic transitions; and strengthening institutions of democratic accountability. He has written widely for leading policy journals and newspapers and is a regular media analyst.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, he was a Douglas Dillon Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a senior research scholar at the University of Maryland's Center for International and Security Studies, and a senior advisor for democratic governance at DAI. For more than a decade, he served in various field capacities throughout Africa as well as in Asia and the Balkans with the international NGO, World Vision, and as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Dr. Siegle holds a doctorate in international security and economic policy from the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy and a master's in agricultural economics, with an emphasis on African food security, from Michigan State University.

**Ms. Susan Stigant is** Director of Africa Programs at US Institute of Peace. In this capacity, she leads programming in East Africa and the Greater Horn, on the Red Sea Arena and with the African Union. Her thematic focus is on the design and implementation of inclusive constitutional reform and national dialogue processes. Prior to joining USIP, Ms. Stigant managed constitutional development, citizen engagement and election observation programs with the National Democratic Institute (NDI). From 2005-2011, she served as program director with NDI in Southern Sudan, where she supported the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

**Dr. Paul D. Williams** is a professor of International Affairs and Associate Director of the M.A. Security Policy Studies program. Between 2012 and 2018, Dr. Williams was a Non-Resident Senior Adviser at the International Peace Institute in New York. During 2014-15, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, and during 2015-17 he was a Global Fellow associated with the Center's Africa Program. From 2011 to 2014, Dr. Williams worked as a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He previously taught at the Universities of Aberystwyth, Birmingham, and Warwick in the United Kingdom and has been a Visiting Scholar at Georgetown University and the University of Queensland, Australia.

Dr. Williams is also managing the Providing for Peacekeeping Project, an independent research project which analyzes how to develop more effective United Nations peacekeeping operations.

He also serves on the editorial board of several scholarly journals including African Affairs, International Peacekeeping, Global Governance, and Global Responsibility to Protect. He has recently published *Understanding Peacekeeping* with A.J. Bellamy (Polity Press, 3rd edition, 2021).