



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

HOW DOES EXPANDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE MATTER FOR SECURITY?

ACADEMIC WEBINAR

BIOGRAPHIES

Brigadier General (Professor) Dan Kuwali serves in the Malawi Defence Force as the Commandant of the National Defense College. Previously, he was Chief of Legal Services and Judge Advocate General. He is an extraordinary Professor of International Law and International Relations at the University of Pretoria and Visiting Professor at Lund University, Sweden where he also earned his Masters and Doctoral degrees in International Law. He has been a Fellow of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and has served as a Legal Advisor in the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He was previously a Fellow and Scholar at the United States Army War College in Pennsylvania.

He is the current Chairperson of the Malawi National International Humanitarian Law Committee. He was a Plenipotentiary for the Republic of Malawi in the negotiations on the Cluster Munition Convention and the Arms Trade Treaty, where he significantly contributed to the drafting of some of the key provisions of these legal instruments. Professor Kuwali has published extensively, including several books and dozens of peer-reviewed articles. His most recent publications include the Oxford Bibliography article, "Forceful Intervention for Protection of Human Rights in Africa," and *The Palgrave Handbook on Sustainable Peace and Security in Africa*.

Dr. Martha Mutisi is an academic and a practitioner with more than 15 years of experience working at the intersection between peace, security, conflict resolution, governance, and development. Currently a Senior Programme Officer in the Democracy and Inclusive Governance (DIG) Programme, with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), her role is to support and undertake evidence-based research and political analysis that helps citizens and public authorities address the sources of violent conflict, insecurity, fragility and poor governance, while acknowledging the imperative for a gender-transformative approach to solutions.

Previously, Mutisi briefly worked with UN Women (Zimbabwe) as a Senior Programme Specialist on Gender, Peace, and Security. Before then, Mutisi was a Senior Researcher and Manager of the Interventions Department at ACCORD, where she coordinated strategic and operational plans of the department, apart from providing substantive and technical inputs. Dr. Mutisi provided oversight towards activities within Peacebuilding, Peacemaking, Peacekeeping and Training Units as well as within ACCORD's Country Programmes. Mutisi has also worked as a Consultant and Advisor, and with many multilateral organizations, including the European Union (EU); United Nations, the African Union (AU); the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Intergovernmental authority on Development (IGAD), the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA and the East African Community (EAC); and the East African Standby Force (EASF). Martha's areas of research interests include Mediation Processes; Security

Sector Reform; Democratisation and Governance Reform in Transitional justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development.

Dr. Mutisi was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship (2006-2010) and the Josh Weston Fellowship (2008-2010). She graduated with a PhD in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University (USA), a Masters in Peace and Governance from Africa University and a Masters in Sociology and Anthropology from the University of Zimbabwe. She co-edited a book titled, "Deconstructing Women, Peace and Security: A Critical Review of Approaches to Gender and Women's Empowerment" (HRSC Press, 2016).

Attorney Lury Nkouessom is currently the Team Leader of the Access to Justice Component and Deputy Chief of Party of the USAID Mali Justice Project (MJP) implemented by Dexis Consulting Group. Prior to joining MJP, he served as the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) Deputy Country Director for Program in the DRC managing a multimillion portfolio of 8 projects. He previously served as ABA ROLI Country Director in Mali advising the government on transitional justice issues and working with communities and civil society organizations to establish truth-seeking mechanisms and contribute to reconciliation.

Atty. Nkouessom formerly led the Carter Center's access to justice program in Liberia where he focused on strengthening traditional leaders' dispute resolution capacity and promoting good governance through regular trainings and mentoring, as well as providing justice education and legal advisory services to marginalized communities through community-based paralegals. Previously, he worked as a Legal Advisor at the United Nations Mission in Liberia. He holds degrees in law, legal translation, and international relations. He also speaks English, French, and Spanish fluently.

Moderator

Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly is Associate Professor of Justice and Rule of Law at the Africa Center. 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.

Previously, 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. She is author of *Party Proliferation and Political Contestation in Africa: Senegal in Comparative Perspective* (2020, Palgrave Macmillan).

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.