



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

LESSONS LEARNED FROM COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN COASTAL WEST AFRICA

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BIOGRAPHIES

PANELISTS (In alphabetical order)

Sampson Kwarkye is a Senior Researcher in the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin in Dakar, Senegal. He joined the ISS in 2018 as senior researcher based in Abuja, Nigeria. Before this, he was senior advisor and deputy team leader to the GIZ Support Programme to the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center in Accra, Ghana. He also worked in research positions at ECOWAS' Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa in Dakar, and the New York University Center on International Cooperation. Sam has a Master's degree in international development from the University of Kent, UK and a Bachelor's degree in financial information analysis from Clarkson University, New York, USA.

Mathieu Pellerin is a Sahel Expert with the International Crisis Group as well as an Associate Research Fellow at the Sub-Saharan Africa Center of the Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI). Previously he served as a Special Adviser in charge of the intra-Islamic Dialogue for the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) and international consultant for public and private organizations (World Bank, European Union, NGOs, etc.). He was also editor-in-chief of *Sécurité & Stratégie* review until 2018. His research focuses since 2010 on Sahel (Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso), Lake Chad and Madagascar.

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.