



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

Artificial Intelligence Strategy in the Security Domain Development Seminar

BIOGRAPHIES

Leadership

Dr. Assis Malaquias is Academic Dean at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, in Washington, DC. He oversees curriculum and program development in the Africa Center's lines of effort, including Advancing Military Professionalism; Countering Transnational Organized Crime; Countering Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism; Cyber Domain Awareness, Cybersecurity and Information/Disinformation; Maritime Safety and Security; National Security Strategy Development; Peace Support Operations and Crisis Response; and Rule of Law and Security Sector Governance. Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Malaquias served as Professor and Chair in the Department of Global Studies and Maritime Affairs at the California State University Maritime Academy. Dr. Malaquias' previous positions included: Professor and Chair of Defense Economics and Resource Management at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, associate dean of international and intercultural studies and professor of government at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY; extraordinary associate professor of political studies at the University of Western Cape in South Africa; and a visiting professor at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. He holds an M.A. in economics and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Dalhousie University, Canada.

Dr. Nate Allen is an Associate Professor at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies oversees academic programming on cyber issues and peace operations. Dr. Allen's expertise includes cyber issues, emerging technology, civil-military relations, and regional security partnerships across Africa. Previously, Dr. Allen was a policy advisor at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States. He has also worked at the U.S. State Department, House of Representatives, and as a research analyst at NORC at the University of Chicago. Dr. Allen's work has appeared in a wide range of leading policy and peer-reviewed publications, including *Armed Forces and Society*, *The Washington Quarterly*, *Democratization*, *Orbis*, *War on the Rocks*, *The Washington Post*, and *Foreign Affairs*. He has received fellowships from American University, the Robertson Family Foundation, and USIP, where he was a 2016-2017 Peace Scholar. He currently serves as a Research Fellow at South Africa's Stellenbosch University and is a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member. 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. from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs, and a B.A. from Swarthmore College.

Panelist

Dr. Rachel Adams is the Founder and CEO of the Global Centre on AI Governance, and a Senior Research Associate at the Leverhulme Center for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge. She is further a Research Fellow at The Ethics Lab at the University of Cape Town. She holds degrees in English Literature, International Human Rights Law and Philosophy. She serves on numerous international expert committees including for UNESCO, the UN, UNDP, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Global Partnership on AI. She advises policymakers around the world on AI governance and was one of the lead drafters of the African Union Commission's Continental AI Strategy. In November 2024, Rachel's third book *The New Empire of AI: The Future of Global Inequality* was published with Polity Press.

Dr. Chinasa T. Okolo is a Fellow at The Brookings Institution and a recent Computer Science Ph.D. graduate from Cornell University. Her research focuses on AI governance for the Global Majority, datafication and algorithmic marginalization, and the socioeconomic impact of data work. Dr. Okolo has been recognized as one of the world's most influential people in AI by *TIME*, honored in the inaugural *Forbes* 30 Under 30 AI list, and advises numerous multilateral institutions, national governments, corporations, and nonprofits. In addition to her work at Brookings, Dr. Okolo serves as a Drafting Member of the Nigerian National AI Strategy, a Consulting Expert to the African Union AI Continental Strategy, and an Expert Contributing Writer to the International Scientific Report on the Safety of Advanced AI. Her research has been covered widely in media outlets and published at top-tier venues in human-computer interaction and sociotechnical computing.

Mr. Baudouin Akoh is an experienced Political Affairs and Security Specialist with over 15 years of expertise in international peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and strategic advisory roles. He has worked extensively in volatile environments, specializing in disarmament, humanitarian security, and multilateral diplomacy. Currently serving as the National Liaison and Security Officer for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Cameroon, Baudouin plays a crucial role in stakeholder engagement, conflict analysis, and security risk management, advising senior leadership on critical security trends. His experience extends to the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), where he has acted as a designated interim Field Security Associate, leading security assessments and civil-military coordination efforts in conflict-affected regions. A seasoned mediator, Baudouin has been actively involved in international disarmament discussions, peacebuilding initiatives, and policy formulation. His expertise includes AI Guided Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), Small Arms Control (SAC), counterterrorism strategies, and integrated mission planning, with certifications from top institutions like the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC). He is also an accomplished author, contributing to global discussions on AI Guided Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) Diplomacy and Security Risk Management, Arms control, gender in peacebuilding, and international diplomacy. Fluent in English and French, Baudouin's career reflects a deep commitment to sustainable security solutions, multilateral cooperation, and conflict transformation.

Abdul-Hakeem B. D. Ajijola, widely known as AhA, has established himself as a beacon in the global cybersecurity realm through his strategic vision and pioneering initiatives aimed at enhancing digital security and policy frameworks worldwide. His exceptional career, marked by significant contributions to the cybersecurity landscape across the Global South, underscores his commitment to

promoting a secure, inclusive, and sustainable technological future. His roles include, chairing the African Union Cyber Security Expert Group and advocating for Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies, have been instrumental in steering digital transformation and economic growth in emerging economies. Additionally, his efforts to launch an African Cybersecurity Economic sub-sector underscore his dedication to cultivating the next generation of tech professionals. AhA's influence extends beyond regional initiatives, as evidenced by his top ranking on the IFSEC 2020 Global Cybersecurity Professionals' Influencers and Thought Leaders list and his leadership at Consultancy Support Services (CS2) Ltd., where he has played a critical role in revising national cybersecurity policies and strategies. His academic pursuits, with an emphasis on Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy at Harvard University, along with specialized certifications in key cybersecurity areas, provide a solid foundation for his expertise. Central to AhA's philosophy is the conviction that cybersecurity is crucial for ensuring national security, economic vitality, and societal well-being. His leadership roles and recognitions, including pioneering positions within international cybersecurity organizations, further solidify his stature as a leader committed to fostering global cybersecurity resilience and advancing digital inclusivity.