



**MIASA**  
Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa

## **Sustainable Regional Peacebuilding in Africa: Practices and Disconnects**

Conference of the Interdisciplinary Fellow Group 9 on “Sustainable Regional Peacebuilding” of the Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA)

University of Ghana

27-28 November 2023

### **Conference Programme**



**UNIVERSITY  
OF GHANA**

SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

# Programme

**Venue: Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD)  
Examination Hall**

All times refer to UTC.

For virtual participation via Zoom, please use the following link.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88306463180?pwd=cLlmySAVOf4B1flbU94y4b9ntwO06M.1>

Meeting-ID: 883 0646 3180

Code: 551166

## Monday, 27 November 2023

8.00-9.00      **Registration**

9.00-9.30      **Opening Ceremony**

9:30-10.30    **Keynote Speech by Her Ladyship, Justice Professor Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu**

“Sustainable Regional Peacebuilding: Reflections of an Academic-Practitioner”

**Chair:** Emmanuel Debrah, Legon Center for International Affairs and Diplomacy,  
University of Ghana, Ghana

**Her Ladyship, Justice Professor Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu** is a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Ghana with a distinguished career in international and national service. A Full Professor of Law, she served as Acting Dean of the then Faculty of Law, now University of Ghana School of Law and Director of the Legon Center for International Affairs. From 2019 to 2020, she served as President of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her Ladyship was a member of Ghana’s National Reconciliation Commission and served on the Presidential Commission of Enquiry that investigated the Ayawaso-West Wuogon by-election violence. Professor Mensa-Bonsu also served on the National Governing Council of the African Peer Review Mechanism. Professor Mensa-Bonsu is well-known internationally for her work in the fields of law, peace, and security. She was a member of the Organisation of African Unity's Eminent Jurists on the Hissèn Habré case, as well as the International Technical Advisory Committee for the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Professor Mensa-Bonsu served as the United Nations Mission in Liberia's (UNMIL) Deputy Special Representative for Rule of Law from 2007 to 2011. Based on her extensive experience, Professor Mensa-Bonsu was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General as a member of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO). In a befitting tribute to her exceptional knowledge, expertise, and experience, Professor Mensa-Bonsu was sworn in as a Judge of Ghana’s Supreme Court in 2020.

10.30-11.00 *Cocoa Break*

11.00-12.30 **Panel 1: Conceptions of Peacebuilding**

Contrary to what the technical language of policy frameworks and peacebuilding manuals suggests, peacebuilding is an inherently political project. The politics of peacebuilding start with the very meaning of both peace and how to build it and the unequal power various actors hold to shape the dominant peacebuilding agendas. In both academic and policy discourse on peacebuilding, sustainability has become a ubiquitous descriptor. It seems as if “good” peacebuilding today is, or at least ought to be, sustainable. But what does it actually mean to build sustainable peace or to build peace sustainably? This panel delves into different theoretical, practical, and vernacular understandings of the concept, including feminist, decolonial, and ecological approaches. How have different traditions been thinking about the sustainability of peacebuilding and what understandings of sustainable peacebuilding have they developed? And what do these different conceptions help us to see about sustainable peacebuilding in practice, including its politics?

**Chair:** Christof Hartmann, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

**Presenters:**

Environment and Peacebuilding in Africa

*Munini Mutuku, National Cohesion and Integration Commission Kenya*

‘Doing’ Gender Relationally for Sustainable Peace: Conceptual Traps and Transformations

*Heidi Hudson, University of Free State, South Africa*

Glocality and African Security Challenges: A Glocal Approach to Sustainable Peacebuilding

*Abu Bakarr Bah, Northern Illinois University, USA*

African Conceptions of Peacebuilding

*Tony Karbo, N'Zarama Center for Peacebuilding, Côte d'Ivoire*

12.30-13.30 *Lunch Break*

13.30-15.00 **Panel 2: Local-International Tensions in Sustainable Peacebuilding**

This panel explores the intersection (or not) of different local, regional, and international priorities and understandings of sustainable peacebuilding, and how that may affect the achievement of sustainable peace. It is often argued that international or regional conceptualizations and priorities fundamentally shape peacebuilding practice, thereby marginalizing local interests and perceptions. This might be the case with regard to UN-led or AU-led peacekeeping missions, or with regard to regional military and political CVE strategies. Tensions might, however, also emerge between national and local priorities, with regard to top-down or bottom-up strategies of building infrastructures for peace. Such tensions might be to an extent unavoidable, yet sustainable peacebuilding needs to both acknowledge and work with the multi-layered and multi-perspective nature of underlying conflict constellations and actors.

**Chair:** Linda Darkwa, University of Ghana, Ghana

**Presenters:**

Filling the Gap between International Interventions and Local Perceptions: Issues and Challenges

*Mbassa Thioune, Timbuktu Institute, Senegal*

Economic Development, Peace, Security and Violent Extremism: The Missing Links and Lessons Learned for Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Peacebuilding

*Hippolyt Pul, Institute for Peace and Development, Ghana*

Violent Extremism and Anticipatory Governance: Insights from Ghana

*Antonia Witt, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF), Germany*

The Politics of Securing Peace in Elections in Ghana: The Role of the Manhyia Palace

*George Bob-Milliar, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana*

15.00-15.30 *Cocoa Break*

15.30-17.00 **Panel 3: Sustainable Peacebuilding in the Midst of Violence**

Peacebuilding efforts are crucial for de-escalating violence, providing a space for negotiation, and cultivating peaceful coexistence towards positive conflict transformation. However, the changing nature and dynamics of contemporary armed

violence have generated new considerations that impact the conceptual and practical foundations of peacebuilding, which assume a linear progression from armed violence to peace. In response, the practice of peacebuilding has evolved. In the last two decades, peacebuilding in affected countries has often been limited to areas where violence has been significantly reduced to manageable levels or an agreement to halt violence has been achieved. This means that not only is peacebuilding being carried out in dangerous environments, but there is also a real risk to the long-term viability of peacebuilding efforts. There is no established method or blueprint for success. Nonetheless, there are context-specific best practices and lessons that may be learned and unlearned in efforts to construct ingredients for long-term peacebuilding in the midst of violent conflict. Against this background, the key questions for this panel are: How have peacebuilding practices evolved to accommodate the changing dynamics of contemporary armed violence contexts? What are the challenges to the sustainability of peacebuilding in violent conflict situations? How can the sustainability of peacebuilding practices be enhanced in situations of violent conflict?

**Chair:** Tony Karbo, N'Zarama Center for Peacebuilding, Côte d'Ivoire

**Presenters:**

Leveraging the Agency of Peace Operations towards Sustainable Peacebuilding

*Linda Darkwa, University of Ghana, Ghana*

Protracted Crises and Peacebuilding in the North East region of Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects

*Joseph Ochogwu, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Nigeria*

Counter-insurgency on a Shoe-string: Managing Threats through Brokerage in Niger

*Adam Sandor, University of Bayreuth, Germany*

Generating Peacebuilding Knowledge to Respond to African Security Realities

*Kwesi Aning, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana*

18.00

*Conference Dinner (by invitation only)*

## Tuesday, 28 November 2023

8.00-9.00      **Registration**

9.00-11.00    **Roundtable: Sustainable Peace(building) – Lessons from Ghana**

The Roundtable brings together practitioners with different experiences in and perspectives on peacebuilding. Its main theme are the lessons we might collectively draw from Ghana's experience, as a country which is both hailed for its quite successful national peace infrastructure, and for its strong contribution to regional and continental peacebuilding. The Roundtable will thus bring together representatives from the Ghanaian government, from governmental and non-governmental institutions mandated to initiate, participate and reflect on peacebuilding within the country, and from regional and international actors.

**Moderator:** Linda Darkwa, University of Ghana, Ghana

### **Participants:**

George Amoh, *Executive Secretary, National Peace Council*

Mutaru M. Muqtar, *Executive Director, West Africa Centre for Counter-Extremism*

H.E. Daniel Krull, *Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany*

Dr Colonel Timothy Ba-Taa-Banah, *Director, Counterterrorism Fusion Centre, Ministry of National Security*

11.00-11.30    *Cocoa Break*

11.30-13.30    **Panel 4: Politics of Sustainable Peacebuilding within African Regional Organizations**

African regional organizations have early on assumed a major role in peacebuilding relegating international actors to financial supporters of a variety of African-led conflict intervention practices. At the same time some of these organizations have been criticized for acting short-term and lacking more sustainable strategies in building peace. Given their prominent role in the African Peace and Security Architecture, the panel will take a closer look at the politics of peacebuilding within such organizations and their internal dynamics. It will investigate the evolution of approaches and strategies towards sustainable peacebuilding, how this has been influenced by changing conflict dynamics and a changing international environment, and how the politics within regional organizations might thus affect peacebuilding sustainability.

**Chair:** Antonia Witt, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF), Germany

**Presenters:**

ECOWAS Peacebuilding in the Context of Military Coalitions

*Chido Mutangadura, United Nations University - Centre for Policy Research, Geneva, Switzerland*

Politics of Peacebuilding in the African Union

*Thomas Kwasi Tieku, University of Western Ontario, Canada*

Democracy as Contested Part of Sustainable Regional Peacebuilding: A Case Study of ECOWAS

*Christof Hartmann, Institute for Peace and Development, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany*

Sub-Regional Approaches to Countering Terrorism: The Role of ECOWAS in Securing West Africa

*Abdu-Jalilu Ateku, University of Ghana, Ghana*

Enhancing ECOWAS' Preventive Diplomacy Capacity

*Emmanuel Balogun, Skidmore College, USA*

13.30-14.30 *Lunch Break*

14.30-16.00 **Panel 5: Innovative Methodologies to Sustainable Peacebuilding**

Contemporary peacebuilding models have attempted to address the growing criticisms against traditional liberal and top-down peacebuilding models by adopting bottom-up and context specific approaches. Contemporary approaches incorporate elements of localization, South-South cooperation, ecological considerations, and peace-development nexus among others to create sustainable peace. These emergent practices have not only been influenced by academic scholarship but have in turn created the need for scholars to adopt innovative research methodologies to understand and assess contemporary peacebuilding approaches. Hence scholars are increasingly incorporating cutting-edge methodologies and data-driven approaches to engage policy makers in complex recommendation processes to align theoretical developments with evidence-based practices in real world post-conflict settings. The objective of this panel is to examine the modalities of innovations in designing and implementing peacebuilding frameworks and, on the other, innovative research practices in the academic world, from a sustainability perspective. The discussions in the panel will focus on how current policy practices and research strategies can come

together to strengthen post-conflict-affected interventions for sustainable peacebuilding.

**Chair:** Chido Mutangadura, United Nations University - Centre for Policy Research, Geneva, Switzerland

**Presenters:**

Emerging Policy Practices and Research Methodologies for Peacebuilding in Africa  
*Naila Salihu, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana*

Ethical AI in Africa: Developing Frameworks for Sustainable Peacebuilding  
*Job Muiruri Mwaura, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa*

Reflections on the IPSS' Managing Peace and Security in Africa (MPSA) Programme  
*Ulf Engel, University of Leipzig, Germany*

16.00-16.30 *Cocoa Break*

16.30-17.00 **Conclusion and Future Perspectives**



## Presenters

**Kwesi Aning** is Professor and Director at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Ghana. He was the African Union's (AU) first expert on counterterrorism and served on the UN Secretary General's Advisory Group for the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). Appointed as a senior consultant, he evaluated the Support to the Maldives on Counter-terrorism and Sri Lanka. He serves on the World Food Programs' (WFP) Security Advisory Board (SECAB) and as a member of the IES Evaluation Expert Group. In 2023, his article on 'African experiences and alternativism in International Relations theorizing about security', in the Journal *International Affairs*, Vol. 98, No. 1 (with Kwaku Danso) won the International Affairs Centenary Prize by Chatham House, UK.

**Abdu-Jalilu Ateku** holds a BA and M.Phil. degrees in Political Science from the University of Ghana where he is currently a Lecturer in Political Science. He obtained a PhD in International Relations at the School of Politics and International Relations, University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom. His research interests are in international relations theories, international institutions (ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, AU, EU, NATO and the UN), international security interventions in war-affected/post-war states, terrorism and transnational organised crime, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, human security, human rights, elections security and democracy, and African politics in general. He recently published on "Regional intervention in the promotion of democracy in West Africa" and "Insecurity and Regional Actors' Role in Securing Africa". His work on 'The nature and role of African intelligence in countering terrorism in the ungoverned spaces in the Sahel' will be published under the Routledge Intelligence Studies Series by close of 2023.

**Abu Bakarr Bah** is Presidential Research Professor of Sociology at Northern Illinois University and founding director of the Institute for Research and Policy Integration in Africa (IRPIA). He is also editor in chief of *African Conflict & Peacebuilding Review (ACPR)* and African editor for *Critical Sociology*. He is the author of *Breakdown and Reconstitution: Democracy, the Nation-State, and Ethnicity in Nigeria*. His recent works include *International Statebuilding in West Africa: Civil Wars and New Humanitarianism in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire*; *African Security: Local Issues and Global Connections*; *Post-Conflict Institutional Design: Peacebuilding and Democracy in Africa*; *International Security and Peacebuilding: Africa, the Middle East, and Europe*. His articles have been published in leading journals, including *African Affairs* and *Critical Sociology*.

**Emmanuel Balogun**, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Skidmore College. He is a scholar-practitioner who researches African politics and agency. He is the author of *Region-Building in West Africa: Convergence and Agency in ECOWAS*. Emmanuel recently served as a Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of State Bureau of African Affairs, where he worked on U.S.-Africa Multilateral and regional economic and security policy. He is a former International Affairs fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He was the inaugural Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion fellow for Bridging the Gap. He was Principal Investigator for a Fulbright-Hays program grant. He has published in academic and public outlets such as *International Affairs*, *African Studies Review*, *Africa Spectrum*, and *The Washington Post* among others. Emmanuel has a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Delaware.

**George M. Bob-Milliar** is an Associate Professor in the Department of History and Political Studies at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi. He is currently the Director of the Centre for Cultural and African Studies (CeCAST) based at the same university. He trained as an interdisciplinary scholar: his research lies at the intersection of three disciplines – African politics, history & development studies. His research focuses on electoral politics in Ghana, informal

institutions, and social/political history. He published in the top-ranked journals in his field of specialization. He co-edits *African Affairs*, *African Economic History*, and *Contemporary Journal of African Studies* and sits on the editorial boards of several other reputable journals.

**Linda Darkwa** is an academic-practitioner in the areas of peace, security, governance and gender. A Senior Research Fellow of the Legon Center for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD), she also provides strategic advice to three international civil society organizations and the African Union's Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security under the umbrella of the Training for Peace program. These include advise on key policies and processes as well as norms relating to Peace Support Operations, Gender and Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development among others. In 2022 she was appointed a member of the Experts on the review of the African Union's PCRD Policy. Linda Darkwa is a member of the Technical Committee of the Tana Forum, the editorial board of the *Contemporary Security Policy* journal and the Council for Foreign Relations (CFR Ghana). She is also an advisory board member of the Swedish Armed Forces International Centre and a co-convenor and senior fellow of IFG 9 – Sustainable Regional Peacebuilding of the Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa.

Trained as a political scientist and historian, **Ulf Engel** is the professor of 'Politics in Africa' at the Institute of African Studies at Leipzig University, Germany. He is a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. Since 2006 Engel is advising the African Union's Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security on early warning, conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy. He is also the editor of the *Yearbook on the African Union* (Brill: Leiden, Boston MA).

**Christof Hartmann** is Professor of African Politics and International Relations as well as Director of the Institute for Peace and Development (INEF) at the University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany). He previously worked at the Universities of Heidelberg, Ruhr-University Bochum and University of the Western Cape, and completed his PhD at University of Heidelberg. His research focuses on processes of political-institutional change in African countries, on the political and security dimensions of regional cooperation in Africa (with a focus on West Africa), and on Africa's relations with external actors, in particular China. In all three fields, he has been leading research projects and published monographs (with Oxford UP and Routledge) and journal articles. He has also experience in consultancy work and policy transfer, mainly in the areas of electoral governance, crisis prevention, democracy promotion and political aspects of development cooperation.

**Heidi Hudson** is a Professor of International Relations in the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies and a former Dean of Humanities at the University of the Free State, South Africa. She holds a doctorate in Strategic Studies and specializes in feminist security studies with a specific focus on gender and peacebuilding in Africa. In 2018, she was the Claude Ake Visiting Chair at the Nordic Africa Institute. She is co-editor of the Bristol University Press book series "Feminist Reimagination of International Studies" and has published widely in journals such as *International Peacekeeping*, *Peacebuilding*, *Security Dialogue*, *Security Studies* and the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*.

**Tony Karbo** has made a significant impact on the African continent through his role as an Associate Director and Trainer of the South-North Center for Peacebuilding and Development. Tony has worked closely with organizations such as the African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and many others to promote peace and resolve conflicts. In addition to his work as a peacebuilder, Tony is also a distinguished researcher and writer. He has co-edited several influential publications, including *The Palgrave Handbook of Peacebuilding in Africa* (Palgrave, 2018),

*The African Union: Autocracy, Diplomacy, and Peacebuilding in Africa* (I.B. Taurus, 2018), *Peacebuilding in the Margins* (UPEACE, Geneva, 2017), *Peace, Conflict, and Development: A Critical Reader and Compendium* (UPEACE Geneva, 2011), and *Variations in Violent Conflicts in Africa: The Relative Influence of Political and Environmental Factors* (VDF, 2008). Tony earned an MS and Ph.D. from Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.

**Chido Mutangadura** is a Senior Fellow at the United Nations University- Centre for Policy Research where she is co-leading research under an XCEPT Research Fund award titled *Toward a Peacekeeper Diversity Index: Evaluating the Relative Effectiveness of Peace Support Personnel Gender, Origin, and Status on Cross Border Conflict De-Escalation*. Her research focuses on peace and human security developments in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on security sector reform, conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding post-conflict reconstruction and development, governance, regionalism, and foreign policy.

**Munini Mutuku** works at the National Cohesion and Integration Commission in Kenya. Her background is in human rights and conflict management. Her areas of work have focused on: environment and transitional justice, communities and natural resource-based conflicts, mediation and reconciliation dialogues, diversity and social cohesion, women and youth in peace and security, economic and social cultural rights, amongst other thematic areas. In one of her projects on environment in transitional justice she has, amongst other writings, authored a Supplementary Note to the African Union Transitional Justice Policy on Environment and Natural Resources in Transitional Justice Processes and Mechanisms.

**Job Mwaura** is a media and cultural scholar. He currently works as a Research Associate at Wits Centre for Journalism, University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. He holds a PhD in Media Studies from the same university. His expertise encompasses a broad spectrum of areas including Digital Media in Africa, politics, data, and social justice. Currently, his research ventures extend to the ethical deployment of AI systems and the burgeoning field of Immersive Technologies in Africa, reflecting his commitment to navigating the complexities of digital evolution and its societal impacts.

**Joseph Ochogwu** is currently the Director-General/CEO of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Abuja, Nigeria. He holds several fellowship awards and he is a Visiting Professor with the Nile University of Nigeria, and Bingham University, Abuja. Joseph Ochogwu has been working in the peacebuilding and governance fields for about twenty years with experiences in both the government and international development sectors. His latest research is on Politics of Social Assistance in Protracted Crises Area of North East Nigeria working as the national lead along with the Project team at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex. He also consults for development partners and national agencies.

**Hippolyt Pul** has more than 35 years of work in research, planning, management, and evaluation of programs and projects in social and economic development, governance, peacebuilding, and conflict across Africa. He worked in various positions with Catholic Relief Services in Ghana and globally, including serving as Regional Technical Advisor on Governance for West Africa (2003-2004); Deputy Regional Director for Program Quality for Central and West Africa (Oct 2004-Sept 2009) and Coordinator for Justice, Peace, and Governance Working Group for Africa (Oct 2009-Jan 2014). He is currently working as the founding President and Executive Leader of the Institute for Peace and Development (IPD). Hippolyt holds a PhD in International Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA; a Master's degree in Public and Social Policy, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, USA; and several post graduate certificates and diplomas. His

researched dissertations on conflicts in Northern Ghana (*Exclusion, Association, and Violence: Trends and Triggers of Ethnic Conflicts in Northern Ghana* 2003) and on peace in Ghana (*Threads and Stitches of Peace: Understanding What Makes Ghana An Oasis of Peace*, 2015) continue to attract global readership and citations. His current work and research interests focus on issues that bridge the fields of conflict management and resolution, peacebuilding, governance, and sustainable development planning and management.

**Naila Salihu** is a Senior Lecturer and Research Fellow with the Peace and Security Programme at the Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC). Her research interests include security and defense sector governance, peacebuilding, and military-societal relations in West Africa. She holds a PhD in Defence and Security from Cranfield University, Defence Academy of UK. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and Linguistics) and M.Phil. International Affairs from the University of Ghana. She teaches on training and academic courses at the KA IPTC and served as guest lecturer at the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Rhodes University, South Africa.

**Adam Sandor** is a Post-doctoral Research Associate at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. His research agenda examines the transnational governance of violence in the Global South with a focus on African security dynamics. His current research project asks to what extent do Africa-led security initiatives aiming to tackle armed Islamist groups challenge postcolonial security relationships and associated practices. He also examines the governance of armed groups in Africa.

**Mbassa Thioune** holds a Master's degree in econometrics and statistical methods from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, and is a statistical engineer-economist. He joined the Timbuktu Institute in 2017 as a survey officer and has led field studies in Senegal, Guinea, and the G5 Sahel countries through a regional project with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In charge of the youth radicalization and resilience unit in the Sahel, since 2018 he has been involved in mapping the factors of radicalization in the border areas of Senegal and the wider region. His various research topics cover among others radicalization, security, youth, and violent extremism. Mbassa Thioune is currently the Director of Studies of the Timbuktu Institute.

**Thomas Kwasi Tiekou** is a Professor of Politics and International Relations in King's University College, University of Western Ontario, and a former Director of African Studies at the University of Toronto where he won the Excellence of Teaching Award. He is the recipient of the 2023 Hugh Mellon Excellence in Research Award. He has produced five refereed books, and over 45 book chapters, and journal articles, including *The Legon School of International Relations* which won the 2022 Review of International Studies Best Article Prize. He has consulted for several organizations including the World Bank, the UN, the Canadian and the American governments.

**Antonia Witt** is the Head of the Research Group "African Intervention Politics" at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) where she leads several research projects among others on local perspectives on African interventions. She is the co-convenor of the Interdisciplinary Fellow Group "Sustainable Regional Peacebuilding" at the Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA), University of Ghana. Her research focuses on the politics of (African) interventions, violent extremism, the African Peace and Security Architecture, as well as authority and legitimacy in the international realm. She is the co-author of *International Organizations under Pressure* (Oxford University Press, 2019) and the author of *Undoing Coups: The African Union and Post-coup Intervention in Madagascar* (Zed Books, 2020). She has published journal articles inter alia in the *Review of International Studies*, *International Peacekeeping*, *Millennium*, and the *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*.