CONFLICT OBSERVATORY & PREDICTION GROUP CONFLICTOLOGICAL STUDIES
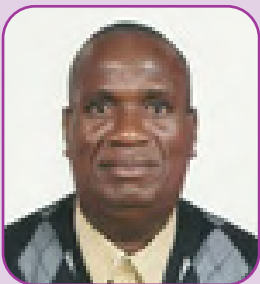
METHODOLOGICAL WORKSHOP
June 7, 2022

COP Scientific Group

Prof. Francis Onditi

Francis Onditi is associate professor of conflictology & Dean, School of International Relations and Diplomacy, Riara University, Kenya. He was recently enlisted as a distinguished research author and professor of research at the Institute for Intelligent Systems (IIS), University of Johannesburg, South Africa. He is the 2019 recipient of the AISA Fellowship awarded by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), South Africa. Prof. Onditi has published more than 70 articles in peer reviewed journals, contributed 20 chapters to edited volumes, and authored/co-edited 6 university level books. His epistemic research affiliation is conflictology specialising in the geography of conflict (geospatial analysis of conflict), institutional evolution theory, regional integration, and civil-military relations. Prof. Onditi's main contribution to knowledge is in modelling, thinking uncharted models, and development of theoretical frameworks and concepts, including, most recently, the 'dominatarian theory of regional integration', social pendulum theory and 'Technology for Peaceful Society' (T4PS). He has embarked on a long-term research agenda to study inter-tribal border market spaces, specifically, "exploring the analytical conception of the closeness centrality and its implications for a theory of interactivities for enhancing understanding of the process of conflict extraction with the aim of providing thereby an explanation of the intrinsic character of interaction among human beings, communities and states as a process of diffusion of power, conflict reversals, and peace interlocutors." This study is based on the premise that, what happens in the market spaces is predictive of the dynamics in the wider society.

Dr. Shadrack M. Kithiia

Dr. Shadrack M. Kithiia holds a Ph.D in Hydrology from the University of Nairobi with a strong focus on the assessment and analysis of water quality trends in Kenya. He is a senior lecturer in the Department of Geography, Population & Environmental. Dr. Kithiia teaches Fieldwork and Research Methodology together with Quantitative analysis of Research data in the Department. He has helped many postgraduate students in identifying sound research topics and in the analysis of data. His research focuses on impacts of human activities on water resources especially water quality and management fields and Climate Change initiatives on conflict mitigation measures as well food security in Arid and Semi-arid areas of Kenya and has published widely in these fields. Shadrack is a member of the Hydrological Society of Kenya, Environment Institute of Kenya and an active member of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), International Association on Water Quality (IAWQ) and International Association for Sediment & Water Science (IASWS) since 1993. Shadrack is a registered Hydrologist with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and Environmental Expert registered by National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and has used his expertise in formulation of sound management strategies for various organizations in the country.

Dr. Constansia Mumma-Martinon

Dr. Constansia Mumma-Martinon is a Lecturer in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. She is a Council member of the National Defense University –Kenya and the winner of The KAAd-Stiftung- The Prof. Dr. Peter Hünermann Award- 2021 from Germany. She has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Leipzig, Germany, a Masters in Diplomacy and International Studies and Postgraduate Diploma in Diplomacy and International Relations from the University of Nairobi. She has taught in several universities including: the European Peace University in Austria, the Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations, the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies, the National Defense College, the National Staff College and the National Intelligence Academy in Kenya. Since 2010 she has worked at the International Peace Support Training Centre in different capacities as the Head Applied Research, Curriculum Development Officer, Conflict Prevention Analyst, lead facilitator, facilitator, editor, rapporteur, discussant and moderator in several symposiums. Since 2018, she has been a lead facilitator in four consecutive Female Soldiers courses, Train the Trainer (T3) and Female Engagement Teams (FETS) Courses.

Dr. Holly Ritchie

Dr Holly Ritchie juggles academic research with consulting work and social entrepreneurship, and has over 20 years of international experience. She takes a special focus on gender, culture, and institutions in 'fragile' economic development. She has strong interest in innovation and technology in pathways of socio-economic change. Holly is a Research Fellow at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University (EUR), a Research Associate at the International Centre for Frugal Innovation (ICFI) and a Visiting Faculty member at Riara University. Her PhD focused on women's enterprise in Afghanistan and institutional change (ISS, Cum Laude, 2013). Post-doctorate research has investigated Somali and Syrian women refugees and economic engagement in urban Kenya and Jordan, and recently, digital inclusion (Ritchie, 2022). Alongside her academic work, Holly also works as a development consultant, with experience in Afghanistan (10 years), East Africa (8 years), the Middle East and Brazil. She is currently a Gender and Enterprise Advisor for the Dutch government (RVO) across the Horn of Africa (2019-present). https://www.linkedin.com/in/holly-a-ritchie-phd/. Complementing her academic and consulting work, in 2019, Holly founded a social enterprise in Kenya called THRIVE - Women Socio-preneurs for Change. (www.thriveforchange.org).

Dr. Philip Omondi

Dr. Philip Omondi is a Climate Scientist. He holds a PhD in meteorology from the University of Nairobi and The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP). He undertook his Post Doctoral research in the Climate Change Modelling and Downscaling in the United Kingdom. He is a holder of a Msc and Bsc in Meteorology, both from the University of Nairobi. He manages the strengthening of Resilience of the IGAD region to the Adverse Impacts of Climate Change through effective Adaptation and Mitigation Actions (RICCAMA) project. He has lead the initiative in analyzing the status of the climate in Eastern Africa. Philip previously held a position Senior Climate Risk Analyst with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa region. Published the Greater Horn of Africa climate risks and food security Atlas. The first head of Eastern Africa group of Expert Team of the World Climate Research Programme that initiated Coordinated Regional Down scaling Experiment (CORDEX) on the analysis of climate change information over the region. He also an Associate Lecturer at the Institute of Climate Change and Adaptation, University of Nairobi, Kenya.

Dr. Linda Ogallo

Dr Linda Ogallo is a climate change adaptation expert at the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), and has supported the region in climate proofing extension services and increasing the access of climate information to the last mile user. Linda is an authority on climate change, adaptation and sustainable development in the greater Horn of Africa, having published many policy papers and peer-reviewed journal articles over the last 15 years. The organization she works for- IGAD, was created by the African Union in 1986 as a regional economic community to provide timely, early-warning climate information and strategies for coping with crop yields and other uncertainties associated with climate variability. Linda heads the climate security agenda at the specialized institution. Linda Ogallo holds a holds a PhD in Climate Change and Adaptation from the University of Nairobi. Her focus of study was on understanding the role of charcoal production in the context of a changing climate. She also holds a Master's of Science Degree in Chemistry from North Carolina Central University as well as a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Chemistry from the same university. Linda is also an Eisenhower Fellow.

Redempter Mutinda

Redempter Mutinda is the recipient of the 2019 Outstanding Graduate Student award by the Mentoring Network for African Women in Academia (MTAWA), U.S.A. She holds MSc. Agri-enterprise Development from Egerton University and BSc. Agribusiness Management from Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), Kenya. She currently works with a Global Research Program on Enabling Systems Transformation at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)-Nairobi. Redempter is an agribusiness and international development researcher with a career objective of developing sustainable agricultural value chains in drylands and building climate security through research and entrepreneurship. She has been involved in climate security and forage enterprises research in Kerio-Valley, Kenya, Karamoja cluster region and in the cross-border region of Kenya and Somalia. She is assisting Professor Onditi in designing sample framework for the studies on intertribal border markets, quasi-experimental studies of conflicts including climate, food security, and livelihood vulnerabilities of pastoral communities. Redempter is undergoing a course on Advanced Master in International Development (AMID) offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences of Radboud University, Nijmegen in collaboration with the University of Nairobi, Kenya and with support of Edukans. She is involved in training youths in marginal areas with entrepreneurship and soft skills for work and life.

GIS and Environmental Expert

Anthony Gitonga is a GIS & Environmental expert. He has developed vast skills in the field of environment and natural resource management through application of different modelling tools. As a modelling expert, his application of Remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) tools, has enabled him offer informed environmental solutions regarding resource management; this is through data collection and analysis, literature review, scenario building and modelling, to name but a few. As an Environmental Associate expert registered by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA); Anthony works closely with different professionals on variety of research projects.

Anthony Gitonga

COP Mentee Group

Manuel Mutio holds Master's Degree in International Relations and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, both from the University of Nairobi. His area of research interest is political systems and regimes, foreign policy analysis and governance. Manuel has supported various teams conducting social science researches, including, Governance, and Democracy, Economic, Social and Cultural for various Government Institutions and International Institutions namely; University of Nairobi, Institute for Development Studies(IDS),University of Chicago, USA, Friedrich Ebert Siftung, Germany, International labour Organization (ILO),Germany Development Institute,(DIE),University of Colorado,USA.,Afro Barometer, Rwanda Centre for Basic Research (RCBR), Social Research Foundation, Tanzania, Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR),Comparative National Elections Project (CNEP),National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Manuel Mutio

Mecha N Peter holds First Class Honours degree in BSC(statistics),MSC(statistics),PhD in statistics (ongoing) from University of Nairobi, Kenya. He is a part-time lecturer at the university of Nairobi. He assists senior lecturers and researchers in planning and coordinating research and project development activities.

Peter Mecha

Matilda Awuor Owino holds a Master's degree in Mathematical statistics from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. She also holds a bachelor's degree in Mathematics, (Pure, Applied, and Statistics) from Egerton University, Kenya. She is currently working with the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) as a Policy Analyst, (Young Professional). She has participated in developing concept notes and reviewing both institutional and county policies. She has also done capacity building for the public university students including, Embu University. She has worked with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, as a research assistant from December 2017 to December 2021, she participated in many surveys in various sectors like the service sector; an integrated survey of services, (ISS,2018), and the manufacturing sector; Census of Industrial Production, (CIP, 2018). Moreover, over the mentioned years, she participated in the compilation of Gross Domestic Product research for Kenya, while at KNBS, which is always used to determine the status of Kenya's economy. Matilda is registered with the Kenya National Statistics Society (KNSS), as she is a researcher involved in data compiling, cleaning and processing, and dissemination to different stakeholders like the government. She is currently interested in the world of Information Technology and she is passionate about it. She is interested in programming and web development and would want to advance her knowledge on the same as she is looking for a scholarship in Data Science.

Matilda Owino

Zablon Orangi

Zablon M. Orangi is self-motivated, multi-skilled professional driven to inspire, grow and impact Africa through research and education management. Zablon holds an undergraduate and a Master of Education Planning from the University of Nairobi. He is an adjunct faculty at Garissa University's school of Education, Arts and Social Sciences. Zablon is an expert in educational planning. He is a registered Member of Society for Educational Research of Kenya (SEREK) and Member of Educational Management Society of Kenya (EMSK). His research interest is social and economic inequalities, gender equity in accessing education, inclusion in education, monitoring and evaluation, quantitative data analysis using SPSS, policy formulation and planning and networking with professionals on management research and higher education. Currently he is pursuing PhD in the University of Nairobi.

Nelson Wanyonyi

Nelson W. Wanyonyi holds First Class Honours degree in Geography (Bsc) from Egerton University, Kenya. He is a tutorial and research assistant at Riara University's School of International Relations and Diplomacy. He assists senior researchers in planning and coordinating research and project development activities. He has been involved in several research projects leading to publications and dissemination, including "Modeling a Pandemic (COVID-19) Management Strategy for Urban Slums Using Social Geometry Framework" European Journal of Development Research, Available at: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41287-020-00317-5).

He has also served as a research assistant at Georgetown University initiative on innovation, development and evaluation and Evidence Action-Kenya where he was responsible for daily survey organization and administration, facilitation of focus group discussion and networking with different components of the project and reporting appropriately. He is currently working with professor Onditi in designing sample frame for cross-sectional studies on intertribal border markets, pastoral transhumance and tracer studies of former combatants across Eastern Africa. Nelson is also an Environmental expert registered by National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). His research interest is in environmental conflict and quantitative research methodologies. He is registered for Msc in Climatology at Kenyatta University.