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International Conference on
**Counter-terrorism, Technology
& Development in Africa**

19 September 2024

CONFERENCE BOOKLET

2024

Hosted by

**Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University
Budapest, Hungary**

**Centre for Military Studies (CEMIS), Stellenbosch University
Stellenbosch, South Africa**

**and in partnership with
Africa Aerospace and Defence Expo (AADE expo)**

International Conference on

Counter-terrorism, Technology & Development in Africa

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ORGANISING INSTITUTIONS



Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Budapest, Hungary

The Africa Research Institute (ARI) was established in February 2019 within the framework of the Doctoral School of Safety and Security Sciences at the Óbuda University.

ARI's activities include academic research, higher education, organising scientific conferences, publishing research findings, consultancy, country-specific trainings, interviews for the media. The main fields of research of the Institute include African peacekeeping missions, terrorist and separatist organisations and terrorist activities in Africa, humanitarian response operations, food security and sustainable Africa, migration, the Global South and the Visegrad Countries and Africa.

The Research Institute publishes its own, double-blind peer-reviewed English language quarterly, the '*Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies*' (JCEEAS) (<https://jceas.bdi.uni-obuda.hu/index.php/jceas>). Senior research fellows of ARI provide the majority of the lecturers for the '*Humanitarian Response Manager*' international post-grad course. ARI has two yearly conferences, the '*Counter-terrorism, Technology & Development in Africa*' conference in cooperation with Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and the '*The Visegrad countries and Africa: history and contemporaneity*' conference with the Jagiellonian University, Poland and Stellenbosch University.

Additionally, ARI has multiple, various types of involvements in medical, educational, food safety-related and agricultural missions with its partners in several countries throughout the African continent (Ethiopia, Malawi, DRC, Kenya, etc.)



Centre for Military Studies (CEMIS), Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa

The Centre for Military Studies (CEMIS) was established in 1990 and is part of the Faculty of Military Science of Stellenbosch University. Given the multi-disciplinary nature of its research, CEMIS conducts research on defence and security issues, including, but not limited to, defence policy, resource management, leadership, technology, non-traditional threats to security and defence governance. It collaborates with various national and international academic institutions on specific themes. In addition to its academic activities, which include research, teaching, and academic supervision of post-graduate students. It also regularly undertakes research as part of the decision-support and advisory services to the Department of Defence

on complex and strategic matters. Its team comprises full-time staff members and research fellows from institutions inside and outside South Africa.



Africa Aerospace and Defence Expo, Tshwane, South Africa

The Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) is Africa’s only aerospace and defence expo that combines both a trade exhibition and an air show. Held biennially in the City of Tshwane – South Africa’s administrative capital, the AAD Expo is one of South Africa’s largest contributors to the country’s GDP in show years, and is regarded as a national asset. AAD brings together the largest gathering of industry players in aerospace and defence (manufacturers and innovators) and buyers (high-level international delegations, Defence Chiefs of Arms and senior procurement officers). Rated amongst the top six exhibitions in the world, it boasts more than 450 participating companies in the defence and aerospace industries, from over 30 countries. The AAD Expo provides a conducive environment for business-to-business linkages, as well as an ideal platform for engaging in dialogue and discourse on international defence, aerospace and other related best practices.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof. Dr. János Besenyő, Head of Institute, Africa Research Institute, Óbuda University, Hungary

Dr. Moses B. Khanyile CD(SA), Director, Centre for Military Studies Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Prof. Dr. Comfort Mkhize, Associate Professor, International and Diplomacy Studies, Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs, University of South Africa, South Africa

Lieutenant Colonel (Dr.) Benjamin Mokoena, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Lieutenant General Thalita Mxakato, Chief of Defence Intelligence, South African National Defence Force, South Africa

Prof. Dr. Anthoni van Nieuwkerk, Professor in International and Diplomacy Studies, University of South Africa (UNISA), South Africa

Dr. Mariaan Roos, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Lieutenant Colonel (Dr.) Jean-Pierre Scherman, Researcher, Centre for Military Studies, Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Gábor Sinkó, Junior Research Fellow, Óbuda University, Hungary

Prof. Dr. Darko Trifunović, Director of the Institute for National and International Security, Serbia

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM







**2024 International Hybrid Conference on
"Counter-Terrorism, Technology and Development in Africa"**

Co-hosted by the Óbuda University, Hungary and the Stellenbosch University, South Africa,
19 September 2024; Time: 08h30 for 09h00 - 16h10 (GMT+2)

09h00	<u>MS Teams Link - Plenary</u>	Plenary Session
09h00 - 09h10	Moderators: Prof. dr. János Besenyő, Óbuda University, Hungary	Welcoming by the Moderators
09h10 - 09h40	Dr. Moses B. Khanyile, Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Keynote Address by Lieutenant General Thalita Mxakato, Chief Defence Intelligence, South African National Defence Force

09h45 - 15h25		Panel Session			
	Moderators	Prof. Dr. János Besenyő, Óbuda University, Hungary	Dr. David Vogel, Óbuda University, Hungary	Prof. Dr. Darko Trifunović, Institute for National and International Security, Serbia	Gábor Sinkó, Óbuda University, Hungary
		Prof. Dr. Comfort Mkhize, University of South Africa, South Africa	Lt Col (Dr.) Benjamin Mokoena, Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Lt Col (Dr.) Jean-Pierre Scherman, Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Dr. Mariaan Roos, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
		Panel-1: In-Person (Hybrid)	Panel-2: Socio-Economic Development	Panel-3: Technology - Cyber-Security	Panel-4: Leadership - Governance
		<u>MS Teams Link</u>	<u>MS Teams Link</u>	<u>MS Teams Link</u>	<u>MS Teams Link</u>
09h45 - 10h05		Presenter-1	Presenter-1	Presenter-1	Presenter-1
	Name - Surname	Lunga Dweba	Sandile Mloi - Mohammed Haffejee	Adv Dennis Ramphomane	Dr. Mady Ibrahim Kante
	Institution	Geopolitical Intelligence Advisory, South Africa	University of Johannesburg, South Africa	University of South Africa, South Africa	University of Bamako, Mali
	Title of Paper	Military Deployment Against Zama Zamas: Assessing Counter-Terrorism Strategies and Human Security in South Africa's Illicit Gold Mining Sector	Convergences and divergences of Counterterrorism Policies: A Case Study of South Africa, the Southern African Development Community, and the African Union	Afro-centred AI: Artificial Intelligence with An African mouthpiece	The Geopolitical Reorganization of the Sahel: The Emergence of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) and the Changing Role of World Powers in the Fight Against Terrorism

10h05 - 10h25		Presenter-2	Presenter-2	Presenter-2	Presenter-2
	Name - Surname	Nombeko Ntingi, Thenjiwe Sithole, James Thaba Mphahlela - Muyowa Mutemwa	Adv Nandipha Ntsaluba	Dr. Nasir Ahmad Ganaie	Cara Rau
	Institution	University of Johannesburg, and CSIR, South Africa	University of South Africa, South Africa	University of Kashmir, India	Centre for Information Resilience, South Africa, South Africa
	Title of Paper	South Africa's Engagement with the International Court of Justice and its Relations with Israel: What is the Impact and Implications on Cyber Operations?	Implications of Lawful Data Processing Legislative Provisions on the Construction and Management of a Credible and Secure National Military Veterans Database	Securing the Virtual Realm: Exploring the Intersection of Social Media, Cybercrime, and India's National Security	Counter-Terrorism and the Future Role of PMC Wagner/African Corps in the Alliance of Sahel States (AES)
10h25 - 10h45		Presenter-3	Presenter-3	Presenter-3	Presenter-3
	Name - Surname	Prof. Dr. Theo Neethling	Audrey Rozanne Lawrence	Prof. Dr. Cuihong Cai - Dahao Yu	Col (Dr.) Amitabh Hoskote
	Institution	University of the Free State, South Africa	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Fudan University, China	Centre for Land Warfare Studies, India
	Title of Paper	The Wagner Group's Para-military Operations in Africa: The Legacy of Yevgeny Prigozhin and Beyond	Conflict, Instability and Reform in African States: A SWOT Analysis for Sustained Peace and Regional Development	Digital Economy Cooperation between China and Africa: A Global South and Dependency Theory Perspective	Quad ad rem de Africa – Essentiality of Stasis in Countering Threats to Internal Security versus Navigating Global Pressures
10h45 - 11h05		Presenter-4	Presenter-4	Presenter-4	Presenter-4
	Name - Surname	Prof Dr. János Besenyő - Dr. Zsolt Szabó, Hungary	Mphahlela James Thaba	Touazi Ilas	Capt(SA Navy) Graeme Plint

	Institution	Óbuda University, Hungary	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa	University of Mohamed Lamine Debaghin Sétif "2", Algeria	Stellenbosch University, South Africa
	Title of Paper	The 1963 Moroccan-Algerian Sand War and its Consequences on the Modern Era	The importance of Sovereign Technologies in the Counter-Terrorism Operations: Security and Economic benefits	France's Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Africa: Between Global Power Competitions and Anti-French Sentiments	Status of Counter Maritime Terrorism in SADC
11h05 - 11h20	Coffee break				
11h20 - 11h40		Presenter -5	Presenter-5	Presenter-5	Presenter-5
	Name - Surname	Dr. Moses B. Khanyile	Lt Col (Ms) Precious Gugu Lutywantsi	Shreya Goyal	Dr. Adam Mayer
	Institution	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	South African Army, South Africa	Jadavpur University, India	American University of Iraq, Iraq
	Title of Paper	From Orderly Disarmament to Accelerated Disorderly Re- armament Race: Implications for the Global South	Factors Supporting Recruitment for Terrorist Organisations in Africa: The Case of Al-Shabab in Eastern Africa	Technology and Maritime Security of African Coasts	Military Marxism: African Theory behind Military Rule in the Sahel and Beyond
11h40 - 12h00		Presenter-6	Presenter-6	Presenter-6	Presenter-6
	Name - Surname	Balint Pongracz	Lt Col (Dr.) Jean-Pierre Scherman	Dr. Hendrik Snyders	S. Vishnugayathre
	Institution	King's College, United Kingdom	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science, India
	Title of Paper	The Impact of Yevgeny Prigozhin's Death on Human Security in Sub-Saharan Africa	'Operation Bombay': South African Counter-Terrorism Operations in South West Africa (Namibia) and South East Angola, 1966-1969	Upping the Ante' - Drone Gang Warfare - An Emerging Urban Terrorism Threat in South Africa	The US and China's Thirst to gain influence over Africa: Competency or Competition?

12h00 - 12h20		Presenter-7	Presenter-7	Presenter-7	Presenter-7
	Name - Surname	Prof. Dr. Andreas Velthuizen	Ndzalama Mathebula - Hope Moremi	F /Sgt T. Maselela	Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Skrabacz - Dr. Patrycja Bryczek-Wróbel
	Institution	Independent Researcher, South Africa	University of Johannesburg, South Africa	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Military University of Technology, Poland
	Title of Paper	Intelligence systems to find terrorists in Africa	The Potential of Paradiplomacy as a Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Cabo Delgado	Adoption of Technologies in the SAAF Bases in Limpopo	The Use of Cognitive Warfare by Terrorist Organisations
12h20 - 13h00		Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion
13h00 - 13h30	Lunch break				
13h30 - 13h50		Presenter-8	Presenter-8	Presenter-8	Presenter-8
	Name - Surname	Adv Nandipha Ntsaluba	Ralitsa Savova	Péter Balogh	Prof. Dr. Darko Trifunovic
	Institution	University of South Africa, South Africa	University of Pécs, Hungary	University of Szeged, Hungary	Institute for National and International Security, Serbia
	Title of Paper	Dissecting Lawful Data Processing and Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy and Legislative Provisions For Drone Deployment During Law Enforcement In South Africa	Africa is “a woman”: European women - travellers, explorers and missionaries in Africa	Towards terrorism 3.0 in Africa (?) – Patterns and Trends of Structural Asymmetry in Terrorist Operations	Global Power and Counter-Terrorism in Africa
13h50 - 14h10		Presenter-9	Presenter-9	Presenter-9	Presenter-9
	Name - Surname	Dr. Christopher Griffin	Dr. Ayabulela Dlakavu - Madoda Sitshange	Arushi Singh	Dr. Peter Lofane

	Institution	Université Catholique de l'Ouest, France	University of Johannesburg, South Africa	Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers	University of Johannesburg, South Africa
	Title of Paper	The French Military Redeployment and Counterterrorism after Niger	Socio-Economic Development: A Structural Prevention Mechanism vis-à-vis Terrorism?	Persistent Faultlines: Algerian and Egyptian Counter-terrorism Strategy and Operations in the 21st Century	Counter-Terrorism and Global Powers: Shaping Human Security in Africa's Evolving Landscape
14h10 - 14h30		Presenter-10	Presenter-10	Presenter-10	Presenter-10
	Name - Surname	Dr. Kaleab Tadesse Sigatu	Tamás Kun	Alphones Abbas	Col (Prof. Dr.) István Resperger - Dr. Balint Somkuti
	Institution	FDRE Defence War College, Ethiopia	Óbuda University, Hungary	MIT World Peace University, India	Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Matthias Corvinus Collegium
	Title of Paper	Maritime Access as a matter of National Security: Ethiopia's Strategic Pursuit of a Naval Base and Port	Geopolitical Tensions around the Horn of Africa	Africa's Triple Threat: Terrorism, Inequality and the Digital Divide	Effects of a changing world order in Africa
14h30 - 14h50		Presenter-11	Presenter-11	Presenter-11	Presenter-11
	Name - Surname	Mthokozisi Maseko	Emma D. Chapman - Dr. Roman Tandlich	Jordan Petrócz	Gábor Sinkó
	Institution	University of Johannesburg, South Africa	Rhodes University, South Africa	Óbuda University, Hungary	Óbuda University, Hungary

	Title of Paper	Towards an Effective South African Counter Terrorism Policy Framework - A Critical Analysis of Contributing Factors Behind the US Counter Terrorism Policy Before and During the War on Terror Project	Human security and its implications in terms of the crisis-emergency-disaster continuum	Turkish involvement in Libya	Al-Shabaab's Secret Service, the Amniyat (Somalia)
14h50 - 15h25		Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion
15h30	<u>MS Teams Link - Plenary</u>	Plenary Session			
15h30 - 15h50	Feedback from Moderators	Feedback: Panel 1	Feedback: Panel 2	Feedback: Panel 3	Feedback Panel 4
16h00 - 16h10		Closing Address by Prof. Dr. Anthoni van Nieuwkerk, University of South Africa (UNISA), South Africa			
16h10	Closure				

PLENARY SESSION
(Please click here to join)

Moderators:

Prof. Dr. János Besenyő, Óbuda University, Hungary (besenyo.janos@bqk.uni-obuda.hu)

Dr. Moses B. Khanyile, Stellenbosch University, South Africa (mosesk@sun.ac.za)

09:00 – 09:10	Welcoming by the Moderators
09:10 – 09:40	Keynote Address by Lieutenant General Thalita Mxakato, Chief Defence Intelligence (South African National Defence Force)
09:45 – 15:30	<i>Panel sessions</i>
15:30 – 15:50	Feedback from the panels
16:00 – 16:10	Closing Address by Prof. Dr. Anthoni van Nieuwkerk (University of South Africa (UNISA), South Africa)

PANEL 1
– In-person & Online (Hybrid) –
(Please click here to join)

Moderators:

Prof. Dr. János Besenyő, Óbuda University, Hungary (besenyo.janos@bqk.uni-obuda.hu)

Prof. Dr. Comfort Mkhize, University of South Africa (mkhizmc@unisa.ac.za)

- 09:45 – 10:05 **Lunga Dweba** (Geopolitical Intelligence Advisory, South Africa):
Military Deployment Against Zama Zamas: Assessing Counter-Terrorism Strategies and Human Security in South Africa's Illicit Gold Mining Sector
- 10:05 – 10:25 **Nombeko Ntingi – Thenjiwe Sithole – James Thaba Mphahlela – Muyowa Mutemwa** (University of Johannesburg, CSIR, South Africa):
South Africa's Engagement with the International Court of Justice and its Relations with Israel: What is the Impact and Implications on Cyber Operations?
- 10:25 – 10:45 **Prof. Dr. Theo Neethling** (University of the Free State, South Africa)
The Wagner Group's Para-military Operations in Africa: The Legacy of Yevgeny Prigozhin and Beyond
- 10:45 – 11:05 **Prof. Dr. János Besenyő – Dr. Zsolt Szabó, Hungary** (Óbuda University, Hungary):
The 1963 Moroccan-Algerian Sand War and its Consequences on the Modern Era
- 11:05 – 11:20 *Coffee break*
- 11:20 – 11:40 **Dr. Moses B. Khanyile** (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
From Orderly Disarmament to Accelerated Disorderly Re-armament Race: Implications for the Global South
- 11:40 – 12:00 **Balint Pongracz** (King's College, United Kingdom):
The Impact of Yevgeny Prigozhin's Death on Human Security in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 12:00 – 12:20 **Prof. Dr. Andries Velthuizen** (Independent Researcher, South Africa):
Intelligence systems to find terrorists in Africa
- 12:20 – 13:00 *Panel discussion*
- 13:00 – 13:30 *Lunch break*
- 13:30 – 13:50 **Adv Nandipha Ntsaluba** (University of South Africa, South Africa):
Dissecting Lawful Data Processing and Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy and Legislative Provisions for Drone Deployment During Law Enforcement In South Africa

- 13:50 – 14:10 **Dr. Christopher Griffin** (Université Catholique de l’Ouest, France):
The French Military Redeployment and Counterterrorism after Niger
- 14:10 – 14:30 **Dr. Kaleab Tadesse Sigatu** (FDRE Defence War College, Ethiopia):
Maritime Access as a matter of National Security: Ethiopia’s Strategic Pursuit of a Naval Base and Port
- 14:30 – 14:50 **Mthokozisi Maseko** (University of Johannesburg, South Africa):
Towards an Effective South African Counter Terrorism Policy Framework - A Critical Analysis of Contributing Factors Behind the US Counter Terrorism Policy Before and During the War on Terror Project
- 14:50 – 15:25 *Panel discussion*

ABSTRACTS

Lunga Dweba (Geopolitical Intelligence Advisory, South Africa):

Military Deployment Against Zama Zamas: Assessing Counter-Terrorism Strategies and Human Security in South Africa's Illicit Gold Mining Sector

This paper examines the deployment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to combat illicit gold mining activities by Zama Zamas, framing it within the broader context of counter-terrorism strategies and human security challenges in Africa. The study critically analyses the effectiveness and implications of using military forces for law enforcement in addressing this complex socio-economic issue.

The research employs a multifaceted approach, combining historical analysis of similar military deployments globally, such as the Boston Massacre of 1770 and Bloody Sunday in 1972, with an assessment of the current South African context. It draws on case studies, policy documents, and expert opinions to evaluate the appropriateness and potential outcomes of this strategy.

Key findings highlight the risks of using military forces for civilian law enforcement, including potential human rights violations. The study reveals that while SANDF deployment may yield short-term reductions in Zama Zama activities, it fails to address root causes such as poverty and inequality, thus potentially exacerbating human security concerns. Furthermore, the research underscores the importance of distinguishing between military and police roles, emphasizing that the SANDF's training and operational focus are not aligned with the nuanced requirements of law enforcement. It also explores the geopolitical dimensions of artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), noting South Africa's relative inexperience in managing this sector compared to other African nations.

The study concludes by recommending a holistic strategy that integrates socio-economic development, policy reforms, and targeted law enforcement. This approach prioritizes human security alongside state security, focusing on poverty alleviation and creating alternative livelihoods for affected communities, thus contributing to the broader discourse on effective counter-terrorism and development strategies in Africa.

Nombeko Ntingi – Thenjiwe Sithole – James Thaba Mphahlela – Muyowa Mutemwa (University of Johannesburg, CSIR, South Africa):

South Africa's Engagement with the International Court of Justice and its Relations with Israel: What is the Impact and Implications on Cyber Operations?

South Africa filed legal proceedings against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in December 2023, arguing that Israel's actions in Gaza constituted genocide against the Palestinian people and violated the obligations under the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Genocide Convention). South Africa's legal proceedings prompted a geopolitical conflict that impacted both countries' foreign policy and diplomatic relations. Consequently, the legal and geopolitical conflict between South Africa and Israel may raise concerns about retaliatory actions, with South Africa being a target for offensive cyber operations by Israel and its allies. It is widely acknowledged that, due to increased reliance on digital infrastructure and the interconnection of global systems, contemporary geopolitical

tensions have transcended the conventional boundaries into the cyber realm. Through a literature review, this paper will explore potential impacts of cyber threats that South Africa could encounter as a result of this conflict. It also examines the current state of South Africa's cyber defence capabilities, assessing their readiness to withstand and respond to such threats. Additionally, the paper also provides strategic recommendations to enhance South Africa's resilience and cybersecurity capability and overall cybersecurity posture. By addressing the intersection of legal, geopolitical, and cyber dimensions, this analysis aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the implications of international legal actions on national security in the digital age. The findings underscore the necessity for robust cybersecurity frameworks to safeguard national interests amid escalating geopolitical conflicts and evolving cyber threats.

Prof. Dr. Theo Neethling (University of the Free State, South Africa):

The Wagner Group's Para-military Operations in Africa: The Legacy of Yevgeny Prigozhin and Beyond

As a Russian private military company, the Wagner Group has become an increasingly significant instrument in the Kremlin's foreign policy toolkit. Wagner can even be described as a quasi-state actor and a proxy institution of the Russian state. It has a footprint across the globe, but its operations have especially been mired in controversy on the African continent. In Africa, Russia has sought to expand its geo-political influence, and accordingly challenge the West. What is of particular interest is that Wagner's operations are conducted in resource-rich and fragile African states where insecurity or conflict prevails. In the decade before his death, Wagner's commander, the late Yevgeni Prigozhin had forged relationships with the leadership of countries such as Mali, Libya, Sudan, Central African Republic, and several others; deploying mercenaries to help tackle insurgencies or provide personal protection for leaders. In return, Wagner got access to mines and infrastructure deals as well as political clout. In view of the above, this paper examines the Wagner Group as a foreign policy instrument of the Russian government. The discussion commences with a background section, followed by an overview of Wagner's activities worldwide, and particularly in Africa. Lastly, following Prigozhin's death in August 2023 the question is: what next for Russia in Africa after Wagner? After all, Prigozhin was seen as the conductor of an orchestra of many parts. To this end, this paper will also attempt to reflect on the most recent dynamics in relation to Wagner's ongoing para-military operations on the African continent.

Prof. Dr. János Besenyő – Dr. Zsolt Szabó, Hungary (Óbuda University, Hungary):

The 1963 Moroccan-Algerian Sand War and its Consequences on the Modern Era

Moroccan-Algerian relations have long been in the midst of a very serious crisis. As early as the 1950s and 1960s, Morocco put forward the Greater Morocco plan, which anticipated their claim to parts of Algeria. The Moroccan-Algerian struggle for dominance also resulted in a brief military conflict between the two countries in 1963, which lasted a few months and was known as the Sand War. Further tensions were created by Algerian support for the liberated Sahrawi people from 1975, which disturbed Morocco. This has had a knock-on effect on the present, with Algeria favouring the Moroccan Republic of the Rif and Morocco's support for independence of the Kabyle people. The tussle between the two countries, which are highly

involved in the arms trade, is causing increasing tension in the desert region and, according to experts, there is a chance of further escalation. Algeria's support for the Sahrawi people in the form of the Polisario and Morocco's support for Algerian separatist organisations will not ease decades of tensions between the two regional powers. In addition to the struggle, it is important to take into account the parallel conflicts taking place in the world – for example the Russian-Ukrainian war and the conflict in the Middle East –, which have a real impact on the escalation of the conflict in North Africa. In addition, it should be noted that the specific forms of conflict in Africa have an impact on the further escalation of problems between the two countries. The future will determine what will become of North Africa's biggest regional struggle.

Dr. Moses B. Khanyile (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):

From Orderly Disarmament to Accelerated Disorderly Re-armament Race: Implications for the Global South

The period leading up to the end of the Cold War and the first decade after the collapse of the former Soviet Union was lauded as the period in which humanity gave long-term peace a chance. This emanated from a number of disarmament treaties that had been signed by the global powers, which were undergirded by mutually-agreed checks-and-balances. One of the most remarkable achievements of the time was the conclusion of non-proliferation agreements on nuclear weapons. During the same period, South Africa ceased to be a nuclear power but only retained nuclear expertise for peaceful purposes, especially for nuclear energy. With the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the subsequent comprehensive sanctions imposed on it, a new period of global re-armament race was ushered in. Unlike the disarmament process which was largely structured, systematic and driven by global powers, the re-armament race seems disorderly and destructive. This paper seeks to analyse this emerging global re-armament process with a view to identifying potential implications and solutions for the global south generally, and Africa in particular.

Balint Pongracz (King's College, United Kingdom):

The Impact of Yevgeny Prigozhin's Death on Human Security in Sub-Saharan Africa

My paper and presentation will begin with the brief and clear outline of the definitions and descriptions of the terms and events mentioned in the research question, these are: 1) human security, as defined by 1994 Human Development Report of the UN, 2) private military companies, as opposed to private security companies and mercenaries, 3) Sub-Saharan Africa, an explanation of why North African countries are not discussed in this research and outlining in which Sub-Saharan countries Russian PMCs have been active and in what timeframe, 4) the death of Prigozhin, a general description of the events leading up to his death. Additionally in this first segment I would like to explore the argument that the death of Yevgeny Prigozhin has affected Russian PMCs in the region in two aspects, their structure and behaviour. These two categories will then form the chapters of the publication and the segments of the presentation.

Change in the structure: The death of Prigozhin has meant that the Wagner group has lost its owner/leader. However, more importantly, it means that the largest Russian PMC has lost its

private corporate status and became, in essence, a state-owned enterprise. This segment will describe the corporate structure of the Wagner group under Prigozhin and contrast it with the architecture of its successors the Africa Corps, PMC Redut and PMC Convoy.

Behaviour: The new leadership of the Russian private military companies have redirected the aims and goals of these entities, thus changing their behaviour too. This segment will analyse the shift in the behaviour of Russian contractors both on an operation level (what services do they provide) and on the strategic level (in which countries do they deploy).

Human Security implications: In the two previously outlined categories a number of changes have been identified. These will then be measured against the 7 types of security outlined by the UN.

Prof. Dr. Andreas Velthuisen (Independent Researcher, South Africa):
Intelligence systems to find terrorists in Africa

This paper is inspired by the need to fill the gap for context-specific knowledge on the functioning of intelligence systems in and African contexts where terrorism poses a threat to the wellbeing of people and reliable intelligence is the main defensive line of society in terms of decision-making on appropriate immediate response or calculated strategies over an extended time. Against this background the author asks the question: What innovative, integrated intelligence system is required to discover, and predict terrorist activities? The purpose of this chapter is to analyse and reflect on the iterative relationship between terrorism and intelligence systems with a focus on Africa in the current global context. The aim of the chapter is therefore to illustrate the values and elements of an innovative intelligence management system that would enable the intelligence professional and decision-maker to timely discover and inspire response to terrorist activity in African society. The aim is achieved by following a triangulation of research methodology that presenting the essential findings from current literature, qualitative observations from personal experiences in counter-insurgency and intelligence operations in Southern Africa, where terrorist tactics were used, contents from personal reflective diaries from critical and complementary reflections after presentations and discussions during international events. The discussion starts with a brief conceptual clarification on terrorism and intelligence systems, followed by a discussion of research findings of what is required to conduct intelligence to amplify and penetrate the 'heart' of the terrorist to safeguard specific African societies marred by terrorism.

Keywords: Terrorism, terrorist, intelligence, intelligence systems, African societies(

Adv Nandipha Ntsaluba (University of South Africa, South Africa):
Dissecting Lawful Data Processing and Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy and Legislative Provisions for Drone Deployment During Law Enforcement In South Africa

The Paper seeks to present the dissection of multilateral as well as domestic legal instruments data Privacy Provisions as flowing from the Lawful processing paradigm and impact of these on the deployment of drones during law enforcement. The inherent interface with the Artificial intelligence will also be teased. The study aims to unveil a lacuna and presents a case for privacy by design innovations to enable ease of commercialisation. It is common parlance that, drones are a species of the robotics family that owe their existence from the military. Drones are referred to as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and display features of accuracy, speed, predictability as well as machine learning attributes. They are thus force multipliers as

well as risk-based Business continuity levers, as they are able to traverse air, land and sea in pursuit of a mission, thus nullifying the need for physical presence. The COVID Pandemic aptly displayed the utility of drones in the communication as well as maintenance of COVID Protocols through IoT and IoMT capabilities. Notwithstanding is a reality that the advent of drones as commercialisation of the military capabilities has simultaneously ushered in human rights abuses as well as revolutionised the normal criminal law procedures. This is so in that, in normal cases, specific legal obligations must prevail for operationalisation of searches with or without a warrant, a situation that never prevails with utilisation of robotics and drone technology. This is due to the absence of legislative instruments that governs the cyberspace where these operate as well as the transnational character that such operations assume. The Geneva Convention read together with the Chicago Convention provides for the regulation within the air space domain during war as well as in peace time.

Dr. Christopher Griffin (Université Catholique de l'Ouest, France):
The French Military Redeployment and Counterterrorism after Niger

In an interview with the French magazine *Le Point* at the end of August 2023, French President Emmanuel Macron claimed that “French [counterterrorism] military operations in the Sahel were a success, as they prevented the establishment of a caliphate a few thousand kilometres from our borders.” This statement came one year after France’s withdrawal of its military forces from Mali and several weeks after the July 26 coup d’état in Niger. France subsequently withdrew its 1500 soldiers from Niger, with the French President saying in September 2023, “there is no more *Françafrique*.” Russia’s Wagner organization has attempted to fill the strategic void left by the French withdrawal, but its future after the death of its leader remains uncertain. While this may seem like the end for France’s military influence in the region, it is important to note that France did not withdraw completely, but redeployed and maintained its forces elsewhere in the region, notably in Chad. That means that France has not left a strategic vacuum in the Sahel, but has moved its forces to the territory of other partners where the defence treaty system remains in effect. France retains its capacity to strike across much of the region. Considering the French move from a historical perspective, it may be just a temporary redeployment, as France’s military was repeatedly asked to leave its partners in a variety of circumstances in the past. The French Government, however, often returned in force in emergencies. This paper will analyse the strategic rationale of the French redeployment in the Sahel in 2022 and 2023 and what it means for overall French counterterrorism strategy. It will also look at the difference in French strategic thinking regarding the local threat to its partners by highly-mobile “terrorist” military units affiliated with AQMI and ISIS and the transnational threat directly to French citizens and French territory. This has been at least partially overlooked in the literature on the topic. In this way, the paper provides an analysis of the latest developments in French counterterrorism strategy in the Sahel, and will argue that it is unlikely that France has definitively abandoned the region.

Dr. Kaleab Tadesse Sigatu (FDRE Defence War College, Ethiopia):

Maritime Access as a matter of National Security: Ethiopia's Strategic Pursuit of a Naval Base and Port

Ethiopia, a landlocked nation since Eritrea's secession in 1993, has faced significant challenges in ensuring its economic prosperity and national security. This paper examines Ethiopia's quest for access to the sea as a critical national security issue, situating it within the broader context of regional stability and international maritime law. It analyses the methods employed by the post-2018 government to secure a port and establish a naval base, including agreements with neighbouring Djibouti and Somaliland. The research explores the economic and security rationales behind Ethiopia's maritime ambitions, highlighting the limitations of relying on a single port and the potential benefits of diversification. Additionally, it discusses the regional security implications of Ethiopia's naval aspirations and potential challenges associated with establishing a base. This research utilizes a qualitative approach, drawing on scholarly articles, government reports, news media, and policy analyses. It employs critical discourse analysis to examine the justifications presented by Ethiopian officials for securing access to the sea. Additionally, the paper draws on case studies of other landlocked countries that have pursued similar strategies to strengthen their national security. Ethiopia's quest for access to the sea is a complex issue with significant economic and security ramifications. While securing a port and establishing a naval base offer potential benefits for trade, resource control, and regional influence, there are also inherent challenges. The paper concludes by discussing potential solutions and strategies that Ethiopia could pursue to navigate these complexities and achieve its maritime goals in a way that fosters regional stability and cooperation.

Mthokozisi Maseko (University of Johannesburg, South Africa):

Towards an Effective South African Counter Terrorism Policy Framework - A Critical Analysis of Contributing Factors Behind the US Counter Terrorism Policy Before and During the War on Terror Project

During his tenure as the Assistant Director of the CIA and Counter Terrorism Chief analyst within the CIA, Paul R Pillar (1989- 1999) advocated for a robustly academic and nuanced approach towards counter terrorism. This approach was primarily informed by his understanding of terrorism as an activity that should not be perceived through lenses of ethnicity and faith or theology. Instead, it should be purely perceived and treated as a phenomenon that posed security threat without colour codes and boards due to its diverse manifestations across ethno-racial and faith or religious lines. He also considered it as a phenomenon that should be managed instead of being approached with the force that intends to completely eradicate, which he considered as an approach which has the potential of defeating terrorism from within without placing civilians in danger at the hands of law of enforcements agencies and policymaking. This approach was opposed by Coffey Black - a senior intelligence officer within the counter terrorism cell who was subsequently promoted to the directorate position - who preferred a much colour coded or black and white approach. This colour coded approach strongly implicated ethnicity and faith or religion, with major highlights during the War on Terror project. This clash of approaches resulted in the resignation of Pillar and the official adoption of Black's approach as the US counter terrorism

policy that foregrounded the War Against Terror project after 9/11. This study applies broad contextual considerations of the sociopolitical differences between South Africa and the US in juxtaposing the critical analysis of Black's and Pillar's overall approach on counter terrorism. It pays closer attention on the limitations and strengths of the colour coded and robustly nuanced approaches of the two intelligence officers. It particularly aims to interrogate the effective role of academic intelligence officers in counter terrorism policymaking by analysing Pillar's approach vis-a-vis the general outcomes and legacy of the War on Terror Project.

PANEL 2
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

– Online only –
(Please click here to join)

Moderators:

Dr. David Vogel, Óbuda University, Hungary (vogel.david@bqk.uni-obuda.hu)

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Benjamin Mokoena, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

(benjaminmokoena@sun.ac.za)

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 09:45 – 10:05 | Sandile Moloji – Mohammed Haffejee (University of Johannesburg, South Africa):
<i>Convergences and divergences of Counterterrorism Policies: A Case Study of South Africa, the Southern African Development Community, and the African Union</i> |
| 10:05 – 10:25 | Adv Nandipha Ntsaluba (University of Public Service, Hungary):
<i>Implications of Lawful Data Processing Legislative Provisions on the Construction and Management of a Credible and Secure National Military Veterans Database</i> |
| 10:25 – 10:45 | Audrey Rozanne Lawrence (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)
<i>Conflict, Instability and Reform in African States: A SWOT Analysis for Sustained Peace and Regional Development</i> |
| 10:45 – 11:05 | Mphahlela James Thaba (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa):
<i>The importance of Sovereign Technologies in the Counter-Terrorism Operations: Security and Economic benefits</i> |
| 11:05 – 11:20 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:20 – 11:40 | Lt. Col. (Ms) Precious Gugu Lutywantsi (South African Army, South Africa):
<i>Factors Supporting Recruitment for Terrorist Organisations in Africa: The Case of Al-Shabab in Eastern Africa</i> |
| 11:40 – 12:00 | Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jean-Pierre Scherman (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
<i>‘Operation Bombay’: South African Counter-Terrorism Operations in South West Africa (Namibia) and South East Angola, 1966-1969</i> |
| 12:00 – 12:20 | Ndzalama Mathebula – Hope Moremi (University of Johannesburg, South Africa):
<i>The Potential of Paradiplomacy as a Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Cabo Delgado</i> |
| 12:20 – 13:00 | <i>Panel discussion</i> |
| 13:00 – 13:30 | <i>Lunch break</i> |

- 13:30 – 13:50 **Ralitsa Savova** (University of Pécs, Hungary):
Africa is “a woman”: European women - travellers, explorers and missionaries in Africa
- 13:50 – 14:10 **Dr. Ayabulela Dlakavu – Madoda Sitshange** (University of Johannesburg, South Africa):
Socio-Economic Development: A Structural Prevention Mechanism vis-à-vis Terrorism?
- 14:10 – 14:30 **Tamás Kun** (Óbuda University, Hungary):
Geopolitical Tensions around the Horn of Africa
- 14:30 – 14:50 **Emma D. Chapman – Dr. Roman Tandlich** (Rhodes University, South Africa)
Human security and its implications in terms of the crisis-emergency-disaster continuum
- 14:50 – 15:25 *Panel discussion*

ABSTRACTS

Sandile Moloi – Mohammed Haffejee (University of Johannesburg, South Africa):
Convergences and divergences of Counterterrorism Policies: A Case Study of South Africa, the Southern African Development Community, and the African Union

The African continent has had to wrestle with many different forms of terrorism and terrorist actors since the dawn of independence. Today's terrorist landscape is more fluid and complex than ever. For this reason, counterterrorism cannot be a sole responsibility of a state acting unilaterally to tackle an issue that is transborder or borderless. This article aims to assess the convergencies and divergencies of counterterrorism policies in Africa with a sharp focus on South Africa's counter-terrorism policies vis-à-vis that of its regional and continental partners. It focuses on the counterterrorism measures of South Africa and attributes their growing intensity to addressing the concerns raised in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) 2021 report. It is the contention of this paper that South Africa's responses aimed at combating terrorism are a part of a broader process of convergence of counterterrorism policies and measures targeting all forms of terrorism within Africa and mainly within the Southern African region. Hence, the counterterrorism policies adopted by South Africa resembles those of its neighbours and the African Union member states. In line with Omelicheva (2009), the three mechanisms that lie at the roots of this process are direct coercive transfer, harmonization of security policies, and emulation of counterterrorism responses.

Adv Nandipha Ntsaluba (University of South Africa, South Africa):
Implications of Lawful Data Processing Legislative Provisions on the Construction and Management of a Credible and Secure National Military Veterans Database

In ensuring participation of Military Veterans within the AU 2063 strategic levers with special emphasis on Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement and plan, an intellectual discourse within the African Continent on the features of a secure interoperable database is long overdue. The AU response to EU AI trajectory through the AU AI Policy with output deliverable foregrounds this discourse to ensure continental economic participation of Military Veterans. The current 2024 of the AU focus on SDG 4 on promotion of inclusive fit for purpose Education and training commands such in embracing ACFTA mandate. South African Military Veterans have assumed a transnational character as a consequence of the various strategic positioning postures that characterised the struggle for democracy, social and economic justice in Africa as guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Defence Review 1998 proclaimed the cradle to grave management of man and women in uniform. The Military Veterans Act 18 of 2011, referred to hereafter as "the Act" owes its origins from both repealed Military Veterans Act 1 of 1999 and the Military Veterans Task Team Report 2011. Central to the servicing of the Military Veterans Mandate is the development and maintenance of the credible and secure database of Military Veterans. It is with this understanding of a special priority was soo developed for tracking by the Executive Authority for the Defence and Military Veterans Mandate. This Priority entitled" Realisation of a secure military veterans database. The credibility aspect of the database focuses on ensuring that only bonafide military veterans as defined in section 1 of the Act. Security refers to the architecture that

ensures that the system is shielded from any form of deletion, alteration both at capturing, storage and transmission. This requirement demands quality at source as well as compliance with protocols regarding collection, procession and storage of personal information. Ensuring data protection at storage, in transit and at destination remains sacrosanct in the light of multilateral provisions (EU Directive, GDPR, Malabo Convention) and the domestication of such within the jurisdiction of South Africa (MISS, RICA, ECTA, POPIA). Central to such is the role played by the Information Regulator. This paper provides elements that must be considered for regulating to ensure enforcement of data governance in the operationalization of the provisions of section 6 of the Military Veterans Act 18 of 2011.

Audrey Rozanne Lawrence (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):

Conflict, Instability and Reform in African States: A SWOT Analysis for Sustained Peace and Regional Development

The African continent is characterised as rich with high-quality natural resources, yet plagued with sustained regional and internal conflicts, high corruption rates, and skewed economic and educational outcomes. Literature indicates that regional cooperation can be traced back many years ago. However, various challenges on the African continent have made regionalism difficult - such as persistent and ongoing conflicts and wars; weak institutions and institutional capacity; governance and leadership issues; and economic, socio-economic, and policy shortcomings. The Organisation of African Unity (OAU)'s Agenda 2063 now attempts to place its focus on regional stability and integration on key pillars centred on these key challenges highlighted above, to position Africa as a powerhouse in the global arena. Utilising a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats, and Opportunities), this paper will focus on regional cooperation in African States, focusing on sustained peace, democratic governance, inclusive growth, development, and transformation, as highlighted by various initiatives and envisaged for the African Continent. Using scholarly literature, this paper will also discuss current realities and future opportunities for regional cooperation on the African Continent, post-COVID-19.

Mphahlela James Thaba (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa):

The importance of Sovereign Technologies in the Counter-Terrorism Operations: Security and Economic benefits

The importance of Sovereign Technologies in the Counter-Terrorism Operations: Security and Economic benefits. The dynamic security landscape across Africa demands a transformative approach to counter-terrorism. This paper argues for prioritizing the development of sovereign technologies over commercially available (COTS) solutions to bolster Africa's special operations capabilities. COTS dependence introduces vulnerabilities, such as potential backdoors and limited control over updates, which adversaries can exploit. In contrast, sovereign technologies offer enhanced security by allowing greater control, customization, and resilience in counter-terrorism operations. The paper explores the strategic role global powers can play in supporting this shift. Collaboration through technology transfer, joint ventures, and capacity building initiatives, all respecting sovereignty, can foster African

technological independence. This empowers nations to develop indigenous solutions tailored to their unique challenges. Sovereign technologies can elevate special operations forces, enhance intelligence gathering, and ultimately lead to more effective counter-terrorism missions. Beyond security gains, fostering sovereign technologies presents a significant economic opportunity for Africa. Investment in research and development will create high-skilled jobs, stimulate domestic innovation ecosystems, and diversify economies away from resource dependence. This economic empowerment will further strengthen regional stability and contribute to a more prosperous Africa. This approach not only mitigates COTS-related risks but also strengthens regional stability and self-reliance. By examining case studies and proposing policy recommendations, the paper aims to guide the integration of sovereign technologies into Africa's counter-terrorism framework. This proactive stance will equip nations to face evolving threats, contributing to a more secure global environment.

Lt. Col. (Ms) Precious Gugu Lutywantsi (South African Army, South Africa):

Factors Supporting Recruitment for Terrorist Organisations in Africa: The Case of Al-Shabab in Eastern Africa

There has been an increase in the membership of Al-Shabab in Eastern Africa, Africa, and the world at large from 2010 to 2020. This increase has given the world the responsibility to establish effective counter-radicalisation strategies, which can only be achieved when there is a clear and thoroughly researched understanding of why the youth join terrorist organisations such as Al-Shabab. The main aim of this study was to understand the richly textured experiences and reflections of Eastern African youths who are the target for Al-Shabab's recruitment, hence the use of the qualitative research approach. This study aids in providing a clearer perspective of the risk profile of Eastern African youths who are vulnerable to recruitment into Al-Shabab, and it describes the different methods of recruitment that Al-Shabab utilises in the Eastern African region. Furthermore, the study highlights the relevant factors that support Al-Shabab recruitment. The researcher used the interpretivist paradigm in conjunction with symbolic interactionism as the theoretical framework for the study. This study was further supported by utilising a case study as the research method for studying Eastern African communities. The researcher used expert sampling to collect primary data by conducting semi-structured interviews with six subject matter experts (SMEs). The six-step thematic analysis process produced four themes that were appropriate and relevant for exploring and understanding the experiences, thoughts, and behaviour of the youths of Eastern Africa. This study assists relevant organisations such as government agencies, civil society organisations, the private sector, the business community, and international organisations to establish an effective preventative counter-terrorism strategy that will end terrorism by starving Al-Shabab of new membership by interrupting its recruitment strategy. The study contributes to establishing and implementing an effective solution for radicalisation through previous experiences and lessons learned regarding Al-Shabab's recruitment in the Horn of Africa. The study advises government agencies, civil society organisations, the private sector, the business community, and international organisations that can be used to develop counter-radicalisation strategies and policies specific to the Eastern African region, particularly Kenya and Somalia.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jean-Pierre Scherman (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
'Operation Bombay': South African Counter-Terrorism Operations in South West Africa (Namibia) and South East Angola, 1966-1969

In September 1965, the first unit of six South West African Liberation Army (SWALA) guerrillas, departed the Kongwa refugee camp in Tanzania to infiltrate into South West Africa (Namibia). These six soldiers were the first of thousands of members of the armed wing of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) who had decided to take up arms against South Africa which had administered the territory since the First World War. Travelling from Tanzania, the group passed through Zambia and entered the Portuguese colony of Angola. Here they had to contend with members of the Portuguese Armed Forces (PAF) who were locked in battle with various liberation groups fighting to free Angola from Portuguese rule. The group once safely through Angola infiltrated into northern SWA (Namibia) where they planned to set up a camp and begin a program to convert their fellow countrymen to the struggle. In opposition to these men, were members of the South African Police (SAP), who were responsible for maintaining law and order across northern SWA (Namibia). Early in 1964 the SAP requested assistance from the South African Air Force (SAAF) with the transfer of six Alouette III helicopters to the SAP. Two of these helicopters, whose SAAF crews had attested into the SAP for the duration of their mission and whose helicopters now displayed SAP markings, were sent to Windhoek, the capital of SWA (Namibia) to assist the SAP in patrolling the vast stretches of the northern border. Soon other elements of the South African Defence Force (SADF) would be pulled northwards as more People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) guerrillas (as SWALA had been renamed) entered into the territory. Between 1966 and 1969, this conflict will expand as the SAP in collaboration with the SADF and PAF set about countering the armed infiltration by PLAN guerrillas. This paper intends to investigate this process to determine how the South Africans intended to conduct this counter-terrorism operation.

Ndzalama Mathebula – Hope Moremi (University of Johannesburg, South Africa):
The Potential of Paradiplomacy as a Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Cabo Delgado

This paper aims to discuss and propose paradiplomacy and community engagement as instruments for stabilizing the Cabo Delgado insurgency. The paper contributes to the limited literature on integrating paradiplomacy and community engagement in Africa's counter-insurgency framework. The study employed a qualitative explorative approach, mainly relying on documentary data sources from existing literature, previous research outputs, and media reports. The main argument is that African counter-terrorism efforts have embodied a top-down approach that has achieved little results and no sustainable peace. Thus, employing a paradiplomatic approach and engaging with the community (bottom-up) holds significant prospects for addressing the factors that inflame the conflict and promoting sustainable peace in the province of Cabo Delgado. In addition, the study reveals that, apart from corruption and low political participation, the critical internal factors driving the Cabo Delgado conflict are the socio-economic injustices resulting from poor governance, neglect by the government, displacements, and loss of livelihoods due to mining activities. As a result, a bottom-up or people-centred approach is necessary to address these socioeconomic challenges and promote peace in the region.

Ralitsa Savova (University of Pécs, Hungary):

Africa is “a woman”: European women - travellers, explorers and missionaries in Africa

Many of the readers tempted by the topic of Africa, certainly associate the first European presence on this continent with the names of not a few great men-travellers and explorers. However, probably a smaller proportion of readers associate colonial Africa with names of foreign women who left significant social traces for the benefit of local societies there. Some of them followed their husbands - explorers and discoverers in Africa, supported them, inspired them, and helped their activities. Others, with business acumen, set up their own coffee farms in Africa while writing books and teaching local children to read and write. And others of them devoted themselves to missionary activity, practiced it either independently or were united in Protestant and Catholic missionary organizations. The purpose of this lecture is both to pay tribute to some of the European women whose names have become legends because of the significant social imprint they left with their activities in Africa from the mid-19th century to the beginning of the World War II, and also to add other inspiring examples of lesser-known European women travellers, explorers and missionaries for whom Africa became the work of life, mission and destiny.

Dr. Ayabulela Dlakavu – Madoda Sitshange (University of Johannesburg, South Africa):
Socio-Economic Development: A Structural Prevention Mechanism vis-à-vis Terrorism?

Kegley and Blanton (2011) conceptualise terrorism as planned violence perpetrated against non-combatant or non-armed targets by a national or subnational group or covert agents, whose aim is to exert influence. Terrorism has been a mainstay of politics globally dating back to ancient times, with modern terrorist groups having access to advanced technology and sophisticated weapons. Technology itself facilitates cross-border connections among terrorists with similar political or socio-economic aims, opening up avenues for sophisticated cyber-terrorism and netwar strategies (Kegley and Blanton, 2011: 174). It is often argued that socio-economic marginalization are structural factors that often give rise to terrorism, serving as a unifying cause for members of an aggrieved terrorist organization. By examining the terrorism case studies of Al Shabaab and ISIL in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, and the global terrorist network known as Al Qaeda, this paper examines the extent to which socio-economic marginalization can be considered a key driver of terrorism, and whether addressing socio-economic marginalization can be adopted as an effective universal counter-terrorism policy. The key questions guiding this paper are: what is the relationship between socio-economic marginalization and terrorism? To what extent do the insurgencies of Al Qaeda, Al Shabaab and ISIL make reference to socio-economic grievances? Is equitable socio-economic development a panacea for preventing and/or managing terrorism? The paper makes use of mixed methods research design to address these questions, ensuring that quantitative and qualitative data provide a substantive contribution to the discourse on socio-economics as a determinant of subnational, national and international terrorism.

Tamás Kun (Óbuda University, Hungary):
Geopolitical Tensions around the Horn of Africa

The Red Sea crisis has been heavily altered cargo routes in maritime transport, where increase of shipping costs can be measured in ten percents and several days longer transportation times. Around the Horn of Africa, several attacks occurred which has been carried out by Houthi rebels from Yemen. The Iran-backed group using these attacks as a form of message sending towards the United States and their allies, showing sympathy towards Gaza in the Israel-Hamas war. The neighbouring Djibouti had to reinforce its coast guard patrols to ensure security and in order to react for the rising tensions in the area. The paper attempts to examine the situation in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea with the analysis of the possible reasons behind the strikes against vessels and other targets in the region, where all members from the “Four Policemen” are present in the discussion of the conflict. The international security system is going through a vivid transformation, where these new proxy wars are milestones along the way. The transportation of goods via the sea is a crucial point in international trade and the extension of power, which was a key element in the US military doctrine for decades after the Second World War. On this field a potential rival is China, who is actively seeking opportunities to challenge the US and trying to acquire dominance in trade. These issues have to potential to make further impacts on the affected parties, where economic and humanitarian crises are also on the table.

Emma D. Chapman – Dr. Roman Tandlich (Rhodes University, South Africa):
Human security and its implications in terms of the crisis-emergency-disaster continuum

Human security is generally seen as a multidimensional concept and the dimensions include social, health and physical security. The crisis-emergency-disaster continuum allows for the assessment of the severity of the impact and the scale of impacts of situations in human lives, where destruction and harm to the human well-being take place. Distinguishing between a crisis, an emergency and a disaster, as well as the assessment of the impacts of each of the events on the dimensions of human security, can provide valuable lessons for the improvement of policies and identification of best practices in crisis/emergency/disaster management. In this paper, theoretical analysis is performed to distinguish between the crisis, emergency and disaster, and impact of each of these events on human security. The EMDAT database figures for South Africa and data from local municipalities such as Witzenberg Local Municipality are used as foundation of the analysis. The period covered includes the 20th century on state level and the recent COVID19 time on the local municipal level. Through the definition of the crisis-emergency-disaster continuum impacts and severity of the events, that have taken place on social wellbeing, are performed. The continuum is then linked to the impacts on the maintenance and breakdown in the dimensional balance of human security situations are presented. Results of the analysis point to the need to holistically monitor, coordinate and alter policies on the various levels of government to maintain the minimisation of impacts of the crisis-emergency-disaster events on human individuals and societies, as well an environment where the human security dimensions are constantly being improved.

PANEL 3
TECHNOLOGY & CYBER-SECURITY
– Online only –
(Please click here to join)

Moderators:

Prof. Dr. Darko Trifunović, Institute for National and International Security, Serbia
[*\(galileja@yahoo.com\)*](mailto:galileja@yahoo.com)

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jean-Pierre Scherman, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
[*\(schermanj@sun.ac.za\)*](mailto:schermanj@sun.ac.za)

- 09:45 – 10:05 **Adv Dennis Ramphomane** (University of South Africa, South Africa):
Afro-centred AI: Artificial Intelligence with An African mouthpiece
- 10:05 – 10:25 **Dr. Nasir Ahmad Ganaie** (University of Kashmir, India):
Securing the Virtual Realm: Exploring the Intersection of Social Media, Cybercrime, and India's National Security
- 10:25 – 10:45 **Prof. Dr. Cuihong Cai – Dahao Yu** (Fudan University, China)
Digital Economy Cooperation between China and Africa: A Global South and Dependency Theory Perspective
- 10:45 – 11:05 **Touazi Ilas** (University of Mohamed Lamine Debaghin Sétif "2", Algeria):
France's Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Africa: Between Global Power Competitions and Anti-French Sentiments
- 11:05 – 11:20 *Coffee break*
- 11:20 – 11:40 **Shreya Goyal** (Jadavpur University, India):
Technology and Maritime Security of African Coasts
- 11:40 – 12:00 **Dr. Hendrik Snyders** (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
Upping the Ante' - Drone Gang Warfare - An Emerging Urban Terrorism Threat in South Africa
- 12:00 – 12:20 **F /Sgt Tebogo Lazarus Maselela** (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
Adoption of Technologies in the SAAF Bases in Limpopo
- 12:20 – 13:00 *Panel discussion*
- 13:00 – 13:30 *Lunch break*
- 13:30 – 13:50 **Péter Balogh** (University of Szeged, Hungary):
Towards terrorism 3.0 in Africa (?) – Patterns and Trends of Structural Asymmetry in Terrorist Operations

- 13:50 – 14:10 **Arushi Singh** (Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers):
Persistent Faultlines: Algerian and Egyptian Counter-terrorism Strategy and Operations in the 21st Century
- 14:10 – 14:30 **Alphones Abbas** (MIT World Peace University, India):
Africa's Triple Threat: Terrorism, Inequality and the Digital Divide
- 14:30 – 14:50 **Jordan Petrőcz** (Óbuda University, Hungary):
Turkish involvement in Libya
- 14:50 – 15:25 *Panel discussion*

ABSTRACTS

Adv Dennis Ramphomane (University of South Africa, South Africa):
Afro-centred AI: Artificial Intelligence with An African mouthpiece

Artificial (“AI”) is a concept that’s about 70 years old. Due to the ubiquitous use of Generative Artificial (“GenAI”), in the past 18 months or so, case in point ChatGPT; majority of every Tom, Dick & Harry regard ChatGPT as “AI”. Built on about 1.6 billion parameters, ChatGPT is a Western concept constructed in English. A language spoken by some, and often understood by a few. A few shots fired across the bow; there are about 7000 languages globally. However, Wikipedia has only recorded about 35 languages in its database and ironically, no African languages are there. Africa is one of the World’s largest economies, housing a potential 1.3 trillion US dollar GDP. Further, there are a plethora of ethnicities, creed, and LANGUAGES. (My own emphasis). With that in mind, language becomes a barrier to trade within its borders. Language, a commodity taken for granted, but personified as a gate-keeper for Africa’s wealth and prosperity. However; not all is doom and gloom. Thanks to startups such as Lelapa AI’s VulaVula, Big Science’s BLOOM- built on about 160 million parameters, and recently Nigeria’s multilingual Large Language Model developed by Awarri, built on about 14 million parameters; help lance Africa’s boil in the proverbial AI race. However, a spanner tossed in the works does make this seem like a pipe dream. Youth unemployment, gender inequality, climate change, lack of data sovereignty, and lack of adequate infrastructure make achieving these feats an even tougher row to hoe. What about AI and its impact on the environment that flies in the face of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the African Union 2063 goals? ChatGPT uses about half a litre per 5 queries. An Olympic sized swimming is emptied after every blockchain transaction. The rest would be history; but AI is the past, present and future. And our future generations are going to live in the latter.

Dr. Nasir Ahmad Ganaie (University of Kashmir, India):
Securing the Virtual Realm: Exploring the Intersection of Social Media, Cybercrime, and India’s National Security

This research endeavours to investigate a pivotal concern that has assumed a preeminent position as a formidable menace to India’s national security. The study delves into the examination of two pivotal dimensions, namely, the proliferation of social media terrorism and the concomitant cybersecurity issues. These aspects engender multifarious challenges stemming from the utilization of social media and cyber terrorism within the geographic ambit of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Furthermore, this scholarly contribution scrutinizes and dissects the pivotal role played by social media platforms in the dissemination of terrorist networks, underlining their growing significance in the contemporary era, underpinned by advancements in the realm of scientific innovations. The article also elucidates the modus operandi of terrorist entities operating within the precincts of Jammu and Kashmir, as they employ modern tools deemed optimal for the furtherance of their terrorist activities within the region, thus constituting a belligerent force against the Union of India.

Prof. Dr. Cuihong Cai – Dahao Yu (Fudan University, China):

Digital Economy Cooperation between China and Africa: A Global South and Dependency Theory Perspective

The rapid development of the digital economy is becoming a key factor in reshaping the global economic structure and changing the pattern of world competition. Since the Belt and Road Initiative was proposed, the "Digital Silk Road" connection between China and Africa has become increasingly close, and digital economy cooperation has become a new highlight of China-Africa cooperation. In this context, based on the Global South and dependency theory perspective, by empirical methods, through data analysis, literature review and process tracking, this paper attempts to analyse that China-Africa digital economic cooperation will not lead to dependence, and points out that through digital economic cooperation with China, Africa can reduce its dependence on northern countries and improve the status in the world. Since both China and Africa belong to the Global South, China, as a leading country in the digital economy, will not exploit latecomers under the centre-periphery capitalist system with its first-mover advantage, as northern countries do. Instead, in the digital age, China is more inclined to improve the overall power of the global South through economic cooperation, in order to correct the current unfair world system. The digital economy cooperation between China and Africa has great potential. With the continuous driving forces of system renewal, institutional inertia, subject demand and object endogeneity, digital economy cooperation between China and Africa has achieved remarkable results and gradually deepened. At the macro level, China and many countries in Africa have introduced and promoted government strategic plans for digital economy cooperation. At the micro level, a large number of Chinese technology companies have carried out practical cooperation with countries in Africa, and made a series of achievements in digital infrastructure, e-commerce, digital cultural industries and other fields, injecting new vitality into the high-quality development of the Digital Silk Road. However, the digital economy cooperation between China and Africa also faces challenges at four levels. At the global level, the world economy is in a downward cycle and geopolitical tensions are rising. At the regional level, there is a digital divide in Africa, and the ethnic and religious contradictions in the region are also very complicated. At the national level, there are international interest disputes and internal resistance among African countries. At the social level, the existing problems such as the clash of civilizations, religious practices, and poverty in Africa also had certain negative impacts on digital economy cooperation. For Africa, the "Digital Silk Road" will promote the diversified development of the economic structure and industrial upgrading in the region, and therefore is conducive to building a more equitable, prosperous, intelligent and sustainable society. China and Africa should unite under the banner of the Global South, adopting appropriate strategies to address challenges, pursue "Tech for Good", promote economic recovery, build a digital community with a shared future, and jointly shape the new future of mankind in the digital era.

Touazi Ilas (University of Mohamed Lamine Debaghin Sétif "2", Algeria):

France's Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Africa: Between Global Power Competitions and Anti French Sentiments

The terrorist threat is clearly a major challenge for France's national security, especially since 2015, when it has been the target of home-grown and transnational jihadist radicalization

affiliated with al-Qaeda and the Islamic State. France is therefore actively involved at all levels with its international partners to counter global terrorist networks, particularly in Africa, where it is focusing on a strategy of prevention by strengthening military cooperation efforts along with bilateral and multilateral anti-terrorism diplomacy as part of stabilisation missions and the quest for political solutions to conflicts. In this perspective, the research, through a synthetic overview, examines the relevance of French anti-terrorist policies in Africa in a regional and international context essentially characterised on the one hand by the rise of new security actors that have a retrograde impact on the exclusivity of French influence within the regional competition of great powers including Russia, China, and Turkey. On the other hand, in the collective memory, there is an anti-French African sentiment closely linked to its colonial past, reinforced by the neo-colonial political burden of *Françafrique*, which makes its role complex. Hence the need for a reorientation of counter-terrorism cooperation policies in Africa on the basis of a strengthened partnership away from global power competition and narrow national interests, but rather as part of an integrated approach to tackling terrorism, radicalization, and violent extremism.

Shreya Goyal (Jadavpur University, India):
Technology and Maritime Security of African Coasts

This paper seeks to discuss the use of new-age technology for maritime safety and security in the African waters for ensuring economical and effective exploration of sea resources. The paper deals with two main variables - technology and maritime security that are correlational to each other. Technology enhances surveillance, communication, information sharing, access control etc. which also decreases marine insecurities. Terrorist activities start on the terrestrial land but eventually make their way to the waters, making the sea a hotspot for illegal activities. This paper seeks to investigate how piracy, illicit oil bunkering, unreported and unregulated fishing, attacks on unmanned submersibles, etc. in the coastal zone of the African continent are major maritime menaces. This impedes the optimum exploration of the sea resources. Innovations in Africa's maritime security have led to greater regional coordination and cooperation. Moreover, the 5+5 dialogue between North Africa and Southern Europe, the Yaoundé Code of Conduct (2013) and the Djibouti Code (2009) are some of the main pillars to this issue. The paper undertakes qualitative and quantitative methodologies to study the problem of terrorism with a special focus on the Gulf of Guinea. The paper contends that though the implementation of science and technology requires massive investment, it is the most favourable path to address security threats at sea and boost sea exploration efforts. Since the technology for effective implementation of maritime security and optimum utilization of sea resources are at a nascent stage of development, much would depend on international cooperation and the development of an international regime.

Dr. Hendrik Snyders (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):

Upping the Ante' - Drone Gang Warfare - An Emerging Urban Terrorism Threat in South Africa

South Africa has a long-standing problem with organised crime, especially from certain numbers (26, 27 and 28) gangs. According to recent media reports, some of these urban-based groups have already required drone technology which they use to monitor rivals, members and the police. Although there are no reports as yet of killing/murder by drone, international precedent indicates that this may just be a matter of time. There are, further, also disturbing reports of gangs having succeeded in infiltrating parts of the security industry. This development, according to a police spokesman, undermines the South African Police Services' crime-fighting capabilities. There is thus a need for all sectors of South African society to develop a high state of alert for this emerging threat and to develop an appropriate counter terrorism plan to combat these.

F /Sgt Tebogo Lazarus Maselela (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):

Adoption of Technologies in the SAAF Bases in Limpopo

Society depends on military organisations to defend it against external threats and internal conflicts. The dynamic nature of modern security threats, especially in cyberspace and rapid technological advancement, create innovative and productive solutions that compel the adoption and integration of information communication technologies (ICTs) in the military. This study aimed to explore the adoption of technologies in the South African Air Force (SAAF) bases in Limpopo. A qualitative research design method was employed within an interpretivist research philosophy. The researcher collected data through a focus group outline that utilised open-ended questions with engineering personnel in two SAAF units in Limpopo. The Technology Acceptance Model underpinned the analysis of data. The findings revealed that members of the SAAF bases in Limpopo identified obstacles such as load-shedding, leadership issues, limited access to information, constraints in mobile communication networks, and concerns about hacking as significant challenges to technology adoption within the military. Additionally, low member morale in adopting new technologies is attributed to a lack of information access, outdated communication systems, and a lack of mobile networking infrastructure. The study also found that perceived usefulness and ease of use significantly influenced the attitude of Limpopo SAAF members towards ICT adoption and usage. However, only perceived usefulness significantly influenced their intention to use ICT, suggesting that fundamental changes to the Technology Acceptance Model may be necessary for the SAAF members in Limpopo. While integrating ICTs into military settings presents challenges and opportunities, the discussion underscores the importance of structured learning experiences, foundational understanding, and leadership in navigating technological advancements within military environments. Addressing these key elements is essential in realising the full potential of ICTs in enhancing military capabilities and operations.

Péter Balogh (University of Szeged, Hungary):

Towards terrorism 3.0 in Africa (?) – Patterns and Trends of Structural Asymmetry in Terrorist Operations

In our planned presentation we wish to introduce relevant results from our investigation related to different aspects of asymmetry in terrorist attacks of the New Millennium with a focus on the African continent. First the research topic is to be outlined from a theoretical perspective based primarily on the concept of asymmetric warfare, fourth generation war and new terrorism, additionally we also utilize certain aspects of guerrilla warfare and the challenges of counter-insurgency operations in order to better comprehend the complex conflict sector in Africa. From an operational perspective we distinguish certain forms of asymmetry which serve as a core element of the investigation. In this aspect we consider suicide attacks, multiple-weapon and multiple-target actions, coordinated operations and cooperative attacks as different possible forms of asymmetry while organizing and carrying out actions in relation to postmodern terrorism. As a further important operational term, we introduce network asymmetry elaborated during our research activities which is in the focus of the empirical examination. In order to explore the prevalence and patterns of the above-mentioned terrorist attack forms in the African security context we applied quantitative empirical methods. Based on secondary data analysis we examine a representative sample of the Global Terrorism Database when exploring and introducing both territorial and temporal figures, and certain network analysis methods were also utilized to map the patterns and the structure of the activities of African terrorist groups. In the course of data analysis besides basic descriptive methods comparative procedures were also applied to illustrate interregional and intraregional differences. Based on the research results it can be concluded, that (1) postmodern terrorism in Africa can be characterized with higher level of asymmetric forms of terrorist attacks, (2) the tendencies also prove to be positive in the distribution, and (3) the embeddedness of the terrorist groups seems also noticeable. In the closing remarks of the presentation, we wish to summarize the main research results, consider the limitations and raise some possible further directions of the investigation.

Arushi Singh (Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers):

Persistent Faultlines: Algerian and Egyptian Counter-terrorism Strategy and Operations in the 21st Century

Since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas conflict, two new militant groups have emerged in Egypt. Meanwhile, Algerian security forces engaged in armed clashes in Ain Defla, resulting in the deaths of three militants in July 2024. Furthermore, Algeria faces a threat from terrorist activities in Libya, Mali, and Niger, as well as trafficking in humans, weapons, and narcotics, especially in border areas. Additionally, in 2022, Algerian authorities focused on countering the Berber separatist Movement for the Self-Determination of Kabylie (MAK) and the Islamist movement Rachad, both designated as terrorist organizations in 2021. This highlights the ongoing necessity of counterterrorism strategies in Egypt and Algeria. Counterterrorism involves implementing policies and measures to combat, prevent, and address the root causes of terrorism. In this context, the research will explore the historical and geopolitical contexts of counterterrorism strategies in Egypt and Algeria; analyse their current operational

dimensions; and examine future challenges and prospects in the counterterrorism domain in the coming years.

Alphones Abbas (MIT World Peace University, India):
Africa's Triple Threat: Terrorism, Inequality and the Digital Divide

Leadership and corporate governance play pivotal roles in shaping the landscape of counter-terrorism, technology, and development in Africa. This abstract explores the interconnectedness of these domains, highlighting how effective governance and leadership can mitigate the threats posed by terrorism, leverage technological advancements, and foster sustainable development across the continent. In the context of counter-terrorism, African nations face unique challenges that require strong leadership and robust governance frameworks. These frameworks must emphasize transparency, accountability, and strategic coordination among various governmental and non-governmental entities. Leaders must navigate complex socio-political landscapes, addressing root causes of extremism, such as poverty, inequality, and political instability, while also ensuring human rights are respected. Effective governance structures are crucial in managing resources, implementing policies, and fostering international cooperation, all of which are vital in the fight against terrorism. The role of technology in this triad is twofold: it serves as both a tool for development and a means of enhancing counter-terrorism efforts. Technological innovations, including advanced surveillance systems, data analytics, and cybersecurity measures, are instrumental in detecting and preventing terrorist activities. Moreover, technology fosters economic development by improving infrastructure, enhancing education, and increasing access to information and services. However, the digital divide in Africa poses a significant challenge, as unequal access to technology can exacerbate social inequalities and undermine development efforts. Development in Africa is inextricably linked to the effectiveness of governance and the utilization of technology. Good leadership and corporate governance ensure that technological advancements translate into tangible improvements in healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. They also play a crucial role in creating an enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship, which are essential for sustainable growth. In conclusion, the interplay between leadership, corporate governance, counter-terrorism, technology, and development in Africa underscores the need for a holistic approach. Leaders must prioritize inclusive governance, leverage technology for social good, and collaborate internationally to address the multifaceted challenges of terrorism and underdevelopment. By doing so, Africa can harness its potential and achieve long-term stability and prosperity.

Jordan Petrőcz (Óbuda University, Hungary):
Turkish involvement in Libya

Turkey as getting more and more involved in African policy and military industry is taking a crucial role in Libyan civil war. Some experts say that Turkey is even more active within the old borders of the former Ottoman Empire and feel much more responsible within this region. What is for sure that Turkey took part in the Libyan civil war and what is more some battles

were decided by Turkish drones, making Turkey not only a player but a gamechanger in the conflict.

PANEL 4
LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE
– Online only –
(Please click here to join)

Moderators:

Gábor Sinkó, Óbuda University, Hungary (sinko.gabor@phd.uni-obuda.hu)

Dr. Mariaan Roos, Stellenbosch University, South Africa (mroos@sun.ac.za)

- 09:45 – 10:05 **Dr. Mady Ibrahim Kanté** (University of Bamako, Mali):
The Geopolitical Reorganization of the Sahel: The Emergence of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) and the Changing Role of World Powers in the Fight Against Terrorism
- 10:05 – 10:25 **Cara Rau** (Centre for Information Resilience, South Africa, South Africa):
"Counter-Terrorism and the Future Role of PMC Wagner/African Corps in the Alliance of Sahel States (AES)"
- 10:25 – 10:45 **Col. (Dr.) Amitabh Hoskote** (Centre for Land Warfare Studies, India)
Quad ad rem de Africa – Essentiality of Stasis in Countering Threats to Internal Security versus Navigating Global Pressures
- 10:45 – 11:05 **Capt. (SA Navy) Graeme Plint** (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
Status of Counter Maritime Terrorism in SADC
- 11:05 – 11:20 *Coffee break*
- 11:20 – 11:40 **Dr. Adam Mayer** (American University of Iraq, Iraq):
Military Marxism: African Theory behind Military Rule in the Sahel and Beyond
- 11:40 – 12:00 **S. Vishnugayathre** (Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science, India):
The US and China's Thirst to gain influence over Africa: Competency or Competition?
- 12:00 – 12:20 **Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Skrabacz – Dr. Patrycja Bryczek-Wróbel** (Institute for Security and Defence, Faculty of Security, Logistics and Management, Military University of Technology, Poland):
The Use of Cognitive Warfare by Terrorist Organisations
- 12:20 – 13:00 *Panel discussion*
- 13:00 – 13:30 *Lunch break*
- 13:30 – 13:50 **Prof. Dr. Darko Trifunović** (Institute for National and International Security, Serbia):
Global Power and Counter-Terrorism in Africa

- 13:50 – 14:10 **Dr. Peter Lofane** (University of Johannesburg, South Africa):
Counter-Terrorism and Global Powers: Shaping Human Security in Africa's Evolving Landscape
- 14:10 – 14:30 **Col. (Prof. Dr.) István Resperger – Dr. Bálint Somkuti** (Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Matthias Corvinus Collegium):
Effects of a changing world order in Africa
- 14:30 – 14:50 **Gábor Sinkó** (Óbuda University)
Al-Shabaab's Secret Service, the Amniyat (Somalia)
- 14:50 – 15:25 *Panel discussion*

ABSTRACTS

Dr. Mady Ibrahim Kanté (University of Bamako, Mali):

The Geopolitical Reorganization of the Sahel: The Emergence of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) and the Changing Role of World Powers in the Fight Against Terrorism

This research examines the geopolitical reorganization in the Sahel region, focusing on two main axes: the emergence of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) and the changing role of global powers in the fight against terrorism. The emergence of the AES is analysed through its reasons and motivations, as well as its strategic objectives aimed at replacing foreign forces and the G5 Sahel. This study assesses the operational effectiveness of the AES and its impact on regional stability. The analysis highlights local initiatives for regional security, highlighting the growing desire of Sahelian nations to assume responsibility for their own security, independent of foreign interventions. Simultaneously, the research explores the evolution of the commitments of the world powers in Africa, especially in the Sahel. It examines the strategic adjustments of these powers in response to the emergence of the AES and the new security realities in Africa. The study analyses new forms of cooperation and support between African states and world powers in a rapidly changing environment. The objectives of this research are multiple: understand how the AES positions itself as an alternative to foreign forces and the G5 Sahel in the fight against terrorism, explore the impact of this reconfiguration on regional security strategies, and assess how global powers are adapting their role and presence in Africa in the face of these changes. Finally, the research proposes recommendations for more effective international cooperation, aligned with the local realities of the Sahel. The methodology combines a literature review of academic reports and publications, interviews with security experts and policy makers, as well as specific case studies. This approach aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the new security dynamics in the Sahel, highlighting the interactions between local initiatives such as AES and the global strategies of global powers. The research also provides practical insights to improve counterterrorism policies in a rapidly changing African context.

Cara Rau (Centre for Information Resilience, South Africa, South Africa):

Counter-Terrorism and the Future Role of PMC Wagner/African Corps in the Alliance of Sahel States (AES)

The strategic and human rights implications of the deployment of Russian Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner (re-branded to African Corps) to fight Jihadist violence in the AES States are numerous. The AES states, namely Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso have faced Islamist insurgencies from both al-Qaeda-aligned Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) and Islamic State Sahel Province (ISSP) for years. In the wake of all three countries undergoing military coups since 2021 and alongside the withdrawal of French and UN troops from all three nations, PMC Wagner has stepped in to fill the void left by these bodies in the fight against Jihadist terrorism. While Wagner only deployed to Niger on 12 April 2024, it has been active in Burkina Faso since 24 January 2024 and in Mali since December 2021. Since the group arrived in Mali and Burkina Faso, it has directly fought and explicitly been targeted by JNIM and ISSP militants highlighting significant intersections between state-backed PMCs and non-

state armed groups in asymmetric theatres of warfare. Wagner has also been accused of human rights violations including extrajudicial executions, sexual violence, and torture during its deployment in Jihadist hot zones. This study examines the motivations driving JNIM and ISSP's actions by analysing their official statements by their media wings Az-Zallaqa Media and Nashir News Agency, respectively. The research presents the repercussions of Wagner deployment for regional security dynamics and their broader implications for counter-terrorism strategies in the Sahel region. By evaluating the evolving role of PMCs such as Wagner in counter-terrorism operations within the Alliance of Sahel States, this research aims to provide insights into the future of PMCs in asymmetrical conflicts and the challenges posed by the use of PMCs in contemporary African conflict zones.

Col. (Dr.) Amitabh Hoskote (Centre for Land Warfare Studies, India):

Quad ad rem de Africa – Essentiality of Stasis in Countering Threats to Internal Security versus Navigating Global Pressures

Africa faces dual challenges – countering threats posed by terror networks and fending off an onslaught of pressures by global powers – a de facto second wave of colonialism. Internally, its asymmetries find expression in the foisting of threats by multiple terror networks, challenging hegemony of the state, resulting in violence, subversion of political processes, and economic drain of resources much needed for development of its people. These networks naturally spawn synergies between African nations and global powers, which themselves constitute the over-two-decades long ‘War on Terror’. In human security terms, Africa grapples with a lethal combination of ethnic discrimination and strife, extreme poverty, lack of state capacities, dichotomous internal priorities, and rising radicalisation; fertile grounds for any number of internal security threats to germinate and proliferate. Ostensibly, these concerns also trouble the West, and find common ground for cooperation initiatives in targeting terror networks. However, viewed in context of its huge wealth of natural resources, an evolving geopolitical landscape may also be propelling interests inimical to African sovereignty, unity, and stability. Hence, the author’s use of the term ‘de facto colonialism’, emphasizing the urgency of a blueprint for African nations to assert their autonomies and independence in the complexities of global partnerships, whilst utilising the common denominator to develop and employ counter-terrorism strategies to their own advantage. This paper focuses on evaluation to fill inadequacies in research of this emerging scenario, finding its base in contextualising proliferation of terror, its metamorphosis as the ‘fourth wave’, and African efforts at counterterrorism; juxtaposed against the growing influence of global powers. Positioned at a confluence of studies in terror proliferation, human security imperatives, international interventions, and ramifications of international power plays, the paper joins dots between challenges and pertinent assessments of African security, as well as its sense among the concord of nations. Combining the skills of political scientist and military archaeologist, the author lays out contextual interrogation of phenomena of terrorism and internal security in Africa, highlighting the criticality for African nations to maintain equilibrium in their dealings with global powers, and not allow their autonomies and control to be compromised.

Capt. (SA Navy) Graeme Plint (Stellenbosch University, South Africa):
Status of Counter Maritime Terrorism in SADC

Effective regional response to maritime terrorism, requires a common understanding of the key defining concepts. Bjorn Moller highlights that as there is “no authoritative definition of terrorism as such, ‘maritime terrorism’ is hard to define.” To make demarcation of terminology even more complex, there is a perceived nexus between maritime terrorism and maritime piracy. However, Honnibol in *One Treaty to Apply Them All? Defining Maritime Terrorism by Cross-References and Reservations: The ASEAN Region Example*, provides some relief to this conundrum by proposing that maritime terrorism should be seen as a umbrella term under which to consolidate “the piecemeal approach of numerous treaties that create offenses for identified acts at sea as shared offenses.” He identifies seventeen treaties and protocols that “explicitly apply to maritime offenses because parties are obliged to establish jurisdiction over offenses at sea”. by arguing that by cross-referencing state ratification of these treaties at regional level an inter-subjective understanding of maritime terrorism can be constructed. This paper will use this approach to construct a conceptual baseline for SADC countries. Such a baseline can provide a departure point for not only the inclusion of maritime counter-terrorism obligations into the SADC Maritime strategy but also for the formulation of Maritime counter-terrorism doctrine and capabilities.

Dr. Adam Mayer (American University of Iraq, Iraq):
Military Marxism: African Theory behind Military Rule in the Sahel and Beyond

For decades, with religious and ethnic conflict engulfing much of Africa, secular radicalism seemed a thing of the past, indeed moribund. Then in the mid-2010s, Leftist Military rule reappeared with coups in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Marxist parties also popped up on the electoral landscape in 'liberal democratic systems' from Kenya through South Africa (EFF) to Nigeria (Omoyele Sowore). Although Marxist guerilla war had ample theoretical literature analysing it before the late 1980s, it is rarely realized that Military Marxism of the putschist variety has also had its own African thinkers, even beyond French speaking Africa. Militant and Military Marxism, much maligned even in Western Leftist circles, and considered a deviation from "orthodox Marxism," has nonetheless come back with a vengeance with Africa's newly multipolar international security constellation first in the Sahel a decade ago, to spread farther on the continent. I propose to introduce and briefly analyse how Military Marxism has fit in the history of a larger African history of ideas especially in the field of politics and international relations but also political economy. Far from following Soviet, Chinese, or Cuban ideas without reflection, Africa's Military and political thinkers have produced Marxist theory for forms of government where the military steps beyond its usual roles, to attempt social transformation.

S. Vishnugayathre (Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science, India):
The US and China's Thirst to gain influence over Africa: Competency or Competition?

China and America are the major external stakeholders in Africa's peace, security, and prosperity. Africa has a country with productive citizens and expanding consumer base has

further intensified the China-US competition for better bilateral relations with Africa. Most of Africa however best considered to be neutral as it tries to maintain good relations with both countries. Leaving behind the ideological conflict is considered a better way for Africa to give its space for survivance because of various civil wars, terrorist influence and poor infrastructure. This chapter attempts to analyse the scope of Africa in managing the bilateral relationship with both countries by flash lighting on the US-China competition. As China increases its influence in the African region by building its Belt and Road initiatives and its emergence as a major economic player surpassing the US has somewhat flatlined the role of the US, on the other hand, Chinese influence is seen as worrisome in some parts of Africa as it is of exploitative in nature. This chapter will critically evaluate the role and influence of both countries in aspiring Africa's development. This chapter will also examine the scope of Africa's betterment and its thirst for one amongst the global players amidst big powers' geopolitical aspirations and how it can handle the situation effectively and make use of it in this current era of a Multipolar globalised world.

Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Skrabacz – Dr. Patrycja Bryczek-Wróbel (Institute for Security and Defence, Faculty of Security, Logistics and Management, Military University of Technology, Poland):

The Use of Cognitive Warfare by Terrorist Organisations

New technologies have become a source of cyber threats and a weapon used by terrorist organisations. Technologies have emerged as a result of the development of missile, satellite, computer, telecommunications and internet technologies. The possibility of disinformation, manipulation and propaganda has increased. The development of and access to social media, social networking and instant messaging, and mobile devices is widely used. Social media has enabled the emergence of a new field of warfare - cognitive warfare called mind warfare. Cognitive warfare is the use of the means and methods of information warfare in psychological warfare, the aim of which is to change the opinions, attitudes and behaviours of the opponent to those desired by the aggressor. NATO specialists believe that both cyber and information warfare, psychological and socio-technical tools, as well as the internet and social media, are used to achieve the stated goal. The aim of cognitive warfare is to introduce disinformation, contradictory narratives, polarise opinions, radicalise factions and motivate them to take actions that can disrupt or fragment society. The widespread use of social media and smart technologies in the developed world by terrorist groups can take a heavy toll on the entire world. Successfully waged cognitive warfare shapes and influences individual and group behaviour, just as the aggressor wants. It can disintegrate an entire society so that there is no will to fight and survive. Terrorists can subjugate society without resorting to conventional war. Society becomes the target of a race for mind control, and vast resources of influence are used from both sides: the adversaries to seize control; and the state to maintain resistance to hostile information activities.

Prof. Dr. Darko Trifunović (Institute for National and International Security, Serbia):
Global Power and Counter-Terrorism in Africa

The African continent has always been the focus of great and regional powers. These powers

project their zones of influence, and where they are not able to do so, especially in places or areas rich in minerals and other resources that some other powers reflect interest, there is a high potential for conflicts, and instability including all other ways (political, diplomatic) to secure their interests. In the described processes of conflict, all means and methods are used, the dissatisfied groups or individuals are targeted, and big powers intelligence looking also for all kinds of differences, from religious to ethnic in order to cause instability and achieve the final goals. Terrorism is one of the methods used by various extreme groups of Islamic extremists such as ISIL/Daesh, Boko Haram, Al Shaabab, Al-Mulathamun Battalion, etc. There is no terrorist organization that is not supported by one or more states. In order for African countries to defend and protect themselves, they must develop a strong national security system. This national security system consists of intelligence, the army, the police and the citizens themselves. To develop the national security system, a system of national education in the field of security is also needed. A paralyzed or incomplete national security system is unable to respond to security challenges and threats such as terrorism, even less to apply new technical and technological achievements such as artificial intelligence or modern monitoring and surveillance methods. To determine the projection of the interests of the Global Powers in particular, knowledge and skills are needed to obtain key information in which direction the Global Powers are projecting their interests and force because geopolitics is not politics at all, but a pure projection of force, and force is a security category that failed under the umbrella of Security Science. One part of the solution and help that African countries could count on is the knowledge and experience of countries that have never had, nor at this moment any imperial or other intentions of exploiting African countries such as Hungary or Serbia. For the national leaders of African countries, this is not only a national interest but also an interest to themselves, because in achieving their geopolitical goals, the Global Powers very often direct their forces to overthrow local leaders. It is a general interest that the African states develop smoothly and build solid pillars of democracy through solid government institutions, which are able to respond to all security challenges, including terrorism. By analysing security challenges and the terrorist threat that is visible throughout the African continent, inter-state cooperation at the academic, scientific and operational levels could further improve AFRIPOL.

Dr. Peter Lofane (University of Johannesburg, South Africa):

Counter-Terrorism and Global Powers: Shaping Human Security in Africa's Evolving Landscape

This paper explores the evolving dynamics of counter-terrorism in Africa, focusing on global powers' roles amid a changing security landscape. Africa has become a hub for terrorism, with groups like Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab, ISIS, and Al-Qaeda of Islamic Maghreb exploiting local issues and weak governance to carry out attacks, threatening regional stability. Global powers such as the US, EU, and regional actors respond with military interventions, capacity-building, and diplomatic efforts to enhance regional cooperation and bolster African states' security. However, these interventions raise concerns about sovereignty, effectiveness, and unintended consequences. Critics argue foreign involvement may exacerbate conflicts and civilian casualties, fuelling anti-Western sentiments and aiding terrorist propaganda. Looking ahead, global powers have to adopt more holistic approaches integrating security, development, governance reforms, and community engagement. Addressing root causes like poverty and political exclusion and others aims to build resilience against terrorism and create a stable

environment less vulnerable to extremist influence. Advocates increasingly call for African ownership of counter-terrorism, empowering local governments with culturally appropriate strategies supported by global powers. Strengthening regional organizations such as the African Union is crucial for coordinating efforts continent-wide. This paper draws from diverse scholarly insights, analysing current trends, challenges, and prospects for combating African terrorism. Case studies evaluate the effectiveness of counterterrorism strategies and explore how global powers' geopolitical interests shape their involvement. In conclusion, the paper argues that a balanced approach that combines security measures with development and governance initiatives, and which promotes African ownership and regional cooperation, is essential for effectively combating terrorism in Africa. By addressing both the symptoms and root causes of terrorism through promotion of social and economic justice, strengthening national security, and fostering collaboration between local and international actors, a more sustainable and peaceful future for Africa can be achieved. Above all, each terrorist group requires specific methods of addressing their concerns without excluding direct negotiations with the particular group.

Col. (Prof. Dr.) István Resperger – Dr. Bálint Somkuti (Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Matthias Corvinus Collegium):
Effects of a changing world order in Africa

The world we got to know in the last centuries is collapsing in front of our very eyes. Institutions, paradigms, traditions crumble or slide slowly into oblivion. Yet the chaos of a collapse sooner or later gives way to a new order. Today we are in the middle of a change in the international order, a shift unseen since centuries. As the hegemony of the so called west ends the non-west, the global south or the former third world rises. Yet the uni or bipolar world what we got accustomed to is unlikely to return. As the centuries old ties and chains break up Africa finds itself at crossroads. Can the mineral rich countries make the leap forward and become modern welfare states? Can the new investors who have clearly no colonial past create new possibilities for the African states? Is an African identity already forming the way influential states like the US or the EU have risen? What security policy challenges await us in the coming decades?

Gábor Sinkó (Óbuda University)
Al-Shabaab's Secret Service, the Amniyat (Somalia)

The presentation is about the capabilities and capacities of al-Shabaab's intelligence apparatus, highlighting the most important elements that have contributed to the efficiency of the secret service. Studying the security sector is vital, since analysing the activities and operation of the Amniyat may bring us closer to understanding the conflict dynamics in Somalia. Depending on whether al-Shabaab will gain or lose territory, strategic and/or organisational innovation can be expected in the future. More importantly, even if the terrorist group is defeated, the Amniyat may survive its dissolution and present itself in different entities or merge into a criminal network.

BIOGRAPHIES

Keynote speech by

Lieutenant General Thalita Mxakato joined Umkhonto we Sizwe in 1983. She completed her basic training in Angola and specialisation training in the German Democratic Republic. She has served in the SANDF since its formation in 1994. Before joining the Defence Intelligence Division in 2003, she served in the South African Military Health Services and the Defence Inspectorate Division. Prior to her current position, she served as Deputy Chief of Defence Intelligence. Lt Gen Mxakato is the first woman to be appointed to the Military Command of the SANDF and the first Black South African woman to join the SANDF echelons as Lieutenant General.

Closing remarks by

Prof. Dr. Anthoni van Nieuwkerk is Professor in International and Diplomacy Studies at the Thabo Mbeki School of Public and International Affairs, University of South Africa (UNISA). He holds a doctorate in International Relations from Wits University (Johannesburg). Having been research-active from the early 1990s, he has pursued an academic career in postgraduate teaching, supervision, and policy analysis from 2000. In 2015, the South African government appointed him to the South African Council on International Relations and, in 2018, to the Presidential High-level Review Panel into Intelligence. Anthoni is a skilled institutional architect and experienced academic manager, facilitator and programme evaluator. He publishes widely on African foreign and security policy, has participated in several scenario exercises, and has broad experience with advising policymakers and practitioners in the South African government, SADC and the African Peer Review Mechanism. He coordinates a network of Southern African academics and practitioners, is a senior research associate at Good Governance Africa, a Smuts Memorial Trust trustee, and serves as editorial board member of several accredited journals.

Moderators and presenters

Abbas, Alphones is a second-year Bachelor of Arts student majoring in Political Science at MIT World Peace University in India. As a student deeply interested in the intersection of politics, governance, and global issues, focuses on understanding the complexities of leadership, corporate governance, and their impact on socio-economic development, particularly in the African context, passionate about exploring how technology can be leveraged to address challenges such as terrorism and underdevelopment and especially how we as the continental power can resolve the after math of the challenges. Email: abbasalphones45@gmail.com

Balogh, Péter studied sociology at the University of Szeged, Hungary. After finishing in 2006 he became a PhD-student of sociology at the Institute of Sociology and Social Policy of the Corvinus University in Budapest, Hungary, where he earned the PhD degree in 2012. Subsequently his scientific interest turned toward different topics: organized crime, securitization, asymmetric warfare and hybrid war. Related to the negative effects of social capital he carried out quantitative researches on the negative effects of social relations, exploring the global cooperative network of terrorist organizations. Currently as a student of

military science at the Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest, Hungary he investigates different dimensions of contemporary warfare with a specific focus on the structural aspects of asymmetry in conflicts. He works as an assistant professor at the University of Szeged, Department of Sociology. Email: balogh@socio.u-szeged.hu

Besenyő, János (Prof. Dr.) is a professor in the Óbuda University, Bánki Donát Faculty of Mechanical and Safety Engineering (Hungary) and head of the Africa Research Institute. Between 1987 and 2018, he served as a professional soldier and served in several peace operations in Africa and Afghanistan. He received a PhD in military science from Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University (Hungary) and he received a habilitated doctorate at Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary). In 2014, he established the Scientific Research Centre of the Hungarian Defence Forces General Staff, and was its first leader from 2014 to 2018. His most recent publication is *Conflict and Peace in Western Sahara The Role of the UN's Peacekeeping Mission (MINURSO)*. <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7198-9328>. Email: besenyo.janos@phd.uni-obuda.hu

Bryczek – Wróbel, Patrycja (PhD) is a doctor of Social Sciences. She has been employed at the Military University of Technology since 2009, first at the Department of New Technologies and Chemistry, then at the Science Department (since 2014). Since December 2019 Deputy Director of the Institute of Security and Defence for Scientific Affairs and Head of the Laboratory of Crisis Management and Critical Infrastructure Protection. Since 2020, Director of the Institute for Security and Defence in the Department of Security, Logistics and Management. She is editor-in-chief of the scientific journal *Defence Science Review* and a member of the editorial board of the journal *National Security Studies*.

Her recent publications include *'The geopolitical situation of Poland in relation to the foreign policy of the Russian Federation'* (book chapter, 2023), *'The evolution of the concept of information warfare in the modern information society of the post-truth era'* (article, "Defence science review", 2022), *'Crisis management plan, Crisis management system, Critical infrastructure, Emergency system, State of natural disaster'* (lexicon, 2022), *'The concept of improving the security of IT systems supporting the storage of knowledge in organizations'* (article, "Systems Science & Control Engineering", 2022), *'The geopolitical situation of Estonia in the foreign policy of the Russian Federation'* (article, „Polityka i Społeczeństwo”, 2021), and *'The Change in the Security Conditions of Developed Societies Resulting from the Rapid Development of Cognitive Science'* (article, IBIMA, 2020).

Cai, Cuihong (Prof. Dr.) is a professor of international relations with the Center for American Studies at Fudan University, P. R. China. She received her B.S. (1993) and M.S. (1996) in biophysics as well as her Ph.D. (2002) in international relations from Fudan University. She also holds a B.A. (2001) in English language and literature from Shanghai International Studies University. She was a visiting scholar at the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2002, and at the University of California, Berkeley in 2007, as well as an invited fellow in the 2007 program on the U.S. National Security sponsored by the U.S. State Department. Dr. Cai is the author of *Global Cyber Governance* (2024), *Cyberpolitics in U.S.-China Relations* (English version 2021, Chinese version 2019), *Political Development in the Cyber Age* (2015), *U.S. National Information Security Strategy* (2009) and *Internet and International Politics* (2003), as well as dozens of articles and papers on cyberpolitics, cybersecurity strategy, cyberspace governance, and U.S.-China relations.

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Dlakavu, Ayabulela (PhD) is a lecturer, researcher and analyst of public policy; foreign policy; public sector performance management systems; international organisation; global and regional peace and security; political economy; and international development. He lectures International Political Economy at the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Johannesburg. He has also served as a Visiting Research Fellow, Teaching Assistant and Senior tutor at the same Department and Institution. He has lectured Comparative Politics at Rosebank College, Braamfontein campus. Dlakavu also worked at the Africa Relations Directorate of the then National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, working on bilateral and multilateral relations desks. He is also the Programme Manager of Twende Mbele, a multilateral peer-learning initiative between South Africa, Benin, Uganda, Kenya, Niger and Ghana. The ultimate aim of this multi-government Programme is to build and sustain strong public sector performance monitoring and evaluation systems, and mutually learning from the process. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science; a Master's degree in Political Science; a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in International Relations (cum laude); and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (cum laude), all from the University of Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa. He also holds a certificate in Chinese Politics and Diplomacy, BRICS Cooperation and Global Governance from Fudan University in the People's Republic of China (PRC). Email: ayabulelad@uj.ac.za

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Ganaie, Nasir Ahmad (PhD) is a distinguished scholar currently serving as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Political Science, University of Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir, India. He holds a doctorate in Political Science from the Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, India. His research expertise spans public policy, comparative politics, conflict resolution, human rights, identity politics, separatism, regional studies, socio-economic disparity, terrorism, and the dynamics of religious minorities in indigenous societies. Dr. Nasir is particularly specialized in conflict studies and counter-terrorism operations, with a focus on militancy, asymmetric insurgency, cyber terrorism, and new-age militancy. His recent notable publications include "Kashmir from Barriers of Discomfort to Hope: A Case of Hurriyat Conference" and "Modernising Extremism: A Case of New Age Militancy in Kashmir." In recognition of his exceptional research and contributions

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Press, London, 2016; *Military Marxism: Africa's Contribution to Revolutionary Theory 1957-2023*, Lanham, Lexington, 2024 (under copy-editing), as well as articles in JALA, ROAPE, IJAHS, African Identities, Historical Materialism. He is an expert on secular radicalism in Africa.

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Adv Ntsaluba, Nandipha has been involved in the evolution of the policy and regulatory framework guiding the outcomes-based education, NQF, RPL, FET, and private education and training provision, development of SA Foresight 2000, Sectors and its crosscutting HR enablers, transformation of Industry Training boards into Sector Education and Training Authorities as well as outcomes-based planning within the Government Architecture. She further was the first female Director for Defence Strategy, Programme and planning. As such she became instrumental to the policy, regulatory developments that led to the organic growth of the Defence Mandate into Military Ombud, Military Veterans as well as Defence Service Commission. She became the nucleus for the exploratory study that led to the functional design, approval and the recognition of Military Veterans Mandate within the Public Service as well as within the Estimates of National Expenditure of the National Treasury. Such processes involved translation of Policy ambition and regulatory framework into a military Veterans Foresight and back casting it into the NDP MTSF five-year strategic windows and the MTEF funding trajectory. She established the strategic support capability that was the centre of gravity and nerve centre for the support of the two service branches. The strategic support encompassed strategic planning monitoring and evaluation, Legal and Compliance and Communication. In ensuring the realisation of the End State of a Self-Sufficient Military Veterans Community, two service branches were established. These are Socio economic branch that houses all the socio-economic benefits as articulated in section 5 of the military Veterans Act and the Empowerment Branch that focuses on the Skills development as well as empowerment opportunities as provided for in section 5 of the Military Veterans Act 18 of 2011. Email: entsaln@unisa.ac.za

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Adv Ramphomane, Dennis obtained his LLB degree from the North West University-Mmabatho in 2014. In 2014/2015, He worked for the government as a legal advisor, both in the Legal Services: Directorate and Labour: Directorate, also providing administration and litigation support. He got admitted as counsel in October 2016. Counsel served his pupillage with the North West Bar Association in 2017 and subsequently joined the National Bar Council of South Africa in 2018, and is still a member to date. Interested in Intellectual Property Law, Counsel registered for his Masters in Intellectual Property Law with UNISA, in 2020. In 2022, He was one of 80 applicants accepted for the Artificial Intelligence Pilot programme by the German International Cooperation (GIZ) & has specialized in Artificial Intelligence ever-since. He's also a member of the South African Artificial Intelligence Association (SAAIA). Counsel has appeared before Tribunals (Disciplinary Hearings, & the CCMA), Magistrate Courts and High Courts. He's involved in a few Corporate Social Initiatives, such as food and blanket drives, and handles pro bono matters. Counsel runs an annual anti- GBV campaign during August (Womens' Month), where he assists GBV victims (females and children) for free.

Rau, Cara is a researcher specialising in jihadism and PMC activity in Africa. Her work focusses on understanding and addressing security challenges in the Sahel, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Mozambique. Fluent in Afrikaans, English, French, Russian, and Arabic, Cara is passionate about countering terrorism through technology and recently took part in the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) hash-sharing working group. Her linguistic abilities and knowledge of online terrorism landscapes allow her to bring a cultural understanding to geopolitical contexts. Cara's keen interest in counter-terrorism is driven by

a commitment to advancing practical solutions and technological innovations that can strengthen security frameworks and promote sustainable development in Africa. At this year's CTD conference, Cara will share insights on the future of Wagner Group in the Alliance of Sahel (AES) States, offering perspectives on strategic approaches to mitigating the challenges of employing PMCs to combat Jihadism and thus enhancing regional stability.

Col. Resperger, István (Prof. Dr.) is a career military officer, his area of speciality is security policy, challenges, threats and risks of 21st century especially terrorism, asymmetric and hybrid warfare.

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GUIDELINES

For presenters

Each panel will be facilitated by two moderators who will introduce the presenter to the audience but also provide guidelines on an ongoing basis.

As background information, please note the following information as a presenter:

- All presentations are in English.
- Time allocation is 20 minutes per presentation.
- There will be a panel discussion after all presentations in a specific session have been made. This will be facilitated by the moderators.
- If the presenter wants to use PowerPoint slides, these will have to be sent to the Organising Committee (e-mail address: CEMIS@sun.ac.za) by not later than 17 September 2024 at 16h00 (GMT+2).
- Be mindful of time and the moderator will alert you five (5) minutes before the allocated time expires.
- It is advisable to keep your Video and Audio On when you present, but if there is a problem with your network or bandwidth, you can switch the Video Off.
- Try and find a room that is quiet and does not have a lot of background noise or movement of people.

GUIDELINES

For moderators

The conference is co-hosted by Stellenbosch University (South Africa) and Óbuda University (Hungary). In the spirit of working together, we deemed it wise to have co-moderators who will preside over various sessions as indicated in the programme. In this way we believe that it would enable co-moderators to establish long-lasting academic relationship which would benefit their institutions. We have therefore provided a Contact List for all moderators for your interaction prior to, during and after the conference. While co-moderators are at liberty to decide on how they would manage their sessions, the following guidelines are proposed for their consideration:

- Given that each session has multiple presenters, moderators may alternate in introducing each presenter e.g. the Óbuda co-moderator could introduce the first presenter, then the next one would be introduced by the Stellenbosch moderator, and so on.
- Presenters are given 20 minutes to present their papers. Once all presenters have made their presentations, there would be a panel discussion session where all presenters would be taking questions from the audience.
- Questions from audience could be handled in the same manner, where moderators alternate in facilitating questions e.g. the first round of questions would be handled by one moderator, and then the next round of questions is managed by the other moderator until there are no more questions or the time runs out.
- Moderators are advised to keep their microphones and videos OFF during the presentations.
- Moderators are encouraged to keep their videos ON the entire time during panel discussions, unless there are technical issues.
- Panel Members are encouraged to keep their videos ON during the panel discussion, while microphones should be switched ON only when answering the questions.
- It is suggested that the moderator should switch ON the video five (5) minutes before the end of presentation as an indication to the presenter to start wrapping up.
- In introducing the presenter, the moderator will only read the 'Name & Surname, Title of the paper, the institution and country'.
- If the presenter is not available or has technical problems, the next presenter in line should proceed in order to save time. When the previous presenter arrives or gets reconnected, he/she will take the next slot or as moderators would decide.
- Audience should be advised to keep their videos and microphones OFF the whole time, unless when asking a question.
- Questions and comments would be sent via the Chat facility.

GUIDELINES

For registration

Participation in the conference is free of charge but all delegates are required to register.

- 1. Registration for in-person attendance, [click here](#).** This will give you access to the gate.
- 2. Registration for online attendance, [click here](#).**

If you are attending in-person, you are required to register for both access to the gate and also to be part of the conference. This means that you must register for both.

The information provided during registration will be kept confidential and will not be shared with any person or entity, but it will be used to send to the delegates all the information relating to the upcoming and future conferences.

Registration ends 17 September 2024 23:59 hrs (GMT+2).

All those who have registered can participate in the various sessions – plenary and all panels – by clicking on the hyperlinks included in this booklet at the beginning of the pages with the detailed programme of the different sessions.

GUIDELINES

For publication

Presentations submitted in a written format that match the criteria and successfully go through the editorial process will be published either in the *Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies (JCEEAS)* or the *Scientia Militaria: South African Journal of Military Studies*.

About the Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies (JCEEAS)

The Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies is a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal publishing high-quality, original research. It accepts the following types of articles: original articles, book reviews.

Please note that only manuscripts written in English are considered for publication.

The Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies advances scholarship on a broad range of issues related to modern and contemporary Africa and their historical evolution. It is managed by the Africa Research Institute of Óbuda University in Budapest, and welcomes studies in the following subjects: human geography, history, historiography, literature, culture and anthropology, politics, conflict studies, ethnic studies, security studies, defense studies, migration, critical infrastructure and economy, development studies, and humanitarian management.

The journal is essential reading for all academics, decision-makers, and security specialists concerned with understanding issues related to modern and contemporary Africa. Besides, special focus is placed on all past, present, and future areas of shared concern in the African and Central and Eastern European contexts.

About the Scientia Militaria: South African Journal of Military Studies

Scientia Militaria: South African Journal of Military Studies is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal published bi-annually by the Faculty of Military Science of Stellenbosch University in South Africa. Our journal has a long and proud history of researching and publishing on a broad spectrum of matters and issues relating to defence, security and military affairs using a discipline-based and inter-disciplinary research approach. Published articles are of high quality since all submissions are refereed (peer-reviewed) by at least two experts in the field. Refereeing is done with complete anonymity and confidentiality.

Scientia Militaria does not charge any APCs or submission charges. More importantly, it is [DHET accredited](#), allowing their research the opportunity to qualify for a subsidy from the South African Department of Higher Education and Training. Apart from academics, the journal has also attracted researchers from different backgrounds, experiences and sectors to publish their work. Furthermore, the journal's editorial team has and continues to welcome research beyond our domestic borders despite its South African focus, which further adds to its rich and diverse character.

The Editorial Process

You have the option to publish open access in both Journals. Publishing open access means that your article will be free to access online immediately on publication, increasing the visibility, readership and impact of your research.

1. Online Submission

The author should submit the manuscript through e-mail to *Dr. David Vogel* (vogel.david@bgk.uni-obuda.hu), complying with the instructions for authors. The author receives an acknowledgment by email confirming the article submission.

2. First Check

The editorial staff will make a first assessment of the article submitted. Manuscripts that do not comply with the instructions for authors may be returned to the authors.

3. Contact by Editorial Staff

The editorial staff will contact the author with a decision as to whether the manuscript will be considered for publication in the journal.

4. Peer-Review

Manuscripts will undergo a very stringent double-blind peer-review process, where both the identities of authors and reviewers remain undisclosed in order to guarantee the highest quality of the journal. All manuscripts (except for book reviews) will be sent out for review and two review reports per manuscript will be collected. All reviewers will be carefully selected by the journal's editors for each submitted manuscript.

Reviewers will be asked to complete their review within two weeks, but are allowed to extend the review period in order to complete and submit their report.

5. Decision

After each round of peer-review, the editor(s) of the issue will be asked to assess the submitted manuscript and the peer-review reports collected. Decisions regarding each submission will be taken without exception by the editor(s), guaranteeing the excellence and high standard of our decision-making process. The editor(s) may decide between the following options:

- Accept the submission: the manuscript is considered to warrant high quality and can be published in the journal.
- Revisions required: authors are asked to perform revisions to their manuscript and, after resubmission, the manuscript is sent directly to the editor(s) for assessment and decision (accept submission, ask for further revisions, or decline the submission).
- Decline submission: the manuscript is considered to have major flaws that could not be resolved by revision and resubmission.

In order to guarantee swiftness of the editorial process, each submission will only be allowed two rounds of review and revisions. Authors are thus urged to address all issues raised by the reviewers directly after the first round of peer-review.

6. Copyediting

After the manuscript is accepted for publication it will undergo a first stage of copy editing where the editorial staff will correct any minor mistakes (such as punctuation or references) and check that all necessary information regarding the manuscript and authors has been provided.

Authors will receive an edited version of their manuscript for author copy editing after acceptance of the manuscript for publication. This is the last stage where any substantial copy

editing changes to the text are allowed (the next stage – proofreading – is restricted to correcting typographical and layout errors).

7. Proofreading

The editorial staff will create the final version of the manuscript in the journal's template and the PDF proof will be sent to the author for final proofreading before publication. Authors should carefully check the proofs for typographical or layout errors, and use the sticky notes tool to mark and explain any changes necessary.

8. Publication

After the final proofread manuscript has been received and the last corrections have been performed the manuscript will be published. The manuscript will be published in the issue, and the author will be promptly informed as soon as the article is available online. In some cases, the publication may be delayed in order to guarantee that all articles are published simultaneously.

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Peer-review integrity and upholding the highest standards of review are of paramount importance. Once the paper has been assessed for suitability by the editor, it will be double blind peer reviewed by a minimum of two experts in the field of research.

Preparing Your Paper

Structure

Your paper should be compiled in the following order: title; abstract; keywords; main text introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion; acknowledgments; declaration of interest statement; references; appendices (as appropriate); table(s) with caption(s) (on individual pages); figures; figure captions (as a list).

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displayed in the article. Authors' affiliations are the affiliations where the research was conducted. If any of the named co-authors moves affiliation during the peer-review process, the new affiliation can be given as a footnote. Please note that no changes to affiliation can be made after your paper is accepted.

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Official hashtags: #ctdafrica_2024

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