



Clifford Collins Omondi Okwany

Political Scientist

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Åland Peace Fellow 2023: I was involved in research and presentation of my work on territoriality and organized violence research presenting case studies from the Horn of Africa, and interacting with autonomy literature at the Åland Island Peace Institute. The fellowship contributed to a publication at the Journal of Autonomy and Security Studies. <https://peace.ax/en/meet-clifford-collins-omondi-okwany-our-peace-fellow-2023>

Sept 2022—Present: Research Associate and Manager of Nairobi Office, Raad Peace Research Institute

I am coordinating research and development with the focus on policing work in the Nairobi Office. <https://www.rapri.org/>

May 2020—December 2022: Policy Fellow, Resolve NETWORK, United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C., USA.

In this role, I provided consultation services and wrote policy papers for Resolve NETWORK, focusing on Community-Based Armed Groups (CBAGs) and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) in the Horn of Africa.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Jan 2019 — April 2022: I was an adjunct lecturer at the University of Nairobi, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, giving lectures in political science courses.

Jan 2017 — Jul 2020: Adjunct lecturer, Rongo University, Migori County, lecturing on political science and international relations.

Jan 2017 — Dec 2018: Adjunct lecturer, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, giving lectures in political science courses.

CONSULTANCY AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Nov 2015 — Nov 2020: Research Assistant, The Department of NORAGRIC, Norwegian University of Life Science (NMBU), Ås, and Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway. I have been involved in the European Union Community-Based Policing and Post-Conflict Police Reform Project (ICT4COP-Horizon 2020 project). Writing, planning, and execution of fieldwork in the Horn of Africa, as well as assisting with more general data collection and analysis in specific areas such as the Mount Elgon region in Kitale, Kapedo in Turkana, Ijara, Bura, and Masalani in Garissa, Pumwani and Eastleigh in Nairobi, Mpeketoni and Witu in Lamu, Hola and Garsen in Tana River, and Mombasa and Kwale

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PROFILE

I am a Kenyan political scientist specializing in security studies. Currently based in Kenya and Germany. My expertise concentrates on ontological security, conflict, violence, and associated theories. My research interests include policing work, counterterrorism, counter-violent extremism, radicalization, deradicalization, and community-based and non-state armed groups, and I also teach in these areas. My most recent research focuses on border security, and I have conducted various research in border areas of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

EDUCATION

Jan 2018- December 2022: PhD fellow in Political Science at the Department of Political science and Public Administration, the University of Nairobi.

The thesis is entitled "Effects of Kenya's Ontological (in)security in the context of the Horn of Africa". The purpose of this project was to

interrogate Kenya's ontological security, pointing to the connection/disconnect between Kenya's foreign policy and domestic security.

Aug 2014-Aug 2016: Master (MSc) in International Relations, Norwegian University of

Life Science, Ås, Norway.

I took a 120 Unit points and scored a B on a 60-credit master thesis on 'Kenya's foreign policy towards Somalia, 2011-2016; an increase of insecurity.'

January 2010-2013: Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and Public Administration, University of Nairobi.

I earned 440-unit points and achieved a second-class upper division in a Bachelor of Arts degree with a specialization in political science and public administration. The dissertation topic was 'The Domestic determinants of Kenya's foreign policy.'

SKILLS

- Security
- International Relations
- Political Science
- Statistical analysis
- Kobo Toolbox
- SPSS and R-software

LINKS

- [ORCID](#)
- [Google Scholar](#),
- [LinkedIn](#),

counties. The project also targeted Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Kismayu in Somalia and Gulu and Kampala in Uganda. The job also involved participating in various international conferences and presenting papers in Niepolomice, Poland; Lisbon, Portugal; and Sundvolden in Oslo. See, for example, The 59th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA), under the theme Community-Oriented Policing in Post-Conflict Police Reform: The Nexus of International Rules and Local Power Relations.

Link: <https://www.communitypolicing.eu/about-the-project/researchers/clifford-okwany/>

Apr 2019 — Nov 2019: Consultant, The Leviathan (consulting house), Nairobi, Kenya

I was leading and managing a research team in Garissa, carrying out power mapping and consulting work for Search for Common Ground (SFCG) on Counterterrorism (CT) and Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) for 8 months. The 'Jamii Bila Balaa' program identified actors of CVE and tried to strengthen the role of families and community influencers to counter/prevent recruitment into VE groups in at-risk communities of Garissa and Tana River Counties.

Nov 2016— Feb 2022: Evaluating Don Bosco's Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Programs, Don Bosco Network Tanzania in Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Dodoma, Arusha, Morogoro, Moshi, and Mwanza

I was part of a research team conducting an external evaluation of the ongoing (accompanying) assessment of Don Bosco TVET programs. The review involved interviews with key Don Bosco TVET network leaders and a quantitative survey of community members and students enrolled in TVET programs in Dar es Salaam, Iringa, and Dodoma. The results led to a strategic policy plan report to Don Bosco Tanzania.

Nov 2015 — Apr 2016: Research Assistant, Norwegian Institute of Urban and Regional Research (NIBR), Oslo, Norway.

I was part of a research team evaluating the Norwegian Embassy projects in Nairobi and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, focusing on the Norwegian government's support for peace and reconciliation in Somalia and Kenya. The projects focused on countering violent extremism. Report available at: <https://fagarkivet-hioa.archive.knowledgearc.net/handle/20.500.12199/1318>

- [ResearchGate, Academia.edu.](#)

Jan 2014 — July 2014: Consultant—United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), Policy Programme Division

I was part of a team designing and developing the UNEP-Tunza youth strategic plan, a plan that involved young people in environmental and climate change activities. I was also the planning team member for youth activities and conferences at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) held in Nairobi, Kenya, between 23 and 27 June 2014. I was part of the founding member of the youth wing at the UNEP, developing the TUNZA-Kenya strategic plan of 2014-2017 and advising TUNZA-Europe on their strategic plan.

LANGUAGE

- Highly proficient in English
- Highly proficient in Kiswahili
- Native Speaker of the Luo Language
- Excellent in the Norwegian language, Norwegian Bokmål.
- Currently learning the German language.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

My academic publications can be accessed at <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8591-188X>, and the recent publications are as follows:

1. Competing Aspirations and Contestations at Isiolo International Airport, Kenya, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003494966-8>
Publisher: Routledge, Francis and Taylor Group.
2. Contested Conservation Frontiers: Resource Wars, Power Play, and Violence in Samburu and Isiolo Counties, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.61199/jass.144600>
Publisher: Journal of Autonomy and Security Studies.
3. Environmental Security in Kenya: A Case of Geothermal Projects in Samburu and Narok Counties
Publisher: Lexington Books.
4. Territoriality as a Method for Understanding Armed Groups in Kenya and Strengthening Policy Responses, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37805/pn2023.1.lpbj>
Publisher: Resolve NETWORK, United States Institute of Peace.

REFERENCES

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