

Academic Staff Profile

Personal Profile

Personal Details

Name: Geoffrey Lugano
Title/Qualification: PhD
Department: History, Archaeology & Political Studies
Designation/Position: Lecturer
Email: Lugano.geoffrey@ku.ac.ke
Contact Address: P.O Box 17478-00100, Nairobi
Area of Specialization:
- Comparative politics
- Transitional justice.

Research Interests:
- African politics
- International criminal justice
- Peacekeeping.
- Peacebuilding.

Google Scholar:
<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=SC0FD30AAAAJ&hl=en>
ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7529-8014>



Academic & Professional Qualifications

- PhD in Politics & International Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry, UK (July 2018)
- Qualitative & Multimethod research, Institute for Qualitative & Multimethod Research (IQMR), Syracuse University, New York, USA (June 2022)
- PhD summer school on international courts in their social and political contexts, University iCourts at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark & PluriCourts at the University of Oslo, Norway
- MSc in Governance & Development (with *Distinction*), University of Antwerp, Belgium (September 2012)
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies (*First Class Honours*), Kenyatta University, Nairobi (July 2010)

Employment History

- June 2019 to present: *Lecturer of Politics*, Department of History, Archaeology & Political Studies, Kenyatta University
- August 2016 to June 2016: Research Fellow, International Center for Multidisciplinary Research, International Nuremberg Principles Academy, Nuremberg, Germany

Achievements

- 2016-2017: Minor PhD field research grant, British Institute of Eastern Africa (BIEA), £1,000
- 2014-2017: Warwick chancellor's international scholarship scheme for PhD study: £95,000

- 2011-2012: VLIRUOS full scholarship for Masters studies at the University of Anwerp, Belgium.
- December 2017: Shortlist, World Bank, Young Professional Development Programme (YPP).

Publications

Referred Journals

- Ajwang, F., & Lugano, G. 'From political novices to strategists: electoral cycles and the rise of opposition coalitions in Sub-Saharan Africa', *Democratization*, (2025): 1–25.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2025.2532671>
- Abboud Eman, Fredrick Ajwang and Geoffrey Lugano, 'Social Media and Politics as Usual? Exploring the role of social media in the 2022 Kenyan Presidential Election,' *Journal of East African Studies*, (2024), 1-23. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17531055.2024.2377403>
- Geoffrey Lugano, 'Examining the Domestic Legal Framework in the African States that Form part of the Situational Docket of the International Criminal Court,' *African Journal of International Criminal Justice* 7(1) (2023): 1-46. [10.5553/AJICJ/2352068X2023007001002](https://doi.org/10.5553/AJICJ/2352068X2023007001002)
- Geoffrey Lugano, 'Distance in the International Criminal Court's relations with the 'local,' *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, 16(3) (2022): 346-362.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ijtj/ijac018>
- Geoffrey Lugano, 'Between the duty to prosecute atrocities and domestic precedents of dealing with the past in the era of the International Criminal Court,' *Peacebuilding*, 9(4) (2021): 441-456. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21647259.2021.1895612>
- Geoffrey Lugano, 'Counter-shaming the International Criminal Court's intervention as neo-colonial: Lessons from Kenya, *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, 11 (1) (2017): 9-29. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijtj/ijw026>

Books and Books Chapters

- *Beyond coercion? Relational governance of the International Criminal Court in Africa* (book project with James Currey).
- Geoffrey Lugano, 'Civil Society and the State.' In: Nic Cheeseman, Gabrielle Lynch and Karuti Kanyinga. eds. *The Oxford Handbook on Kenyan Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.
- Geoffrey Lugano, 'The International Criminal Court's 'Africa's problem' and suppression of the 'justice cascade.' In: U. Capdepon, and Rosario F. Layus. Eds., *The Impact of Human Rights Prosecutions: Insights from European, Latin American, and African Post-Conflict Societies*. Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2020.
- Geoffrey Lugano, 'Assessing the Acceptance of International Criminal Justice in Kenya.' In *After Nuremberg. Exploring Multiple Dimensions of the Acceptance of International Criminal Justice*, edited by Susanne Buckley-Zistel, Friederike Mieth and Marjana Papa. Nuremberg: International Nuremberg Principles Academy, 2017.
- Geoffrey Lugano, 'Changing Faces' on Acceptance of International Criminal Intervention in Kenya.' In *After Nuremberg. Exploring Multiple Dimensions of the Acceptance of International Criminal Justice*, edited by Susanne Buckley-Zistel, Friederike Mieth and Marjana Papa. Nuremberg: International Nuremberg Principles Academy, 2016

Conference/Workshops/Seminar Papers

Conference Papers

- 'Contextual normative adaptations and the limits of the International Criminal Court's intervention in Uganda and Kenya, at ISA conference in San Francisco, April 2018
- 'Emerging binaries on the International Criminal Court's intervention in Kenya', at the 2015 BIEA PhD conference

Workshops Papers

- 'Performative complementarity', at 'The Interplay between International Criminal Tribunals and Courts and Domestic Accountability' workshop on 25 March 2024.

Seminar Papers

- 'Post-truth politics and the challenges to democratic consolidation in Kenya (with Edward Kisiangani) at the History departmental seminar in October 2019.

Student Co-authored Publications

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Other Publications

- Geoffrey Lugano. (2024). Engaging Africa in the ICC Prosecutor's New Policy Paper on Complementarity and Cooperation. Just Security. Available at: <https://www.justsecurity.org/97422/icc-complementarity-africa/>
- Geoffrey Lugano. (2022). ICC hurdles more than just legal. 360info. Available at: <https://360info.org/icc-hurdles-more-than-just-legal/>
- Fredrick Ajwang and Geoffrey Lugano. (2022). Kenya's 2022 general election: Some thoughts on peace and stability. The Elephant. Available at: <https://www.theelephant.info/author/ajwang-lugano/>
- Geoffrey Lugano. (2019). *Implications of Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Ble Goude's ICC acquittals* [Blog]. Justice Hub. Available at: <https://justicehub.org/article/implications-of-laurent-gbagbo-and-charles-ble-goude-icc-acquittals/>.
- Geoffrey Lugano., and Edward Wanyonyi., 22 May 2018, Is public shaming a justified response for moral dilemmas? *The Standard*, <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001281252/is-public-shaming-a-justified-response-for-moral-dilemmas>.
- Geoffrey Lugano. (2017). *Overturning an Election: Kenya's 2017 Poll* [Blog] Review of African Political Economy. Available at: <http://roape.net/2017/09/06/overturning-election-kenyas-2017-poll/>

Research

- 'Peacekeepers as soldiers and humanitarians: The impact of contradictory roles and responsibilities on the protection mandate of peacekeepers'

Funded Projects

- AHRC & FCDO grant for a research project titled 'Peacekeepers as soldiers and humanitarians: The impact of contradictory roles and responsibilities on the protection mandate of peacekeepers' (with

Jutta Bakonyi & Anne Flaspoeler, Durham University, UK).

<https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=AH%2FT007451%2F1>

Project period: 01 August 2020 to 31 July 2022

Funded value: £400,849

- British Academy (BA) grant for a writing workshop titled 'Amplifying African Voices in Peacekeeping & Statebuilding Research (with Jutta Bakonyi & Anne Flaspoeler, Durham University, UK). <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/projects/amplifying-african-voices-in-peacekeeping-and-state-building-research/>

Project period: 01 March 2021 to 15 March 2022

Funded value: £13,384

Conferenced/Workshops/Seminars Attended

Conferences Attended

- 'International Criminal Court(s) Backlash and State Cooperation: Norm Resistance, Domestic Interests, and Regional Politics,' International Studies Association (ISA), San Francisco, USA, April 2018.
- 'Protecting Human Rights in a Changing and Insecure World' conference at the University of Leeds, UK, 15 January 2018.
- British Institute in East Africa (BIEA), Nairobi, Kenya, PhD Conference on Emerging binaries in East Africa, October 2015.
- Panellist; Young Diplomats Forum, United States International University – Africa (USIU-A), Nairobi, Kenya, Presented a paper on 'The role of the youth in post conflict state reconstruction, September 2009.

Workshops Attended

- The Interplay between International Criminal Tribunals and Courts and Domestic Accountability, 25 March 2024.
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Seminars Attended

- Departmental seminar series

Supervision of Postgraduate Students

Masters

- Richard Kisilu, 'Dynamics in diplomatic relations between Kenya and Belgium, 1963-2020' (Graduated in July 2026).
- Florence Apiyo Barasa, 'Kenya National Union of Teachers and the transformation of the trade union movement in Kenya, 1945-2010' (awaiting defence)
- Elizabeth Richu, 'Social Media and 2022 Gubernatorial Campaign in Nairobi County,' (ongoing)
- Lydia Change, 'Trends and experiences of migrant workers: case of the Kenyan migrant workers in the United Arab Emirates (ongoing)

Ph. D

- George Ajiji Nyam, 'The politics of boundary formations in the Afizere region of post independent Nigeria 1967 – 2018 (Graduated in December 2023)
- Joy Vitalyne Chemutai, 'From Tribesmen to Citizens? The construction of National Identity among Kenyan youth' (ongoing)
- Geoffrey Machuka Nyarieko, 'Natural resources and border conflict in Kisii county, 1963-2023' (ongoing).

Professional/ Consultancy (Editor/ Peer review in journals, Networks/ Collaborations, External Examiner, Patents)

- Peer reviewer for *London Review of International Law*, *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, *African Security*, *African Affairs*, *Journal of East African Studies*, *Society*

Community Service and Other Engagements

- September 2023 to April 2026: Member of the Board, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)-Kenya office,

Affiliation of Professional Bodies

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National and International awards and Recognitions

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Administrative Positions Held

Recognized university administrative positions

- Acting chairman, Department of History Archaeology & Political Studies, 2022.
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Other administrative positions Held

- Member of departmental committees for post-graduate studies, research and innovation and curriculum development.
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