Charles Nyuykonge PhD, LLD

Scholar-practitioner · African peace, security and governance · International law and transitional justice

charles@nyuykonge.com · www.nyuykonge.com · ORCID 0000-0002-1627-1687 · English and French (fluent)

RESEARCH PROFILE

Scholar-practitioner of African peace, security and governance, holding doctorates in international affairs (University of the Witwatersrand) and law (University of South Africa). My research asks why peace agreements and peace operations so often fail to hold, and what makes peace last, through work on UN and African-led peace operations, mediation and transitional justice, with a focus on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Great Lakes and the Sahel. I have published 14 peer-reviewed papers and more than 20 policy papers, including with the RAND Corporation and Palgrave Macmillan, and I bring two decades of practice with the African Union, the African Development Bank, UNDP and UN agencies into teaching that prepares students for public service and international careers.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Peace operations and peacebuilding in Africa
- Mediation and peace agreements
- Transitional justice and reconciliation
- African Union law, institutions and treaty-making
- Elections, natural resources and political risk
- Governance in fragile states and development finance
- Evaluation of peace and development programmes

EDUCATION

Doctor of Laws (LLD), University of South Africa — 2026
Thesis: In search of justice and healing: the Rwandan Gacaca trials and the South African Truth and Reconciliation hearings

PhD in International Affairs (Governance), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg — 2022
Thesis: The role of peace missions in sustaining peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

MA in International Relations (cum laude), University of the Witwatersrand — 2007
Specialisation: Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies

Maîtrise en Droit (Master of Laws, Human Rights), University of Dschang, Cameroon — 2005

Licence en Droit et Science Politique (Law and Political Science), University of Dschang — 2004

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Senior Research Fellow, African Union Programme — 2024 – 2025
Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation, University of Johannesburg

Senior Research Fellow — 2018 – 2020
Institute for Global Dialogue, Pretoria

Senior Researcher and Project Leader — 2014 – 2018
African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), Durban

Lecturer — 2011 – 2013
University of Zululand

Assistant Lecturer and Doctoral Research Fellow — 2007 – 2010
Centre for Africa's International Relations, University of the Witwatersrand

TEACHING

- Lecturer, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Zululand (2011–2013): taught over 500 undergraduates across two classes and 32 postgraduate students, including Political Sociology.
- Taught international relations, human rights and international humanitarian law at the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of Zululand, Bard College and the South African Diplomatic Academy (2007–2013).
- Taught on the Executive Master's in Managing Peace and Security, Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), Addis Ababa University.
- Tutorial Coordinator, University of the Witwatersrand: led an academic development programme for 70 students.

Curriculum and course design

- Designed a programme at the University of Zululand on moving South Africa from a political culture of violence to one of dialogue and participatory governance.
- Designed, piloted and reviewed the Mediation and Conflict Management course for mid-career diplomats and AU and ECOWAS officers, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana (2011).
- Lead consultant and drafter of the AU Treaty-Making Manual, a UN-accredited course for the 54 AU member states and 8 Regional Economic Communities (UNDP, 2021).
- Designed training for AU officials and diplomats on institutional reform and Agenda 2063 (IPATC, University of Johannesburg, 2024–2025).
- Designed the research and capacity-building programme of the AU Peace and Security Programme, IPSS (2010–2011).
- Trained senior and mid-career managers in 50+ workshops on governance, financial integrity and conflict resolution (2008–2013).

Mentoring and supervision

- Co-supervised two Master's students (University of Zululand).
- Line-managed seven researchers and project coordinators across programmes in 18 African countries (ACCORD); supervised research interns (Institute for Global Dialogue).

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP AND FUNDING

- Led the "Silencing the Guns by 2020" study; its recommendations were approved by the AU Peace and Security Council and the 54 member states at the 2017 AU Summit.
- Authored "African Solutions to African Conflicts" for the AU Peace and Security Programme (IPSS), validated by 70 experts from 30 member states.
- Lead consultant for the UN Economic Commission for Africa on mediation in peace agreements (Burundi, DRC, Tanzania), including interviews with mediators and negotiating teams.
- Convened the UN-OSAA High-Level Dialogue on Conflict-Induced Migration; its concept and background papers became a book (2017).
- Contributor to the RAND Corporation study of African-led peace operations (2019).
- Won 14 competitive research, evaluation and advisory contracts worth USD 1.2M+ since 2018 from multilateral institutions, foundations and bilateral donors.

PUBLICATIONS

14 peer-reviewed papers and 20+ policy papers. Google Scholar: 55+ citations, h-index 5.

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Nyuykonge, C. (2024). A liberal peace analysis of the UN peacekeeping operations in the DRC: Shifting paradigms and theoretical misdiagnosis. *African Journal of Political Science*, 12(2).

Nyuykonge, C. and Zondi, S. (n.d.). Reconciling theory with practice: A meta-theoretical analysis of the United Nations peacekeeping operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Africa Insight*.

Nyuykonge, C. and Shulika, L. S. (2020). Leadership variance and African exceptionalism: Joaquim Chissano in focus. *Journal of African Foreign Affairs*, 7(2).

Nyuykonge, C. and Ojigho, O. (2016). Nigeria: The bolstering of Boko Haram versus the state's response. *Conflict Studies Quarterly*.

Nyuykonge, C. and Letsoalo, K. (2013). Oil and Ghana's 2012 presidential elections: Reinvigorating the 'resource curse'? *Journal of African Elections*, 12(2), 115–131.

Nyuykonge, C. (2012). Post-conflict reconstruction and the resurgence of 'resolved' territorial conflicts: Examining the DRC peace process. *Ubuntu: Journal of Conflict Transformation*, 1(1&2), 111–135.

Books and research reports

Dobbins, J., et al., with **Nyuykonge, C.** (2019). *Africa's role in nation-building: An examination of African-led peace operations* (RR-2978). RAND Corporation.

Nyuykonge, C. (2017). *Conflict-induced migration: Opportunities and lessons from Africa*. LAP Lambert Academic Publishing.

Book chapters

Nyuykonge, C. and Zondi, S. (2017). South African peacebuilding approaches: Evolution and lessons. In C. T. Call and C. de Coning (eds), *Rising powers and peacebuilding: Breaking the mold?* Palgrave Macmillan.

Nyuykonge, C. (n.d.). Deliberate coexistence of war and peace in Chad: The case of the Tripoli Accord. In *Peace agreements and durable peace in Africa*. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.

Nyuykonge, C. and Onuora-Oguno, A. (2010). Influence of ICT on the Batwa people of Uganda. In N. T. Ekeanyanwu and C. I. Okeke (eds), *Indigenous societies and cultural globalization in the 21st century: Is the global village truly real?* VDM Verlag Dr. Müller.

Book reviews

Nyuykonge, C. (2014). Review of G. Machel and B. Mkapa, *Back from the brink: The 2008 mediation process and reforms in Kenya*. *African Journal on Conflict Resolution*.

PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

Policy papers and briefs

Nyuykonge, C. (2022). *Sudan at a crossroads: The role of women in post-Bashir peace processes*. Training for Peace Policy Brief.

Nyuykonge, C. and Singo, M. (2017). *Ten years on: The African Union peacebuilding framework and the role of civil society*. African Policy Circle Position Paper.

Nyuykonge, C. (2017). *Preventing conflicts or preventing relapse: Understanding the entry-point of emerging peacebuilding actors*. Occasional Paper 68, Institute for Global Dialogue.

Nyuykonge, C. (2017). *State of Africa, 2017*. Briefing Paper 132, Institute for Global Dialogue.

Nyuykonge, C. (2017). *Opportunities and challenges of ensuring stability in Kenya's 2017 general elections*. Policy & Practice Brief 47, ACCORD.

Omotola, J. S. and **Nyuykonge, C.** (2015). *Nigeria's 2015 general elections: Challenges and opportunities*. Policy & Practice Brief 33, ACCORD.

Nyuykonge, C. (n.d.). *Understanding 'priority' in peacebuilding corridors: Getting coherence and coordination right*. Cairo Policy Brief 2, CCCPA.

Theses

Nyuykonge, C. (2026). *In search of justice and healing: The Rwandan Gacaca trials and the South African Truth and Reconciliation hearings*. LLD thesis, University of South Africa.

Nyuykonge, C. (2022). *The role of peace missions in sustaining peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*. PhD thesis, University of the Witwatersrand.

Nyuykonge, C. (2007). *Reformation of international judicial institutions as key to global conflict prevention*. MA thesis, University of the Witwatersrand.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

- Peer reviewer: *Journal of African Foreign Affairs* (2022); *International Journal of African Renaissance Studies*, Taylor & Francis (2023).
- Elected Postgraduate Student Representative, University of the Witwatersrand Senate and University Council (2008–2009).
- Policy and practice: African Union Commission and Peace and Security Council; African Development Bank (Peace and Conflict Analyst, 2021–2023; Operations Committee Secretariat, 2024); UNDP; OHCHR; Sida; the Pacific Community; Carnegie Corporation of New York.
- Civilian Human Rights Observer, African Union missions AFISMA and MISAHEL, Mali (2013–2014).

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- Course Certificate, Introduction to Strategic Sustainable Development (7.5 ECTS, advanced level), Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden (2008).
- Africa's Natural Resources: Conflict, Governance and Development, United Nations University (2008).
- African Development Bank Operations Academy: certified Country Project Officer, Team Leader and Country Manager.

LANGUAGES

- English: fluent
- French: fluent

REFERENCES

Available on request.