

6th Annual Conference – September 22-October 2, 2020

Speaker Biographies

PANEL 4 – Emerging Technologies and Security Implications

Friday, September 25, 2020, 9am to 10:30am EDT



Kevin ACKER is the Research Manager of the China-Africa Research Initiative. He is a 2019 M.A. graduate of China studies and Economics at Johns Hopkins SAIS. He spent his first year at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center, and has worked in international education and consulting. His research interests include the role of Chinese local governments in foreign policy, China's frameworks for South-South cooperation, and the impact of Chinese foreign investment on local economic outcomes. He also holds a B.A. in Economics and China Studies from Binghamton University.

Judd DEVERMONT is the director of the Africa Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Prior to joining CSIS, he served as the national intelligence officer for Africa from 2015 to 2018 and as the Central Intelligence Agency's senior political analyst on sub-Saharan Africa from 2013 to 2015. Mr. Devermont served as the National Security Council director for Somalia, Nigeria, the Sahel, and the African Union from 2011 to 2013. He is a lecturer at George Washington University where he co-teaches a class on U.S. intelligence analysis on sub-Saharan Africa. He also is a senior adviser at Kupanda Capital, a pan-African investment platform, and at Fraym, a data analytics firm. In addition, Mr. Devermont hosts Into Africa, a podcast on African politics and policy. He has a master's degree in African studies from Yale University and bachelor's degree in history from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Julie Michelle KLINGER holds a PhD in Geography from the University of California, Berkeley. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Spatial Sciences at the University of Delaware and faculty in the Minerals, Materials, and Society Program. Dr. Klinger's research focuses on the dynamics of global resource frontiers and space-based technologies with particular emphases in China, Brazil, and the United States, where she has conducted extensive ethnographic, qualitative, and quantitative

fieldwork over the past 15 years. Her work examines how diverse forms of violence and strategies for survival shape land use, environmental conservation, and livelihood security. She has published numerous articles on rare earth elements, natural resource use, environmental politics, and outer space. Her 2017 Book *Rare Earth Frontiers: From Terrestrial Subsoils to Lunar Landscapes* was awarded the Meridian Book Prize for its “unusually important contribution to the art and science of geography.”

Bulelani JILI is a Ph.D. student with Harvard’s African and African American studies department. His research interests include Africa-China relations, Cybersecurity, ICT development, African Political Economy, Internet Policy, and Privacy Law. He is also conducting research with the China, Law, Development project at Oxford University, funded by the European Research Council. He has also advised and supported the Center for Strategic and International Studies’ Human Rights Initiative at large, which investigates the spread of facial recognition technology in Africa. His recent paper, *Chinese surveillance tools in Africa*, particularly discerns the exportation of Chinese surveillance technology in Africa. He has also written about the Chinese guiding cases system (*Peking University Law Journal*, 2019) with Guo Li, Professor of Law and Vice Dean at Peking University Law School.



Connor FAIRMAN is a research associate in the Digital and Cyberspace Policy program at the Council on Foreign Relations, where he researches the impact of emerging technologies on international relations, digital trade, and privacy. Previously, he studied China’s Digital Silk Road and safe city initiatives in Africa at the Reconnecting Asia project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Connor holds a bachelor's degree in international relations and Chinese and a master's degree in computer and information technology from the University of Pennsylvania.