

JESSICA PIOMBO

LEADER, EDUCATOR, ANALYST

CONTACT

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Pronouns: She/Her

PROFILE

I am an experienced leader, educator, researcher, and writer, who has published four books and multiple articles, book chapters and project reports. I lead with vision and empathy, building rapport with diverse communities to achieve collective goals. In my leadership roles I have initiated tough conversations, advocated for vulnerable communities, and led policy changes to improve working environments and employee welfare. I have extensive experience in grant acquisition and project management, having executed over a dozen externally funded research and education projects (totaling approximately \$2.5m). As a program manager I have engaged in content creation and talent recruitment, developed and managed project budgets, supervised personnel, and coordinated teams to execute complex research and education projects. I am also able to navigate complex bureaucracies with restrictive rule environments, finding creative ways to achieve mission goals. I hold a SECRET clearance from the U. S. Department of Defense.

SKILLS

- LEADERSHIP IN COMPLEX ORGANIZATIONS
- QUALITATIVE RESEARCH
- TEACHING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING
- EXECUTIVE EDUCATION
- TALENT RECRUITMENT
- GRANT ACQUISITION AND SPONSOR RELATIONS
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT

EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor, Naval Postgraduate School 2003 - 2020

Tenured faculty, promoted from Assistant to Associate in 2010; teaching and research focused on Sub-Saharan African politics, US policies in Africa, foreign aid effectiveness, resource politics, ethnic conflict, and research methods. Served as a department officer advising 300 students; as a program coordinator running an executive education program that delivered over 30 annual programs to deploying Naval strike groups. Developed short-courses and workshops for multiple Naval and joint commands (including US Africa Command). Recruited speakers for dozens of workshops, conferences, and educational events. Founded a colloquium series for faculty to present cutting edge research.

Faculty Chair, Naval Postgraduate School 2019

Elected leadership position representing the faculty of the university in high level administrative and management bodies. Advocated for faculty at all levels and represented faculty to the University President and Provost. Worked on improving university business processes: budgeting and financial management, contracting, and human resources. Led monthly Faculty Senate and bi-annual General Faculty meetings; managed faculty business committees. Capstone achievements: spearheaded successful initiative to extend the tenure review period for new parents, revised faculty self-governance documents. Three-year commitment: one year each as Chair Elect, Chair, Chair Emerita.

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2003

Ph.D. in Political Science, specialties in African Politics, Comparative Politics and Political Development. Dissertation on political party campaign strategies in South Africa, 1994 – 2004.

Bryn Mawr College

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

African Politics Conference Group - Vice Chair

1995

B.A. degree, Magna Cum Laude; double major in Political Science and Psychology

SELECTED RESEARCH

Externally Funded Research Projects

All Intervention is Local: Understanding Government Responses to International Intervention

Multi-year research project (2017-2021) funded by the Minerva Initiative of OSD-Policy. Co-PI Pierre Englebert (Pomona College).

Peacebuilding through Service Delivery

Multi-year research project (2014-18) funded by the Minerva Initiative of OSD-Policy. Co-PIs Naazneen Barma (NPS) and Naomi Levy (Santa Clara University).

Assessing the Impacts of Competitor Influence on U.S. Security Assistance

Multi-year research project (2019 – 2021) funded by U.S. Marine Forces Europe and Africa. Initiated May 2019 and currently in progress

Publications

“The Impact of Aid Dynamics on State Effectiveness and Legitimacy.” May 2020. *Studies in Comparative International Development* (with Naazneen Barma and Naomi Levy).

“Disentangling Aid Dynamics in Statebuilding and Peacebuilding: A Causal Framework,” *International Peacekeeping*, 24, no 2 (2017): 187-211. (with Naazneen Barma and Naomi Levy).

“[Has South Africa Lost its Way? The ANC’s Unfulfilled Promise.](#)” *Foreign Affairs* online, May 12, 2016 (with Cherrel Africa).

The US Military in Africa: Enhancing Security and Development? (editor). Boulder, CO: First Forum Press (a division of Lynne Rienner Publishers), July 2015.

Institutions, Ethnicity and Political Mobilization in South Africa. New York and Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

Interim Governments: Institutional Bridges to Peace and Democracy? (edited with Karen Guttieri). Washington, DC: USIP Press, December 2007.

Electoral Politics in South Africa: Assessing the First Democratic Decade (edited with Lia Nijzink). New York and Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005. Re-published in South Africa by the Human Sciences Research Council in 2006:

<http://www.hspress.ac.za/product.php?productid=2160>.

Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa – Visiting Researcher

Community Partnership for Youth (Seaside, CA) - Member and Secretary, Board of Directors

George Mason University, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution - Visiting Scholar

International Republican Institute, Election Observer Delegation to Nigerian Federal Elections

Institute for Democracy in South Africa – Visiting Researcher

Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey - Affiliate Faculty

Peace Monitoring Forum of the Western Cape (South Africa) - Steering Committee and Election Monitor

Regional Security Education Project, Naval Postgraduate School – Academic Director

United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research, Finland – Visiting Scholar

University of the Western Cape, South Africa - Visiting Researcher

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay (Monterey, CA) - Member, Board of Directors

Funding received from the following agencies:

Office of the Secretary of Defense, Minerva Research Initiative

United States Africa Command

Marine Forces Europe and Africa (MARFORAF)

Naval Forces Europe and Africa (NAVEUR/AF)

Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Second Fleet

Field research experience in:

Burkina Faso

Cambodia

Djibouti

Ethiopia

Kenya

Laos

Nigeria

Rwanda

South Africa

Uganda

Full CV and references available upon request.