

NICODEMUS MINDE, PhD

International Relations Scholar | Policy Analyst | Lecturer

Nairobi, Kenya / Arusha, Tanzania · +254 725 215 845 · nminde96@gmail.com · nicominde.com ·

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

International relations scholar and policy practitioner specialising in African foreign policy, diplomacy, democracy, regionalism, and peace and security. Combines academic research with policy analysis, university teaching, diplomatic training, political-risk advisory work, and engagement with governments, regional bodies, civil society and the media. Country and regional expertise centres on Tanzania, Zanzibar, Kenya, the East African Community, the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- African international relations, foreign policy and diplomacy
- Democracy, elections, political parties and constitutional reform
- Tanzania, Zanzibar and the Tanganyika-Zanzibar Union
- Peace, security, mediation and regional governance
- East African regional integration and the EAC
- China-Africa relations, external powers and African agency

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Faculty, International Relations

United States International University-Africa | 2023-present

- Teaches undergraduate, master's and doctoral courses in diplomacy, foreign policy, African international relations, global governance, comparative politics and international political economy;
- Supervises postgraduate research.

Researcher, East Africa Peace and Security Governance Project

Institute for Security Studies, Nairobi | 2024-2025

- Produced policy research on East Africa and the Great Lakes; engaged governments, diplomats, regional organisations, civil society and media through briefings, consultations and policy dialogues.

Senior Lecturer, International Relations and Diplomacy

Catholic University of Eastern Africa | 2022-2024

- Taught international relations and diplomacy and coordinated International Relations, Political Science, Project Management and Anthropology programmes.

Senior Associate - Writing, Research and Publications

Centre for Strategic Litigation | 2021-2024

- Led research and publication work on rule of law, constitutionalism, human rights and civic space in Tanzania.

Lecturer, International Relations

Pioneer International University | 2019-2022

- Taught foreign relations and diplomacy and contributed to programme and student development.

Advisor and Tanzania Representative

International Law and Policy Institute, Norway/Tanzania | 2014-2016

- Advised on politics, reconciliation, peace and political risk in Tanzania and Zanzibar, including research for diplomatic partners.

EDUCATION

PhD, International Relations - United States International University-Africa

2016-2021 | International Development/Security; Foreign Policy and Diplomacy.

- Thesis on CCM one-party dominance and democratisation in the Tanganyika-Zanzibar Union.

MA, International Relations - United States International University-Africa

2010-2012 | Specialisation: Foreign Policy and Diplomacy.

BA, International Relations - United States International University-Africa

2007-2010 | Coursework included international relations, journalism and communication.

SELECTED RESEARCH, POLICY AND ADVISORY EXPERIENCE

- Research Manager, Chinese non-state actors in East Africa project (University of Bayreuth / University of Edinburgh).
- Researcher, BRIDGE project on Chinese influence and democratic resilience in Tanzania, funded by the National Endowment for Democracy.
- Tanzania Expert, China Index: Measuring PRC Influence Around the Globe.
- Consultant, USAID-related research on PRC soft power, investment, technology and surveillance in Africa.
- Expert Contributor, Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem), coding democracy, elections and political parties in Zanzibar.
- Lead, Data Analysis, Tanzania Elections Watch (2020); political, security and risk analysis for the Kenya Human Rights Commission and Strategic Law Centre.
- Researcher, Providing for Peacekeeping Project, International Peace Institute (2015-2018).
- Political-risk researcher and briefer for Statoil Tanzania and research projects supported by the Norwegian and Danish embassies (2013-2016).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- **Minde, N. (2026).** [Peace, Security and Governance in East Africa: 2023-2025](#). Institute for Security Studies.
- **Minde, N. (2026).** [East African Community's expansion has triggered financial troubles](#). The Conversation Africa.
- **Minde, N. (2025).** [Too Far, Too Wide? Assessing the Expansion of the East African Community](#). ISS East Africa Report 52.
- **Minde, N. (2025).** [The Crisis of African Agency and the Rising Role of External Actors in African Conflict Mediation](#). Global Governance Spotlight.
- **Minde, N. (2025).** [Stifling Democracy in Tanzania: Scenarios for the 2025 Elections](#). Institute for Security Studies.
- **Minde, N. (2024).** African agency as non-alignment 2.0: Explaining Tanzania's neutrality in the Russia-Ukraine war. Contemporary Security Policy.
- **Minde, N. (2024).** East African Community Regional Force intervention in eastern DRC: actors and implications for regional peace and stability. Africa Amani Journal, 1(1).
- **Roop, S., Tronvoll, K. & Minde, N. (2018).** The politics of continuity and collusion in Zanzibar. Journal of Modern African Studies, 56(2), 245-267.
- **Minde, N. (2020).** Tanzania citizens' sovereignty, popular participation and EAC integration. In Popular Participation in the Integration of the East African Community. Lexington Books.

More: [Academic and policy publications](#)

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- IFRA Tanzania Elections Research Grant (2025) and Fieldwork Grants (2020/2022)
- InteRussia Fellowship Programme, MGIMO University, Moscow (2023)
- APSA Research Development Group participant (2020)
- Catalyst Fellow and Visiting Fellow, Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh (2019-2020)
- African Studies Association-Carnegie Corporation Scholar (2019)
- SSRC Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa: Proposal, Research and Completion Fellowships (2017-2019)
- African Peacebuilding Network Research Grant, with Kenneth Omeje (2013)

SELECTED TEACHING, SPEAKING AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Guest Lecturer, National Foreign Affairs Training Center: Political and Cultural Dynamics of Tanzania and the Tanganyika-Zanzibar Union (2025); East African Regional Integration and Opportunities for U.S. Engagement (2026).
- Trainer and supervisor, National Defence College Kenya (2025).
- Presenter, HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies: Promises and Prospects of Africa-Led Peace and Security Financing Mechanisms (2026).
- Lead Discussant, ISS Expert Roundtable: Kenya in the East and Horn of Africa - Strategic Context (2026).
- Facilitator, Friedrich Naumann Foundation Academy of Geopolitics: Is Global Trade Dead? The Geoeconomics of 2026+ (2026).
- Presenter, Kenya Foreign Policy Initiative: Corridors, Coasts and Contestations - Kenya's Strategic Choices in a Shifting Regional Order (2026).
- Presenter, 5th India-Africa Strategic Dialogue, New Delhi: India-Africa Defence Cooperation and Maritime Security - The Case of Kenya (2025).
- Presenter, China in the World Summit, Johannesburg: Chinese Influence and the Corrosion of Democracy in Tanzania (2024).
- Conference presentations at the African Studies Association, European Conference on African Studies, African Studies Association of Africa and other international forums.

SELECTED ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- MA thesis supervision and postgraduate examination in international relations, diplomacy, governance, peace and security.
- Reviewer, Journal of African Elections; reviewer, The African Review; former External Examiner, University of Dar es Salaam.
- Media analysis for CNN, BBC Africa and BBC Swahili, Al Jazeera, Sky News, RFI, Nation Media Group, KTN, Citizen Radio and Azam Media.
- Professional memberships: American Political Science Association; African Studies Association; African Studies Association of Africa.

LANGUAGES

Swahili (native) | English (fluent) | French (basic)

PROFESSIONAL LINKS

[Website](#) · [Publications](#) · [Institute for Security Studies author profile](#) · [YouTube](#)

A concise website CV. Full publication and supervision records are available at nicominde.com.