



The African Centre  
for the Study of the  
United States of America

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### **ACSUS Speaker Series**

#### **Information Warfare and Geopolitics**

**Date: March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025      Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Location: Room MLT 402, University of Nairobi Towers**

#### **Concept Note**

The African Center for the Study of the United States (ACSUS) cordially invites students and faculty to a Guest Speaker session by Mr. Thomas Kent. Mr. Kent is a senior fellow for strategic communications at the American Foreign Policy Council, a former Associated Press foreign correspondent and editor, and the former president of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Mr. Kent teaches at Columbia University (U.S.) specializing in “international information war.” He is presently engaged in the writing of a book that addresses the propaganda lessons derived from the conflict in Ukraine, and therefore is particularly interested in the audience’s view of this war, and of the Western-Russia rivalry in general.

#### **Seminar Objective**

This discussion, organized by the Africa Center for the Study of the U.S. (ACSUS) in collaboration with Mr. Thomas Kent at the University of Nairobi, provides a space for the exchange of knowledge and ideas on the current Russia-Ukraine War as well as the overall political war between the West and Russia. Mr. Kent will talk about the power of propaganda, how it works, and its importance in geopolitics. Most political communication involves trying to persuade people to believe certain things. What ethical considerations should apply to political communication, and how can we know when someone is trying to unfairly manipulate us?

#### **Key Discussion Themes**

- 1. Russia-Ukraine Conflict:** Who are the main actors in this war, what are their tools and targets? What attempts are made to manipulate opinion in the Global South? As well as discussions on the Western-Russia Rivalry.
- 2. International disinformation warfare:** What are its effects on the current Russia-Ukraine Conflict?
- 3. The election of President Donald Trump:** What are the implications for US domestic and foreign policy going forward.

#### **Discussion lead**

**Mr. Thomas Kent** *specialist in disinformation, Russian affairs, journalism, and media ethics.*

#### **Moderator**

**Dr. Winnie Rugutt PhD.** *Program Lead, Africa Center for the Study of the US (ACSUS)*



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**Program schedule**

**10:00 am – 10:10 am:** Arrival & Registration

**10:10 am – 10:20 am:** Welcoming Remarks;

**Prof. Patrick Maluki**, Chair, Department of Diplomacy and International Studies and

**Prof. Jack Odhiambo**; Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**10:20 am – 11:00 am:** Session One: Opening remarks by Mr. Thomas Kent

**11:00am – 11:45 am:** Session Two: Q&A Session; Mr. Thomas Kent and Dr. Winnie Rugutt

**11:45 am – 11:55 am:** Closing Remarks; Dr. Winnie Rugutt, Program Lead, Africa Center for the Study of the United States (ACSUS)

**11:55 am – 12:00 pm:** Photo Session; Location: Balcony Area, 6th Floor, UON Towers