

Email: perdigao.nayanka@kcl.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 207 848 7268

Fax: 44 (0)20 7848 2748

Address: Department of War Studies

King's College London

Strand, London

WC2R 2LS, UK

Research interests:

- Nation building/ state formation/elites
 - State fragility and Security Sector Reform
 - Conflict and civil war in Africa
 - Colonial legacies in Lusophone and Francophone Africa
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Education and Professional Background

Nayanka is currently a research assistant with the Conflict Security and Development Group(CSDG), King's College London. In this position, she assists with several CSDG research projects, including state fragility in Africa and the EU-Africa strategy/partnership.

Nayanka is a PhD Development Studies candidate at the School of Oriental and African Studies(SOAS), University of London. Her thesis is provisionally titled 'State-making versus State Collapse in Lusophone Africa: a comparative analysis of success in Cape-Verde and failure in Guinea-Bissau'. It looks at issues of state resilience, state formation and political elites in Guinea-Bissau and Cape-Verde. Prior to this, she obtained an Msc in Urbanisation and Development, an MRes in Political Science from the London School of Economics and a BA in Politics and Development Studies (Hons) from SOAS.