

# Dr. Kamissa Camara

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**Dr. Kamissa Camara** is Professor of Practice in International Diplomacy at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and a political scientist who completed her doctorate at the University of Oxford in 2026. Her work examines militarism as an institutional ideology that shapes how officers in West Africa's Sahel understand political authority, civilian government, and their own role in the state, which can sometimes lead to military coups.

She brings nearly two decades of experience at the highest levels of government, diplomacy, and international policy. In Mali, she served as **Minister of Foreign Affairs**, becoming the youngest person to hold the role, and later **Chief of Staff to the President**, the first woman ever appointed to the position. She also served as **Minister of the Digital Economy and Planning**, operating at the center of state decision-making during a period of acute political and security crisis.

Prior to her government service, Camara held senior leadership roles in Washington, DC with international organizations focused on democracy, governance, and political transitions. After leaving office, she joined the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change as Director of External Affairs, advising governments and international institutions on global engagement and geopolitical strategy.

Today, she works at the intersection of scholarship, policy, and public debate. She serves on the boards and advisory councils of **Afrobarometer**, **Gatehouse Advisory Partners**, and **Leadership Lab Yetu**, and is a frequent international media commentator, with appearances on CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, France 24, and Voice of America.

In 2025, she founded **The Eminence Project**, an invitation-only initiative for heads of state, ministers, and senior executives offering off-the-record retreats in exceptional settings, bespoke memoir partnerships, and a private peer circle for those who have operated at the highest levels and have few places left to think freely.

Fluent in French and English, Camara brings a rare insider-outsider perspective on how African states navigate instability, sovereignty, and global power, and what these dynamics mean for the future of governance, security, and international engagement.