

## ***Collaborative workshop: "Development, Security, and Climate Change in the Sahel"***

*September 22-26, 2014*

*University of Florida*

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The series of workshops and lectures focus on the African Sahel and will be taking place in Grinter Hall (Center for African Studies), following the Symposium "Demography and the Challenge of Social Change in the African Sahel".

- Monday Sept. 22 (1-3pm Grinter 404): "**Pastoral livelihoods and vulnerability to climate change**" by Dr. Sarah McKune (UF, Public Health)
- Tuesday Sept. 23 (11-1pm Grinter 471): "**Demography, girls education and women's empowerment in the Sahel**" by Dr. Alisha Graves (Associate Director, OASIS Initiative)
- Wednesday Sept. 24 (1-3pm Grinter 404): "**Development, food security and environmental change**" by Dr. Renata Serra (UF, Center for African Studies)
- Friday Sept. 26 (11:45-1pm Grinter 471): "**Managing Salafi Activism in areas of limited statehood: Evidence from Mali and Niger**" presented by Dr. Sebastian Elischer (University of Lunenburg and GIGA, Germany)
- Friday Sept. 26 (3:30-4:30pm Grinter 404): Baraza Seminar Series "**Linguistic Warscapes of Northern Mali**" presented by Prof. Fiona McLaughlin (UF, Departments of Linguistics; and Languages, Literature and Culture).

Interested Faculty and Graduate Students are welcome to attend any of the above events.

*Sponsored by a Minerva Initiative grant, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States, the UF International Center, the Office of Research, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Center for African Studies.*

*For more information, please contact Dr. Renata Serra ([rserra@ufl.edu](mailto:rserra@ufl.edu)), Prof. Leonardo Villalón ([villalon@ufl.edu](mailto:villalon@ufl.edu)), or Dr. Sarah McKune ([smckune@ufl.edu](mailto:smckune@ufl.edu)).*

### **Speakers**

**Dr. Sebastian Elischer** will join the University of Florida as assistant professor of African Politics in August 2015. He is currently assistant professor of comparative politics at the Leuphana University Lüneburg (Germany) and a research fellow at the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg. He holds a PhD in comparative politics from Jacobs University Bremen (Germany), a dual MA from the Free University of Berlin and the George Washington University in Washington DC, and a BA from the University of Wales/Aberystwyth (UK). He is the author of *Political Parties in Africa: Ethnicity and Party Formation* published by Cambridge University Press in 2013. His work has appeared in *Democratization* and *Foreign Affairs*. Elischer's current research focuses on the extent to which Sahelian states (Niger, Mali,

Mauritania, and Chad) have tried to supervise the influx and the practice of Salafi communities since independence. The project is funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation.

**Dr. Alisha Graves** is the Co-founder of the OASIS Initiative, where she leads strategy, development and advocacy efforts. She completed her MPH in International Maternal and Child Health at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health in 2006. She worked for six years as Senior Program Manager for Venture Strategies Innovation, a non-profit organization to improve access to misoprostol – a generic, essential medicine. In this role, she worked on policy initiatives, drug registration, and operations research across seven countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

**Dr. Sarah McKune** is the director of Public Health Programs in the College of Public Health and Health Professions at the University of Florida. She has worked in public health, both in the United States and globally, in areas including HIV/AIDS, nutrition, reproductive health, food security, and household vulnerability. She completed a postdoc in 2013, working to improve gender integration within the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CCAFS) in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Her current work focuses on the impact of climate change on gender, nutrition, and resilience of pastoralists in the Sahel. She holds an MPH in International Health from Emory University, and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Ecology from the University of Florida.

**Prof. Fiona McLaughlin** is a linguist who specializes in the sociolinguistics of urban language contact in the Sahel, as well as in the phonology and morphology of Seereer, Wolof and Pulaar, three Atlantic (Niger-Congo) languages spoken in Senegal. She has a secondary research interest in Islam and popular culture. Mc Laughlin has a PhD in linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin and is currently the chair of UF's Linguistics Department. She is a former director of the West African Research Center in Dakar and has taught at the Université Abdou Moumouni in Niamey, Niger, and at the Université Gaston Berger in Saint-Louis, Senegal.

**Dr. Renata Serra** is Lecturer in African Economics in the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida, and a core Faculty member in the Master in Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) program. An economist by training, she earned her PhD from Cambridge University (UK) in 1997. Her research and teaching focus on the political economy of agriculture, agriculture and gender, the politics of aid, child labor, and social capital, with particular attention to Mali and West Africa. Dr Serra has done consultancy work for DFID, SIDA, the World Bank, Save the Children UK and Oxfam UK. She is convener and coordinator of the project on "Development, Security and Climate Change in the Sahel," a collaboration between the MDP programs of the University of Florida, the Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal, and Sciences Po Paris.