The fall of the regime in Libya, culminating with the death of Muammar Qaddafi on 20 October 2011, unleashed forces that have plunged the Sahelian region of West Africa into serious crisis. The most significant effect has been the collapse of the government in Mali and the de facto partition of the country, with the north now controlled by a shifting assortment of radical Islamist groups affiliated with Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. This panel will discuss the array of actors, issues and forces shaping the likely evolution of the crisis.

**Alex Thurston** is founder and editor of the *Sahel Blog*, one of the most comprehensive sites covering developments in the region. He is also currently a doctoral candidate in the Religion Department at Northwestern University. He has done extensive fieldwork in Senegal and in Nigeria.

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_Funds for this event were provided by the Minerva Initiative Grant._