

*The UF Sahel Research Group
Center for African Studies, Department of Political Science,
and The Bob Graham Center for Public Service
Present:*

MAKING SENSE OF THE SAHELIAN CRISIS:

One Year After the Fall of Qaddafi

A PANEL DISCUSSION
WITH:

Leonardo A. Villalón

Alex Thurston

Andrew Lebovich



THURSDAY OCT 18, 2012

BARAZA ROOM 404 GRINTER | 3-5 PM

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.

Andrew Lebovich is a Washington D.C. based analyst with the Navanti group focused on militancy in North Africa and the Sahel. He regularly contributes writing to such publications as *The Washington Note*, *the American Strategist*, *Foreign Policy magazine*, and *Al-Wasat*.

Leonardo Villalón is Associate Professor of African Politics and Coordinator of the UF Sahel Research Group. He is P.I. of a recent Minerva Initiative Grant to UF, to carry out research in the Sahel for the next three years.

Funds for this event were provided by the Minerva Initiative Grant.