



Sahel Research Group News

The Sahel Research Group & The France-Florida Research Institute

Demography and the Challenge of Social Change in the African Sahel

Saturday, September 20th, 2014

Career Resource Center Library on the 1st floor of Reitz Union

- 8:00–8:30 Coffee
- 8:30–8:45 Welcome and Introduction
- 8:45–10:15 **Panel 1: Population Growth and Climate Change**
Malcolm Potts, *UC Berkeley, OASIS Initiative*
Alisha Graves, *OASIS Initiative*
- 10:45–12:15 **Panel 2: The Livelihood Challenge: Farmers and Pastoralists**
Matt Turner, *University of Wisconsin*
Leif Brottem, *Grinnell College*
- 12:15–1:15 Lunch break
- 1:15–2:45 **Panel 3: Gender and Climate**
Sarah McKune, *University of Florida*
Arame Tall, *IFPRI*
- 3:00–4:00 **Roundtable: What Agenda for Research and Action?**

The Sahelian region of Africa finds itself challenged from multiple angles and across different scales. The region exhibits extremely rapid population growth, is grappling with the negative effects of climate change on extremely fragile agricultural systems, and has been swept in recent years by political instability and violence. These factors have produced unforeseen shifts in resources, livelihoods, and population movements. This symposium aims to provide an assessment of these challenges, while critically examining competing views and explanations about current trends. The purpose is to provide a sound basis from which we can better understand the region's prospects, and identify options for action.



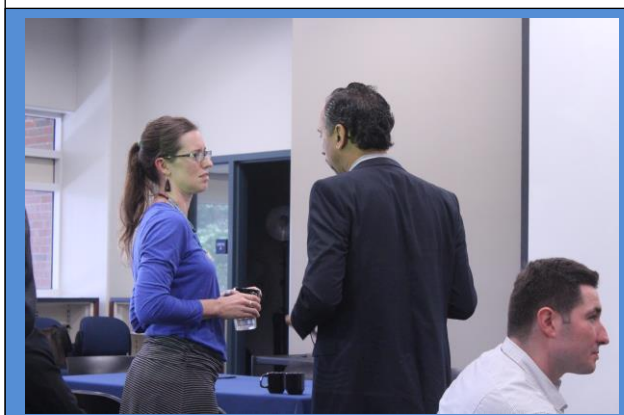
Sponsored by a Minerva Initiative grant, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States, the UF International Center, the Office of Research, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Center for African Studies.

For more information...

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The Sahel Research Group at the University of Florida is a collaborative effort to understand the political, social, economic and cultural dynamics of the countries of the West African Sahel. Our focus is primarily on the six Francophone countries of the region—Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad. We are also interested in developments in neighboring countries, to the north and south, whose dynamics frequently intersect with those of the Sahel. The Sahel Research Group brings together faculty and graduate students from various disciplines at the University of Florida, in collaboration with colleagues from the region.



Alisha Graves leads strategy, development and advocacy efforts for *The OASIS Initiative*. She completed her MPH in International Maternal and Child Health at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. She worked for six years as Senior Program Manager for a non-profit organization. She has worked across seven countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia





Leonardo A. Villalón, coordinator of the Sahel Research Group, is Dean of the International Center and Professor of Political Science and African Studies at the University of Florida. From 2002-2011 he served as director of the university's Center for African Studies.

