

# **Post-Intervention Governance and Security in the African Sahel**

May 19, 2017

Northwestern University and Sciences Po

**Location: Program of African Studies Conference Room  
620 Library Place**

## ***Introduction***

Following the regime change in Libya and the territorial takeover in Northern Mali by the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad in 2012, and international intervention to push back the militants and restore electoral democracy Bamako, the Sahel region has undergone dramatic changes in certain domains. This critical period of military conflict created new dynamics for state and civil society, in terms of military strategies, state governmentality, and associational organization. In addition to creating new dynamics, this intervention period unleashed certain pre-existing forces that were more marginal in the region and provided opportunities for transformation of well-established currents in these three domains as well (state, civil society, and military).

This conference will bring together experts of the Sahel to shed light on the implications of this regional recalibration: what are the consequences for security strategies and logics of military engagement both for state actors as well as continuing rebel groups? What are the domestic political strategies undertaken by state and political actors to utilize the resources and security situation to shape the domestic political environment? How do incumbent regimes and opposition alike reform their strategies and engage in a post-intervention context given the shifted playing field and emboldening of new actors? How do civic associations mobilize to maintain social relevance, build support, and shift political outcomes in line with their preferences?

## **Panel I. 8:30 – 10:30 am**

### **The State**

#### **Chair: Rachel Beatty Riedl**

- **Strong societies, weak states: Nigerien answers to a perennial African problem: Sebastian Elischer, University of Florida**
- **Making sense of the Mauritanian paradox: Zekeria Ould Ahmed Salem, University of Mauritania**
- **State Reforms, Security Challenges and Civil Vigilantism in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire: Richard Banegas and Romane Da Cunha Dupuy, Sciences Po**
- **Government Reforms and the Challenges of the State in Mali: Celine Thiriot, Sciences Po-Bordeaux**
- **Variations in State Resilience and Capacity in the Sahel: Leo Villalon, University of Florida**

**Coffee Break 10:30 – 10:45**

**Panel II. 10:45 am – 12:45 pm**

**Civil Society**

**Chair: Sean Hanretta**

- **Religious Mobilization and the Transformations Post-2012 in Senegal: Martha Wilfahrt and Lamin Keita, Northwestern University**
- **Grins as Social Capital in Mali: Jaimie Bleck, University of Notre Dame**
- **Civil Society Associations Impact in Media and Human Rights: Juliet Sorensen, Northwestern University**
- **Familial Nationalism in Weak African States: Lisa Mueller, Macalester College, (co-authored with Abhit Bhandari of Columbia University)**
- **Civil Society Resilience: Which Local Actors and What Roles?: Yacouba Dème, Near East Foundation, Mali**

**Lunch 1:00 – 3:00**

**Panel III. 3:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Military Strategy and Security Actors**

**Chair: Richard Joseph**

- **Libya's Hub for Insurgents and Territorial Security Measures in the Sahel: Roland Marchal, Sciences Po**
- **New Formations for US Policy in the Sahel? The Obama Years and Trump's Agenda: Will Reno and Franky Matissek, Northwestern University**
- **Effects of Boko Haram in Niger and Chad: Regional Considerations for State and Security: Vincent Foucher, Sciences Po Bordeaux**
- **Multilateral Strategies of Intervention in the Sahel: Marina Henke, Northwestern University**