A crisis of security and governance has traversed states across the Sahelian region of West Africa. From the Tuareg insurgency in Mali to Salafist militancy in northern Nigeria, security issues have also emanated from Algeria, Mauritania, southern Libya, Niger and Chad. The spaces of the Sahel are not “ungoverned,” though states have a great deal of difficulty projecting power throughout vast territories. This conference focuses on the issues of governance and development underlying the evolving security dilemmas in Sahelian states. Panels will examine the political and economic foundations of conflict in northern Nigeria; problems of political recovery and regional accommodation in Mali; sources of contentious politics in other states; and policy options for addressing issues of governance and development in the region.

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Thursday April 11
Bernstein-Offit Building, 1717 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Room 500

9:00: Welcome and Introduction: Peter Lewis and Paul Lubeck, SAIS/African Studies

9:15-10:15: Keynote Address
"The Security Crisis and the Reconfiguration of Governance in the Sahelian States"
Leonardo Villalon, University of Florida

10:15-10:30: Break

10:30-12:30:
Northern Nigeria: Islamism, Insurgency and the Collapse of Authority
Paul Lubeck, SAIS, African Studies Program
Usman Bugaje, Arewa Research and Development Project
General Abdulrahman Dambazau, Harvard University
Ambassador John Campbell, Council on Foreign Relations
Discussant: John Paden, George Mason University

12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30-3:30:
Sahelian States in Comparative Perspective: Governance and Insecurity
Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim, University of Florida, Niger
Colonel Birame Diop, Partners Senegal, Senegal
Leonardo Villalon, University of Florida, Chad
Discussant: Paul Lubeck, SAIS, African Studies Program
Friday April 12th
Rome Auditorium, 1619 Massachusetts Ave, NW

9:00-9:15: Welcome and Review of Issues for Discussion and Debate

9:15-11:00:
Mali: Explaining the Collapse of Governance and Reconstruction of the State

Susanna Wing, Haverford College
Andrew Lebovich, Open Society Initiative for West Africa
Roland Marchal, CERI/Sciences-Po
Jaimie Bleck, University of Notre Dame
Discussant: Eamonn Gearon, SAIS, African Studies Program

11:00-11:15        Break

11:15 -1:00:
The Future of Governance and Security in the Sahelian States

Jennifer Cooke, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Ambassador Maman Sidikou, Embassy of the Republic of Niger
John Paden, George Mason University
Hugh Roberts, Tufts University
Discussant: Usman Bugaje, Arewa Research and Development Project

1:00: Conclusion and Final Remarks: Peter Lewis. SAIS, African Studies Program