

# Islam in Africa Working Group

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## Fall 2013 Program

October 10

Fiona McLaughlin

Title: *Regimes of Literacy at the Port of Niodior (Senegal): Grassroots Ajami as Local Writing*”

**Fiona Mc Laughlin** has a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin and is currently chair of the Linguistics Department at UF. She works on formal and sociolinguistics aspects of the Atlantic languages, Wolof, Seereer and Pulaar, and most recently on the writing of African languages in Arabic script.

October 15th

Mamadou Bodian

Title: *“Islam in the University Environment of Sengal: the Case of Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar (UCAD).”*

**Mamadou Bodian**, is a PhD student in Political Science at the University of Florida. His current research focuses on elections and democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa with a particular focus on Senegal, Mali and Niger.

October 24th

Robert Parks, Director of the Centre d'études maghrébines en Algérie (CEMA)  
Laryssa Chomiak, Director Centre d'études maghrébines à Tunis (CEMAT)

Title: *“The Maghreb after the Arab Spring: Tunisia and Algeria in Regional Perspective.”*

This panel discussion, featuring two political scientists who direct research centers in Algeria and Tunisia respectively, will focus on the contrasting political trajectories of these two countries, almost three years after the beginning of the major political events that came to be known as the “Arab Spring.” Topics will include the politics of constitution-writing and institution-building, elections, security concerns, and political Islam. The panelists will also address the implications of more recent events in Egypt for the region. CEMA and CEMAT are both overseas research centers of the American Institute for Maghreb Studies (AIMS), a member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC).

November 19th

Terje Østebø

Title: *“Ethiopian Muslims and the State: In Between Politics of Withdrawal and Politics of Recognition”*

**Terje Østebø** is assistant professor of Religion and African Studies at the University of Florida. His research focuses on reformism and contemporary developments in Islamic societies of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.

December 3rd

Ahmed Garba

Title: *“The Implication of the Regulation of Religious Preaching in a Democratic Society: A study of the Preaching Board Laws in the Sharia States of Northern Nigeria.”*

**Ahmed Garba** is a Ph.D candidate in the Faculty of Law of the Bayero University Kano, Nigeria, and currently a visiting Scholar at the University Of Iowa, College Of Law. His research interests are issues relating to Religion, State and Human Rights.