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Uppsala University's Forum for Africa Studies  
SIPRI's Sahel and West Africa Programme



## SAHEL SYMPOSIUM

# *Public Services and Citizen Perspectives in Times of Crisis*

14-15 December 2023, Uppsala University  
Blåsenhus, von Kraemers Allé 1A, Uppsala, Sweden

The Sahel Symposium is co-organized by Uppsala University's Forum for Africa Studies, and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's Sahel and West Africa Programme. This two-day symposium will bring together a dozen scholars working in and on West Africa in a particularly important discussion on public services provisioning and the perspectives of citizens in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. It also hosts a hybrid Round-table as to allow for a general reflection between researchers, policy-makers, practitioners, and the general public. The Sahel Symposium will furthermore include methodological papers on research in times of crises. The Symposium will benefit from simultaneous French/English translation services.

### Venue

Thursday 14 December, 9-17, Room Bertil Hammer-salen, 24:K104, Blåsenhus  
Friday 15 December, 9-13, Room 13:136, Blåsenhus

### Agenda

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#### Thursday 14 December

Room Bertil Hammer-salen, 24:K104, Blåsenhus, von Kraemers Allé 1A

#### 9.00-10.00 Opening ceremony

Presenters: **Anders Hagfeldt** (Vice-Chancellor, Uppsala University), **Dan Smith** (Director, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute), and **Sten Hagberg** (Director, Uppsala University's Forum for Africa Studies)



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### 10.30-12.30 Public Services in the midst of Crisis

Presenters: **Virginie Boudais** (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIRPI), **Oumarou Hamani**, Laboratoire d'Études et de Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL), **Valérie Rouamba**, Centre pour la Gouvernance démocratique (CGD), and **Nana Issa Saley**, Laboratoire d'Études et de Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL).

Discussant: **Gabriella Körling**, Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI)

“State at Work”: The continuing deterioration of the security situation raises the question of the functioning of the state, its presence and its ability to govern in security-affected areas. In such a context, there is a growing need for protection but if the focus has been put on security responses, we must not forget these public agents who continue to carry out their missions under the threats of armed groups. Presentations can focus on the reality experienced by agents, the impact of insecurity on public services, the territorial and symbolic representations of the state, and how the current crisis is reshaping the state in the central Sahel.

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### 13.30-15.00 Malian Women's Political Participation

Presenters: **Sten Hagberg**, Uppsala University, **Bintou Koné**, University of Bayreuth/Institut des Sciences Humaines, and **Yaouaga Félix Koné**, Institut des Sciences Humaines

Discussant: **Diana Højlund Madsen**, Nordic Africa Institute

Malian Women are experiencing a growing political participation, despite lingering traditional contexts of society and culture excluding women from the management of public affairs. In an ongoing comparative ethnographic study carried out by Malian and Swedish researchers, women politicians in 20 municipalities across Mali were studied. In addition, they interviewed women ministers and parliamentarians as to understand the national political stakes when it comes to Malian women's political participation. Presentations will focus on ethnographic case-studies, and comparative observations.



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**15h30-17h00: Round-Table (hybrid) – Strengthening Public Service Provisioning and Citizen Perspectives in the present-day in the Sahel**

Zoom-link: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/69591009788>

Moderator: **Sten Hagberg**, Uppsala University

Presenters: **Thomas Ouédraogo**, Centre pour la Gouvernance démocratique (CGD), **Kadari Traoré**, Centre d'Étude pour le Développement en Afrique (CEDA), **Virginie Baudais** Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), and **Nana Issa Saley** Laboratoire d'Études et de Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL)

States are being challenged as institutions, and the current situation in the Sahel is rooted in the unequal and insufficient presence of the state and the inability to deliver public goods and services to local communities. Strengthening Public Service Provisioning makes the presence of the State more tangible and strengthens the link between the State and its citizens. The round table will discuss the link between the State, citizenships and the provision of public services.

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**Friday 15 December**

**Room 13:136, Blåsenhus, von Kraemers Allé 1A**

**9.00-11.00 Theory and Method in the Study in/of Crisis**

Moderator: Shourjya Deb, SIPRI

Presenters: **Joschka Philipps**, University of Bayreuth, **Marte Beldé**, University of Ghent, **Mats Utas**, Uppsala University, **Bintou Koné**, Institut des Sciences Humaines/University of Bayreuth, and **Oumarou Hamani**, Laboratoire d'Études et de Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL)

The continuing deterioration of the security situation in the Sahel includes restricted access to many areas. Research in the Sahel region has become more challenging, now divided into larger 'orange' or 'red' areas on security maps. When fieldwork becomes inaccessible, research and data collection methods



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must be adapted. Presentations will discuss how to deal with unpredictable fieldwork, the strategies we should adopt and how to ensure that the data collection is conducted according to scientific requirements.

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### **11.30-13.00 General Discussion – Research for Peace, and Justice?**

Moderator: **Oulia Makkonen**, Uppsala University

Presenters: **Yaouaga Félix Koné**, Institut des Sciences Humaines, and **Valérie Rouamba**, Centre pour la Gouvernance démocratique (CGD),

To conclude the Sahel Symposium we will engage conversations on how research and researchers may play a role in fostering peace and justice in present-day Sahel. Two participants will share their thoughts and reflections before we open up for a general discussion with the audience.

### **Acknowledgements**

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