



The Centre FrancoPaix Mali Project

Stabilizing Mali: The Challenges of Conflict Resolution

Project description

The Centre FrancoPaix

Founded at the Université du Québec à Montréal in 1996, the Raoul Dandurand Chair of Strategic and Diplomatic Studies provides analysis and training and disseminates knowledge on behalf of universities, government agencies, international organizations, the private sector and society at large. The Centre FrancoPaix in Conflict Resolution and Peace Missions (CFP) was established under the auspices of this Chair in January 2016, thanks to the support of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. CFP activities are also supported by Global Affairs Canada. In September 2016, the CFP launched a major research project on conflict and international engagement in Mali. The project's director, Professor Bruno Charbonneau of Laurentian University, is co-founder of the West Africa Peace and Security Network, with which the CFP is affiliated.

The Mali Project

Entitled 'Stabilizing Mali: The Challenges of Conflict Resolution', the Mali Project seeks to produce rigorous scientific analyses of the Malian conflict. The project will enable, inter alia, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) to fulfill its mandate to stabilize and support the implementation of the Peace Accords. Through an in-depth analysis of the situation and of the possibilities for action, using a multidisciplinary approach and a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods, this initiative aims to establish linkages across multiple variables that impact the conflict. In this way, the Mali Project will develop an enhanced and detailed understanding of the conflict to improve the responses, interventions and capacities for stabilization, management and conflict resolution of diverse international actors engaged in Mali.

Research Priorities

The following seven research priorities have been identified:

1. Malian state institutions and formal political dynamics (Leader: Professor Jonathan Sears);
2. Security Sector Reform (Leader: Dr. Niagalé Bagayoko);
3. Ethno-racial, gendered and 'caste' dynamics (Co-leaders: Professors Marie Brossier and Cédric Jourde);
4. Illicit economic actors and networks in the Sahel (Leader: Dr. Adam Sandor);
5. Terrorist groups and armed insurgent movements in the Sahel (Leader: Professor Aurélie Campana);
6. Demographic portrait of the peoples of Mali (Leader: Professor Christian Leuprecht);
7. Evaluation, influence and impact of MINUSMA and Operation Barkhane (Leader: Professor Bruno Charbonneau).

Research Team



Bruno Charbonneau: Director of the CFP and the Mali Project, Associate Professor of Political Science at Laurentian University (Sudbury, Canada), Adjunct Professor at the Institut d'études internationales de Montréal (UQAM).

Areas of expertise: International interventions; peacekeeping operations; peace, security and conflicts in Francophone West Africa; Franco-African relations..



Adam Sandor: Coordinator for the Mali Project and postdoctoral researcher at the CFP.

Areas of expertise: Transnational governance of security in West Africa and the Sahel; illicit trafficking in the Sahel; security capacity building programs.



Niagalé Bagayoko: Senior Expert at the African Security Sector Network.

Areas of expertise: security sector reform; peace operations; conflicts in Africa; African sub-regional organizations.



Marie Brossier: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Université Laval (Quebec City, Canada).

Areas of expertise: Comparative politics; family and politics; social history of the State and institutions; democratization; political transition; collective action; sociology of religion; sub-Saharan Africa.



Aurélie Campana: Full Professor, Department of Political Science, Université Laval and Canada Research Chair on Conflicts and Terrorism.

Areas of expertise: Nationalism; identity conflict; terrorism; Mali-Sahel; Caucasus; Russia; Central Asia.



Christian Leuprecht : Professor, Department of Political Science, Royal Military College (Kingston, Canada).

Areas of expertise: security and defence; political demography; comparative federalism; multi-level governance.



Jonathan Sears: Assistant Professor of International Development Studies at Menno Simons College and Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Winnipeg (Canada).

Areas of expertise: Mali; theories of development; democratic transition; comparative politics of Africa.

Cédric Jourde: Professor at the School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa (Canada). Editor, Canadian Journal of African Studies.

Areas of expertise: Islam and politics; politics of developing countries; politics of identities; democratic transition and authoritarian restoration; sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa.

For more information:

<https://dandurand.uqam.ca/centre-francopaix/>

Director, CFP and Mali Project: bcharbonneau@laurentienne.ca

Coordinator: sandor.adam@uqam.ca