

Demography and the Challenge of Social Change in the African Sahel

Saturday, September 20th, 2014

Career Resource Center Library on the 1st floor of Reitz Union

- 8:00–8:30 Coffee
- 8:30–8:45 Welcome and Introduction
- 8:45–10:15 **Panel 1: Population Growth and Climate Change**
Malcolm Potts, UC Berkeley, OASIS Initiative
Alisha Graves, OASIS Initiative
- 10:45–12:15 **Panel 2: The Livelihood Challenge: Farmers and Pastoralists**
Matt Turner, University of Wisconsin
Leif Brottem, Grinnell College
- 12:15–1:15 Lunch break
- 1:15–2:45 **Panel 3: Gender and Climate**
Sarah McKune, University of Florida
Arame Tall, IFPRI
- 3:00–4:00 **Roundtable: What Agenda for Research and Action?**

The Sahelian region of Africa finds itself challenged from multiple angles and across different scales. The region exhibits extremely rapid population growth, is grappling with the negative effects of climate change on extremely fragile agricultural systems, and has been swept in recent years by political instability and violence. These factors have produced unforeseen shifts in resources, livelihoods, and population movements. This symposium aims to provide an assessment of these challenges, while critically examining competing views and explanations about current trends. The purpose is to provide a sound basis from which we can better understand the region's prospects, and identify options for action.

