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*Islam and Democracy Lecture Series*

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## Leonardo Villalón

[November](#)

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"Negotiating Democracy in Muslim West Africa: Sahelian Trajectories"

[January](#)

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

[February](#)

Noon

[March](#)

Mershon Center for International Security Studies

[April](#)

1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

[May](#)

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Leonardo A. Villalón is Director of the Center for African Studies and Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Florida. His research specialization is in contemporary African politics, and he has focused in particular on issues of Islam and politics and on democratization in the Sahelian countries of Senegal, Mali, and Niger.

Villalón is the author of *Islamic Society and State Power in Senegal* (Cambridge University Press, 1995), and co-editor of *The African State at a Critical Juncture: Between Disintegration and Reconfiguration* (Lynne Rienner publishers, 1998), and *The Fate of Africa's Democratic Experiments: Elites and Institutions*. (Indiana University Press, 2005), as well as of numerous articles and book chapters on politics and religion in West Africa.

Villalón taught for two years as a Fulbright senior scholar at the Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal. He has also taught at the Université Gaston Berger in St. Louis, Senegal, and has lectured and directed seminars and workshops at universities and other institutions in numerous West African countries. These have included seminars on civic education and democracy for teachers in rural Mali, workshops on democracy and the role of legislatures for the national parliaments of Chad and of Burkina Faso, and a seminar on consensus building for all parties to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.



Leonardo Villalón  
Director of the Center  
for African Studies  
University of Florida

From 2001-05 Villalón served as president of the West African Research Association, the only sub-Saharan African member institution of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, based at the Smithsonian Institution. In 2007 he was named a Carnegie Scholar by the Carnegie Corporation of New York for research on a project entitled "Negotiating Democracy in Muslim Contexts: Political Liberalization and Religious Mobilization in the West African Sahel."

Villalón has a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, as well as degrees from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University, and Louisiana State University.

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1501 Neil Ave.

Columbus, OH 43201

Phone: 614.292.1681

Fax: 614.292.2407

Email: [mershoncenter@osu.edu](mailto:mershoncenter@osu.edu)