

## African Power & Politics Programme



Since 2007 the Center for African Studies has participated as an institutional partner (the only one in North America) in the African Power and Politics Programme (APPP). This 5 year program of research and policy engagement is led by the Overseas Development Institute (London), and other partners in France, Ghana, Niger, Uganda and the UK, including:

- Centre for Democratic Development, Accra, Ghana
- Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL), Niamey, Niger and Parakou, Benin
- Development Research and Training, Kampala, Uganda
- Centre Norbert Elias, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Marseille, France
- Institute for Development Studies, Brighton, UK

The APP consortium is dedicated to “discovering institutions that work for poor people”. That means exploring the kinds of political, economic and social arrangements that, if adopted, would enable countries of sub-Saharan Africa to make faster progress towards development and the elimination of extreme poverty. APPP thus aims to identify ways of ordering politics and regulating power and authority that might work better than those now in place, on the basis of a careful and critical look at what has worked well in Africa itself in the recent and not-so-recent past.

The program’s objectives combine research with research-training, organizational capacity strengthening and policy development, and aims to do the research in ways that recognize the substantial, if often underrated, resources for collective problem-solving that are to be found in African societies.

The APP Programme is organized

around six current “research streams,” focusing on varied empirical issues. Two research projects are currently led by UF faculty. Renata Serra directs one of two substreams of the “Business and Politics” stream, on the theme of “Institutions, Power, and Norms in African Cotton Sector Reforms.” Leonardo Villalón is co-director, with Mahaman Tidjani Alou of LASDEL, of the stream on “Formalizing Schooling: Religion and Education Reform in the Sahel.” In addition, several other UF faculty and eight PhD students have had research funded through the APPP. The photo on this page shows the participants at a June 2010 meeting of the religion and education research stream at LASDEL in Niger.

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