

PRESENTS:

The African Madrassa: Transformations of Islamic Education in Contemporary Africa

A SYMPOSIUM — March 21-22, 2014

**404 Grinter Hall
Friday, March 21**

3:30 PM

Roman Loimeier (University of Goettingen)

Trajectories of Islamic Education in the 20th century: Zanzibar and Beyond

**404 Grinter Hall
Saturday, March 22**

8:30 AM

Coffee and Tea

9:00 AM

Leonardo Villalon (University of Florida)

Educating Muslim Citizens for the Secular State: The Politics of Educational Reform in the Francophone Sahel

10:00 AM

Mbaye Lo (Duke University)

Islamic Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges

11:00 AM

Rudolph “Butch” Ware (University of Michigan)

Efficacy, Tenacity, and Hybridity: Notes on the “Modernity” of “Traditional” Qur’an schooling in Senegal

12:00 PM

Lunch Break

1:30 PM

Plenary Panel Discussion

All Four Speakers Plus UF Moderator

This symposium aims to explore recent trends in forms of Islamic education in different African contexts, situating them in specific social and political contexts. Institutions of Islamic education have in recent years elicited significant interest for their potential role in the elaboration and propagation of different ideological positions based on religion. This interest has in particular been driven by fears on the part of policymakers about the potential “radicalizing” influence of madrassas and similar institutions. Such concerns, however, have tended to obfuscate fundamental debates in the Muslim world about the most appropriate and useful forms of Islamic education today. In much of Muslim Africa this has included reforms and experiments attempting to balance the “traditional” forms of teaching morals and values and the utilitarian ends of “modern” forms of education.

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