

## **Mali in Transition**

### **Speakers Bio and Abstracts**

**Pierre Boilley**, CEMAF, Université Paris 1 Panthéon – Sorbonne, France.

**Titre:** Mali, quel passé pour quel futur?

**Résumé :** Après l'éclatement de la rébellion du Mouvement National pour la Libération de l'Azawad (MNLA) en janvier 2012, le putsch militaire du 22 mars, la prise de contrôle des villes du nord par les salafistes extrémistes, et enfin le déclenchement de l'opération française Serval en janvier 2013, le Mali vit actuellement des heures difficiles en espérant la résolution des problèmes qui l'affectent, terrorisme toujours actif, absence de légalité constitutionnelle, problème du nord, dans un contexte de développement contrarié. Il est nécessaire de remonter dans l'histoire pour mieux analyser les racines des difficultés présentes, prendre en compte les solutions qui ont existé dans le passé, et en tirer des perspectives pour l'avenir.

**Bio:** Pierre Boilley est professeur d'Histoire contemporaine de l'Afrique à l'Université Paris 1 Panthéon – Sorbonne, et directeur du Centre d'Etudes des Mondes Africains (CEMAf), unité mixte du Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS). Ses spécialités et enseignements concernent l'Etat en Afrique, et particulièrement les identités culturelles, le sentiment national, les frontières africaines et les révoltes et rébellions sahariennes et sahéniennes. Il a publié, entre autres ouvrages, *Les Touaregs Kel Adagh. Dépendances et révoltes: du Soudan français au Mali contemporain* (Paris, Karthala, 1999), *Amidou Mariko, Mémoires d'un crocodile. Du sujet français au citoyen malien* (Bamako, Editions Donniya, 2001), *Nomades et commandants. Administration coloniale et sociétés nomades dans l'ancienne AOF* (Paris, Karthala, collection Hommes et sociétés, 1993), et participé récemment à *L'Année du Maghreb 2011, Dossier «Sahara en mouvement»* sous le titre «Géopolitique africaine et rébellions touarègues. Approches locales, approches globales (1960-2011)».

**Vermondo Brugnatelli.** Università' La Bicocca, Milano, Italy.

**Title:** Implications of the Azawad issue for the Amazigh world

**Abstract:** The events of the last two years in Mali and the declaration of independence of Azawad are having a long-range impact which goes far beyond the regional dimension of Western Africa and also encompasses all "Arab" countries along the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts, including those which do

not share a political border with Mali. Berber ("Amazigh") minorities living in these countries, from Mauritania to Libya and Egypt participate with keen interest in the events taking place in the Azawad, a region which they consider a symbol of their struggle to preserve their ancestral language and culture and are being threatened by Arabisation policies pursued by their governments. Since the birth of the Berber cultural movement in the 1980s, the Tuareg are considered a symbol of resistance to assimilation. Their language preserves a rich inherited vocabulary unaffected by Arabic loanwords. That is the reason why scholars and activists turned to it as a source of neologisms to replace expressions of Arabic or European origin. Many of them have been adopted for everyday use and are nowadays widespread all over Northern Africa. Today their struggle for independence awakens hope for the birth of a State in which the Berbers are no longer a minority but a majority of the components of the nation. Many countries of North Africa are witnessing demonstrations of Berber militants supporting Azawad, and their governments follow with concern the turn of events. Will their outcome have an effect even outside the Saharan region and combine with the demand of freedom and justice conveyed by the so called "Arab spring"?

**Bio:** Vermondo Brugnatelli is associate professor of African languages and literatures at the University of Milan-Bicocca. His linguistic research covers the Afro-Asiatic domain. His first essay concerned historical linguistics (*Questioni di Morfologia e Sintassi dei Numerali Cardinali Semitici*, Florence 1982). In addition to many other publications in the last years his interest has focused on the Berber world and North African contemporary issues (*Libia Inedita. Paralipomeni della Tirannomachia*, Rome 2012).

**Alessandra Giuffrida**, Research Associate, Centre of African Studies, SOAS, UK.

**Title:** Longing to go home? A view from Malian Tuareg refugees in Mauritania.

**Abstract:** From independence onwards, forced migration in northern Mali coincided with secular rebellions and droughts. The 2012 Tuareg renewed rebellion, military coup and infiltration of terrorist groups have pushed Malian refugees, economic migrants and the displaced away from home. Drawing on data collected since 2001 among the Kel Antessar and other Tuareg clans from the Region of Timbuktu across kinship networks in Mali and Morocco, and more recently in Nouakchott and Mberra refugee camp in Mauritania, this paper addresses the question as to why most Tuareg refugees in Mauritania are unwilling to vote, return to Mali and reintegrate their country as members of a Malian civil.

**Bio:** Alessandra Giuffrida is a social anthropologist and research associate at the Centre of African Studies of the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London). She is also affiliated to Queen Elizabeth House Department of International Development (University of Oxford). She has earned her PhD in social anthropology at UCL Department of Anthropology and a MSC in Media and Communication at the London School of Economics. Her research focuses on structural dynamics of social and spatial mobility and networks of Berberophone pastoralists, migrants and refugees with particular emphasis on the Tuareg from the Region of Timbuktu in Mali. In addition to northern Mali she worked in southern Morocco and Darfour in the Sudan. Her publications include "Bridging the divide: continuity and change among the *eghawelen* in the District of Goundam (Mali)" in *Who are the Hratin? The 'invisible people' of Mauritania and Southern Morocco* (2013) ed McDougall, A. *The Maghreb Review*. "Tuareg networks: an integrated approach to mobility and stasis" (2010). Chapter 3 in Fisher and Kohl (eds) *Tuareg Moving Global, Saharan Lives in Transition*. I.B. Tauris. "Clerics, rebels and refugees: mobility strategies and networks among the Kel Antessar" (2007) Chapter 14 in Keenan, J. (ed) *The Sahara: Past, Present and Future*. Routledge, also published in *Journal of North African Studies* (2005) Volume 10 Numbers 3-4 (autumn-winter). London: Taylor and Francis. Randall, S. and Giuffrida, A. (2006). "Forced migration, sedentarisation and social change: Malian Kel Tamasheq" in Chatty, D. (ed) *Pastoralists of North Africa and the Middle East entering the 21st century*. Brill Publications. "Métamorphoses des relations de dépendance chez les Kel Antessar du cercle de Goundam" (2005) in *Cahiers d'Etudes Africaines. Esclavage moderne ou modernité de l'esclavage?* XLV (3-4) 179/180.

**Charles Grémont** Chargé de recherches à l'IRD, au LPED (Laboratoire population environnement développement – UMR 151), Marseille, France.

**Title:** Les relations intercommunautaires en souffrance au Nord-Mali (2011-2013). Essai de compréhension à l'écoute des populations civiles.

**Abstract:** Au-delà des images hyper médiatisées de salafistes cherchant à instaurer la sharia par la force, de preneurs d'otages et autres trafiquants de drogue essaimant le Sahara, de rebelles touaregs proclamant l'indépendance d'une République nommée «Azawad», de discours à la tribune des organisations internationales, et maintenant de l'intervention militaire orchestrée par la France, il y a des hommes et des femmes, des chefs de village, de fractions, de familles, des élus locaux, des agriculteurs, des éleveurs, des fonctionnaires... que l'on entend pas, ou si peu. Nombreux parmi eux sont aujourd'hui réfugiés dans des pays voisins, ou déplacés plus au Sud (à Bamako surtout). Les autres sont restés. Certains par choix, d'autres par manque de ressources. Mais tous se

retrouveront, tôt ou tard, et chercheront à reprendre leurs activités quotidiennes, à organiser leurs territoires, à accaparer les moyens et les places du pouvoir, comme ils l'ont fait jusqu'à présent. Ne pas associer ces populations civiles aux processus de médiation, de concertation, et de négociation serait invraisemblable. C'est pourtant ce qui s'est passé au cours des conflits armés que les régions nord du Mali ont traversé depuis les années 1990. A partir de rencontres organisées à l'initiative de la Fondation pour le Dialogue Humanitaire (H.D.), réunissant des élus locaux, des chefs de villages et de fractions, des «personnes ressources», réfugiés dans les pays voisins, déplacés à Bamako, ou restés sur leur terroir, je voudrais tenter d'éclairer les raisons des nouvelles déchirures du tissu social. Aucun mouvement armé, si ce n'est l'armée malienne de retour dans les régions de Tombouctou et de Gao depuis février 2013, n'a, jusqu'à présent, pris pour cible des groupes de populations pour ce qu'ils sont. Et pourtant, la peur de l'autre, les accusations, la stigmatisation, le rejet entre Tamasheq et Songhay, entre Arabes et Tamasheq, entre Peuls et Songhay, Tamasheq et Peul... n'ont certainement jamais été aussi forts. Des lignes de rupture séparent aussi les gens à l'intérieur de ces groupes. Et pourtant, comme ils le disent tous, ou presque, ils «sont condamnés à vivre ensemble»

**Bio:** Charles Grémont est chargé de recherches à l'IRD, au LPED (Laboratoire population environnement développement – UMR 151), Marseille. Historien, docteur en histoire (Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne), 2007. Ses publications les plus récentes incluent 2012, "Villages and Crossroads. Changing Territorialities among the Tuareg of Northern Mali", in J. Mac Dougall & J. Scheele (Eds.), *Saharan frontiers. Space and mobility in Northwest Africa*, Bloomington, Indiana University Press. 2011, «Ancrage au sol et (nouvelles) mobilités dans l'espace Saharo-sahélien: des expériences similaires et compatibles », *L'Année du Maghreb*, VII, dossier Sahara en mouvement, pp. 177-189. 2010, *Les Touaregs Iwellemmedan (1647-1896). Un ensemble politique de la Boucle du Niger (Nord-Mali)*, Paris, Karthala, 557 p. 2009, «Des Touaregs à l'épreuve de la frontière. Cohabitation et confrontation dans la zone de Tedjarert (Nord-est du Mali) », *L'Ouest saharien*, Hors Série n. 9-2, *La question du pouvoir en Afrique du Nord et de l'ouest* (S. Caratini dir.), pp. 27-66.

**Yvan Guichaoua**, Department of International Development, University of East Anglia, UK.

**Title:** "From Tuareg Nationalism to Jihad: Changing Patterns of Militancy in the Sahara".

**Abstract:** This paper explains the transformations of logics of irregular militancy in northern Mali over the past ten years. Namely, it focuses on the partial (and

possibly reversible) eviction of Tuareg nationalist militancy by religious militancy advocating the local enforcement of the Sharia Law, as well as the Jihad. The shift from one sort of militancy to another results from individual trajectories of conversion among leaders and followers, from confrontations between antagonistic factions, but also, crucially, from complex alliances. The paper traces the major historical steps that have produced these dramatic changes. It insists on the exogenous processes catalyzing it, whether state-driven, economic and political. Ultimately, following theoretical insights put forward by Stathis Kalyvas, the paper tries to reconcile the analysis of micro-level dynamics of violent mobilization with the analysis of the 'macro-cleavages' shaping them.

**Bio:** Yvan Guichaoua is a lecturer in International Politics at the University of East Anglia. He is a former teaching fellow at Yale University and research officer at the University of Oxford. He has been studying the dynamics of irregular armed groups in Sub-Saharan Africa since 2004. Since 2007, he has been studying Tuareg recurring rebellions in Niger and Mali. His work pays close attention to the complex interactions between violent entrepreneurs and low level combatants shaping the success or failure of irregular armed groups as well as the forms of violence they perpetrate. He is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters and the editor of "Understanding Collective Political Violence" and co-editor of "The Developmental Challenges of Mining and Oil" (Palgrave-Macmillan).

**Bruce Hall**, Department of History, Johns Hopkins University. US

**Title:** Towards a new cosmopolitanism in Northern Mali?

**Abstract:** In light of the conflicts that have beset Northern Mali over the last two years, and intermittently since independence in 1960, this paper will offer a perspective on how people in this region have tried to resolve conflicts in the past on the basis of an Islamic cosmopolitanism. I acknowledge and explain some of the underlying causes of conflict, and the racial and ethnic ways in which difference has been instrumentalized at different times, but the paper concentrates on the historical instances of more universalist counterarguments against these essentializing differences, demonstrating that this too is a part of the region's intellectual and cultural heritage. The paper uses examples drawn from the intellectual history of Northern Mali, but the purpose of the paper is to lay out a contemporary argument that can be debated and contested in the present.

**Bio:** Bruce S. Hall earned his Ph.D. in History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2005. He is currently an assistant professor in the Department of History at Johns Hopkins University. He previously held positions at Duke University and the University at Buffalo (SUNY). His book, entitled *A History of Race in Muslim West Africa, 1600-1960* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011), was the co-winner of the 2012 Martin Klein Prize from the American Historical Association for best book in English on African History. He has also published articles in the *Journal of African History*, *Journal of North African Studies*, and *International Journal of African Historical Studies*.

**Charlotte Joy**, Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths' College. UK

**Title:** UNESCO is what? World Heritage, Militant Islam and the search for a common humanity in Mali

**Abstract:** This paper will take a historic perspective on the contestation over identity in Mali through an examination of the country's cultural heritage. Under the influence of Alpha Oumar Konaré, Mali's cultural heritage was put at the forefront of governmental attempts to create a unified and coherent Malian national identity. Three World Heritage sites were declared in Mali during the 1980s – Timbuktu, Djenné and Dogon Country. In 2004, the Tomb of the Askias in Gao was added to the list and in 2005, the Peul bi-annual transhumance celebrations, the Cultural Space of the Yaaral and Dégal was included in UNESCO's Third Proclamation of the Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Heritage. Contestations over cultural heritage in Mali, specifically in reference to recent events surrounding the destruction of tombs and the reported destruction of manuscript in Timbuktu by radicalised groups, are a prism through which to discuss the wider identity politics within the country. Who is being enfranchised/disenfranchised by international recognition of cultural heritage? How has Tuareg/Tamashek culture fared within this national discourse? What future steps could be taken to broaden out the concept of Malian identity to recognise the cultural landscapes and life ways of importance to diverse groups? And how can contested heritage, such as the heritage surrounding the ancient salt trade routes be acknowledged in an international atmosphere of 'war on terror'?

**Bio:** Charlotte Joy is a social anthropologist with a background in material culture. She did her PhD at University College London and her postdoctoral research at the University of Cambridge. She carried out fieldwork in Djenné,

Mali and at UNESCO in Paris and is concerned with developing an ethnographic approach to understanding the politics of cultural heritage and the links between cultural heritage, rights and development.

**Hassan Kamil**, Université Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech, Morocco.

**Title:** Mutations socio-spatiales au Nord du Mali: enjeux et défis

**Résumé:** Le Nord du Mali a connu, depuis les années 1990, des mutations socio-spatiales intenses. La succession des périodes de rébellion et de réhabilitation a instauré une discontinuité dans les mécanismes de régulation aussi bien politique que socio-économique. L'action collective est ainsi traduite sur le plan de l'urgence, et débouche inéluctablement sur une autre phase, dire de réhabilitation et de développement. La configuration développementaliste joue un rôle important dans la vision du changement social et de l'évolution de ces territoires. Nous analyserons, à travers notre expérience en tant qu'acteur dans cette configuration et en tant que chercheur, la portée des discours produits sur le Nord du Mali, sur ses modes de vie, sur l'altérité et les enjeux identitaires, et enfin sur le devenir des populations, souvent évoqué de manière performative, s'inscrivant dans une logique idiosyncrasique imposée par la logique des projets de développement qui renie les dynamiques propres des structures sociales locales, de leur capacité à évoluer de façon autonome.

**Bio:** Hassan Kamil, chercheur-enseignant en socio-anthropologie à l'Université Cadi Ayyad de Marrakech au Maroc depuis 2012. PhD en Anthropologie de l'Université Aix-en-Provence (France). Ingénieur Agronome et Msc en économie et en géographie, a publié sa thèse aux éditions Septentrion, une dizaine d'articles en anthropologie du changement social et en pastoralisme, enseigne la sociologie de l'art à l'Académie des Arts traditionnels de Casablanca, a dirigé une trentaine de thèse de Master sur le Maroc, le Mali et la France. Chercheur associé au Laboratoire Mixte International MediTer (France) et EPE (Economie et politiques d'Elevage-CIRAD France), il a été coordinateur régional Afrique et chef de projet à Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières, a collaboré avec plusieurs cabinets d'études et ONG en Afrique, Yemen, et en Europe, a travaillé comme consultant auprès d'Organisations de la Société civile en Afrique, expert accrédité auprès du gouvernement mauritanien en matière de développement et auprès de l'Alliance des Peuples Pasteurs Autochtones en Afrique de l'Ouest. Il dirige l'Association du Musée Tiskiwin.

**Georg Klute.** Tenured Professor in Anthropology of Africa, Bayreuth University, Germany

**Title: The secessionist and the Islamic claim in Northern Mali**

**Abstract:** While utopias of (political) autonomy or an independent (Tuareg)-state are since long part and parcel of internal debates among Tuareg, it was only recently that the claim for independence was formulated to the outside world. A Tuareg-state “Azawad” was even put into practice, albeit for some months only. A second characteristic in this regard is the fact that there has never been a serious attempt at integrating all Tuareg, regardless of the country they are living in, into a unique nation-state. Is the ‘national identity’ of the respective postcolonial states so strong that it supplants the ‘claim for independence’? Or is the pre-colonial form of political organization among Tuareg, the regional drum-group (*ettebel*), still so vivid that it impedes the establishment of a state that would encompass all Tuareg? Apart from the independence movement MNLA operating in Northern Mali, there are Islamist groups which fight for the spread of an Islamic mode of life. Some of these succeeded recruiting Tuareg, particularly among the *Kal-Adagh* of the Kidal region. The appeal of the ‘Islamic claim’ to the *Kal-Adagh* goes back to their genesis as a political entity during the period of colonial conquest when the French installed the *Kal-Adagh* drum-group within the framework of the administrative chieftainship. As nearly all *Kal-Adagh* claim descent from members of the Islamic army that conquered North Africa in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, regional power is now based on a double legitimacy: that of an Islamic nobility, and that of the Tuareg warrior class. Since several months, however, there is an ideological dissent among the Tuareg followers of the Islamic movements. This debate turns around the principal question about the means allowed or forbidden within the framework of jihad and about the question whether or not the Islamic mode of life should be shaped by local traditions.

**Bio** Since 2003 Georg Klute is tenured Professor in Anthropology of Africa at Bayreuth University. Current functions include: Chairman of the German African Studies Association (since June 2012), Member of the extended executive board of the German African Studies Association, the German Anthropological Association, the Executive Board of ABORNE (Africa Borderlands Research Network). Principal Investigator of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies, member of its Academic Committee. Areas of interest: The state in Africa, nomadism, nomads and the state, Islam in Africa, work in pre-industrial societies, ethnicity, of violence and of war; ethnic conflicts; new forms of political domination (para-sovereignty), Sociology and Anthropology of development, anthropological research of monetarization. Publications: Bellagamba, Alice / Klute, Georg (eds.) 2008, *Beside the State. Emergent Powers in Contemporary Africa*, Köln: Köppe. Hahn, Hans Peter / Klute, Georg (eds.) 2007, *Cultures of Migration. African Perspectives*, Münster – Hamburg – Berlin – Wien – London: Lit Verlag. Inhetveen, Katharina / Klute, Georg 2009 (Hg.) 2009,

Begegnungen und Auseinandersetzungen. Festschrift für Trutz von Trotha, Köln: Köppe.

Klute, Georg (ed.) 1996, Nomads and the State, (special issue of Nomadic Peoples), number 38: 1996. Klute, Georg / Embaló, Birgit / Borszik, Anne-Kristin / Embaló, A. Idrissa (eds.) 2008, Experiências Locais de Gestão de Conflitos – Local Experiences of Conflict Management, Bissau: INEP. Klute, Georg / Embaló, Birgit (eds.) 2011, The Problem of Violence. Local Conflict Settlement in Contemporary Africa, Köln: Koeppe. Klute, Georg 1992, Die schwerste Arbeit der Welt. Alltag von Tuareg-Nomaden, München: Trickster Verlag. Klute, Georg 2013, „Krieg in der Wüste“. Die Rebellionen der Tuareg in Mali und Niger 1990-1996, Köln: Köppe Verlag (in print).

**Wolfram Lacher.** German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Germany.

**Title:** Criminal activities and their implications for conflict dynamics in northern Mali

**Abstract:** Criminal activity was a major factor in the dynamics that caused the outbreak of renewed conflict in northern Mali in early 2012. Competition over the control of drug smuggling between rival networks in northern Mali had increased in the years leading up to the current conflict, contributing to political tensions. Kidnapping-for-ransom allowed extremist groups to recruit, gain local support, and eventually establish themselves as the leading military forces in 2012. Complicity with organized crime among senior government officials and army officers, partly reflecting the former Malian leadership's strategy of exerting influence via northern proxies, eventually led to the erosion of state control over the north. While the current conflict should not be reduced to a struggle over the control of criminal activities, it is essential to assess the importance of criminal interests among the protagonists of the conflict. On the basis of such an assessment, questions can be raised concerning the role of actors associated with organized crime in efforts to end the conflict, the potential for alternatives to the criminal economy, as well as the responsibilities of external actors.

**Bio:** Wolfram Lacher is a researcher at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP) in Berlin. His research focuses on Libya, Algeria, and security issues in the Sahel/Sahara region. Before joining SWP in 2010, he worked as a North Africa analyst at Control Risks, a business risk consultancy in London, from 2007 to 2010. Wolfram Lacher studied Arabic and African languages and history, International

Relations, as well as Conflict and Development Studies at Leipzig University, the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales in Paris, the American University in Cairo (AUC), and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London.

**Baz Lecocq**, Department of History, Ghent University, Belgium.

**Title:** "Mali: An attempt at some sensible comments on whatever the current development is..."

**Abstract:** This presentation will be an attempt to look at the possible implications of the various conflicts playing out in northern Mali for the concerned populations and local political fields in the wider Sahara-Sahel region, with a strong focus on the meaning of security for local populations, rather than for international actors. I will try to do so from a historical and historicizing perspective, while avoiding any teleology and in the full realization that developments are not predictable at all and that most analysis of the presenter and many of his colleagues so far have proven flawed in lack of reliable information on events in the Sahara, which is an inherent part of research in the region.

**Bio:** Baz Lecocq is a contemporanist historian. He received his PhD in Social Sciences from the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands in 2002. He joined the Center for Modern Oriental Studies in Berlin, Germany, as a Research fellow in 2003. He took up his current position as Lecturer in African History at Ghent University, Belgium in 2007. His research is situated in the Central Sahara and Sahel. He has published and lectured extensively on a variety of social and political topics as they play out in this area, including ethnicity, race and racism, (post)slavery, conflict, political parties, modernity, decolonisation, and globalisation.

**Trevor Marchand**, Department of Anthropology, SOAS, UK.

**Title:** The Djenné Mosque: world heritage and social renewal in a West African town

**Abstract:** Following a brief historic and architectural overview of the Djenné Mosque, the paper raises questions of ownership and control of cultural heritage. The Djenné Mosque is reputed to be the largest single mud structure in the world and each year during the dry winter season the town's population festively replasters its surfaces in an exhilarating one-day ceremony. In 2009, however, the

Aga Khan Trust for Culture oversaw a massive conservation project for the Mosque that put an end to the replastering ceremony for three years. Debates and discussions ensued among conservationists, material scientists and town residents over the long-term preservation of the building. Based on ethnographic research, the paper argues that foreign conservation agendas neglect the important social function played by the communal re-plastering effort. In short, the Djenné Mosque is more than a place for Muslim prayer or an object of architectural interest: it is the focal point around which Djenné society, identity and knowledge have been creatively renewed and reinforced. Finally, the paper will also consider the real and potential impact of Mali's current crises, including competing political and Islamic agendas, on Djenne, its Mosque, and the communal replastering ceremony.

**Bio:** Trevor Marchand is Professor of Social Anthropology at SOAS and British Academy Fellow. Marchand was trained as an architect (McGill) and received a PhD in anthropology (SOAS). He has conducted fieldwork with masons and craftspeople in Yemen, Mali and East London. He is author of *Minaret Building and Apprenticeship in Yemen* (2001) and *The Masons of Djenné* (2009), and editor of several books including *Making Knowledge* (2010). He co-produced the documentary film *Future of Mud* (2007), and he is curating a new exhibition on the Djenné masons for the Smithsonian NMNH. His next monograph, *The Pursuit of Pleasurable Work*, is based on fieldwork with UK furniture makers.

**Kevin MacDonald**, Professor of African Archaeology at University College London

**Title:** Archaeology, Heritage and Conflict in Mali

**Abstract:** The recent conflict in Mali has witnessed the violent destruction of tangible heritage in both Timbuktu and Douentza. The lingering damage to global confidence in heritage tourism and academic research on the Malian past is more difficult to calculate. In this paper I will consider just how much is at stake in terms of immovable and movable heritage and our evolving knowledge of the history of the Middle Niger and the Niger Bend. I will argue that unless we can move forward relatively quickly in re-establishing cooperative research and capacity building in the heritage sector then there is real danger for the Malian past.

**Bio:** Professor MacDonald has lectured there since receiving his PhD from Cambridge in 1994. His fieldwork in Mali over the past 25 years has concentrated on issues ranging from the peopling of the Middle Niger to cultural complexity in pastoral societies, and more recently on issues of landscape, state power and slavery. He has also directed fieldwork in Mauritania and in the United States. His recent books include *Slavery in Africa: Archaeology and*

*Memory* (Oxford University Press, with Paul Lane) and *African Re-Genesis* (Left Coast Press, with Jay Havisser).

**Sophie Mew**, British Museum, UK

**Title:** Bamako&London: documenting daily life through collaborative exhibitions

**Abstract :** ‘Bamako&London’ are a series of photography exhibitions that were initially the outcome of my own research into the cross-cultural relations between heritage institutions. The impetus behind each of these projects was to provide a platform for the contemporary display of real lives from two seemingly contrasting cities in ways that did not accentuate their differences. In 2011, a collaboration was launched with two artist photographers, one from the UK and one from Mali. As both artists began to visually and aurally document the mundane in their local environments, the common denominators, or similarities between individuals living in both cities emerged. The themes of each project were selected to build empathy between people living in the UK and Mali, for example being a taxi driver during rush hour in Brixton or in Quartier du Fleuve, or preparing and sharing a meal with respective families. Each story was told via portrait photography, accompanying transcriptions of interviews, a short film and the exhibitions were displayed in both ‘home’ cities to ensure reciprocal exchanges and access. This paper will provide an analysis of responses to the project and an overview of the exhibitions, from their original concept to negotiating the subject matter and the challenges of installing an exhibition in the heart of Bamako.

**Bio** Dr Sophie Mew completed a PhD on the display of cultural heritage in national museums in Mali and Ghana (SOAS, 2012). A regular visitor to Mali since 1998, she founded and curated the ‘Bamako&London’ projects in 2011 and 2012. Sophie is currently a Project Curator for ‘Money in Africa’ at the British Museum carrying out research on currency transitions in nineteenth century Gold Coast and Sierra Leone.

**Robin Poulton**, School of World Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia.

**Title:** "Azawad or Mali - in either case, development comes from Civil Society"

**Abstract:** Whatever happens politically, North Mali will need investment in a peace economy. Soldiers dominate Peace Operation finances but the priorities are infrastructure investment and generating incomes. Learning from the past, we should take the best of the 1990s, building grassroots organisations and finding ways to use the Mali’s youth more productively than sending them off to be soldiers in Libya. In fact, peace is the aim there is no choice.

**Bio:** Robin Edward Poulton PhD dit Macky Tall, Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mali, Vice-President, Virginia Friends of MALI since 2005. He is Professor of French West African Studies (affiliate), School of World Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University and Senior Fellow, UNIDIR Geneva (United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research). Research interests: Economic anthropology, African peace studies, conflict transformation, micro-disarmament and sustainable development. Currently, he is concerned with the economic and political future of Mali and working with Segou, sister city of Richmond, to rebuild confidence between local and displaced populations, and to bring support to internally displaced people from North Mali. His most important book is entitled *A Peace of Timbuktu: democratic governance, development and African peacemaking*, with a preface by Kofi Annan and co-authored with Ibrahim Ag Youssouf. He is currently working on a new volume dealing with the present political and economic crisis: **Democracy in Mali and War in the Sahara**. After spending a portion of his childhood in West Africa, Poulton worked in Mali as an adult, beginning with a post-drought relief and development program in Timbuktu and Gao in the 1980s. In January 2012 he was part of a United Nations peace mission to Mali, attempting to redress the impending crisis. Two months later, an army mutiny brought down the government of President Amadou Toumani Touré. Founder of Virginia Friends of Mali and of the Sister City partnership Segou-Richmond, in Jan 2013 Dr Poulton was made a Freeman of the City of Ségou. He is also a Managing Partner of EPES Mandala Consulting (offices in Brussels, Bamako and Richmond) which is an expert group working for peace in Africa.