

# Contemporary Faces of Islam in West Africa

A workshop sponsored by the West African Research Association  
29 October – 5 November 2006  
at the West African Research Center, Dakar, Senegal

## Organizers:

Professor Ousmane Sene, WARC director  
Professor Penda Mbow, Workshop coordinator  
Professor Leonardo A. Villalón, US project coordinator

## Preliminary workshop schedule:

- Saturday 28 October:** Participants arrive in Dakar
- Sunday 29 October:** Tour of Dakar. Evening: Opening reception; dinner
- Monday 30 October:** 9-10 AM: Opening of workshop: overview of region and workshop themes.  
10h-13h: *Theme one: The impact of international factors*  
13h-15h: lunch  
15h-18h: *Theme two: Democracy, secularism, and the public and private spheres.*
- Tuesday 31 October** 10h-13h: *Theme three: Citizenship and the transformation of religious frameworks.*  
13h-15h: Lunch  
15h-18h: *Theme four: Modernity and Gender issues*
- Wednesday 1 November** 10h-13h: *Theme five: Inter-religious relations*  
13h-16h: Lunch  
16h-18:30h: Public session: “Contemporary Dynamics of Islam in West Africa”  
19-21h: Reception (sponsored and hosted by US Embassy? As per Ambassador’s offer)

**Thursday 2 November:** Dakar-Touba: early morning departure  
Visit of great mosque in Touba , followed by lunch  
Late afternoon travel to St. Louis. Check into hotel.

**Friday 3 November:** Historical visit of St. Louis mosques and religious sites  
Meet with colleagues at Université Gaston Berger

**Saturday 4 November:** St. Louis-Tivaouane: early morning departure  
Visit of mosques/religious sites of Tijaniyya zawiya  
Lunch and continuation to Dakar  
Free evening in Dakar

**Sunday 5 November:** Departures

**NOTE:** For discussion of the five themes: Each West African participant will have 10-12 minutes to lay out the major issues or dynamics in question in his/her country. 2 invited commentators (scholars invited from the US and/or local scholars) will then be asked to comment generally and ask questions for 10 minutes each, followed by general and open discussion of the topic among all participants. This format will allow for this to be a real “workshop” with intensive interaction among participants and commentators.

For the Wednesday afternoon public session, invitations will be sent out broadly to interested parties in Dakar, and it will be set up in a conference format for the “*grand publique*”. Several speakers (or all of the West African guests) will be asked to make short presentations summarizing the main themes, debates, and conclusions reached by the participants during the workshop. Participants should decide on the precise format and set of topics among themselves in accordance with discussion in the workshop sessions.