

Matthew Pflaum, Ph.D. student

University of Florida, Department of Geography
Turlington Hall, 3141, 330 Newell Dr, Gainesville, FL 32611
mpflaum@ufl.edu / <https://sites.google.com/view/matthewpflaumsahel>

curriculum vitae
March 2023

Research and teaching interests

My research emphasizes security, mobility, livelihoods, and adaptation among mobile groups like pastoralists in the Sahel region of Africa within human and political geography using political ecology and spatial frameworks.

I am interested in contributing to the scholarship on conflict and security as it relates to marginalized and mobile groups (particularly pastoralists, but also farmers and refugees), specifically in terms of ethnic tensions, borders, migration, governance, extremism, and livelihoods. I use primary and secondary data to examine both impacts of insecurity and adaptation and responses. I teach about population, security, livelihoods, Africa, and mobility.

Education

2019—2023 (exp.): Doctor of Philosophy, University of Florida
Geography. Dissertation: *Spatializing pastoralist insecurity and responses in the Sahel*.
[Committee: Olivier Walther (chair), Steve Radil (Air Force Academy), Leonardo Villalón, Cynthia Simmons, Brian Child] / Fieldwork (2021, 2022) in Bamako, Mali. 3.97 GPA.

2016—2017: Master of Science (MSc), Edinburgh University
African studies and international development. Thesis: *Land conflict and tenure in East Region of Cameroon* / Practicum with MBOSCUDA and lived with Mbororo family in Mandjou, Cameroon.

2006—2008: Master of Public Health (MPH), Emory University
Global Health and infectious disease. Thesis: *Empirical evidence for minimum incubation period of E. Coli O157:H7 in global laboratory-confirmed cases from 1990 to 2005* / Practicum with Pasteur Institute in Central African Republic.

2002—2006: Bachelor of Arts (BA), Anthropology and Biology, Grinnell College
Study abroad in Tanzania.

Awards, grants, and professional honors

2022. Alpha Epsilon Lambda (Graduate student honor society). College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Florida (UF).

2023. \$1,000 – Dunkle Award. Geography Department, UF.

2022. \$350 – Graduate Student Council travel award. Graduate Student Council, UF.

\$1,500 – Little Family Student Fellowship. Geography Department, UF.

\$500 – Research Grant. American Association of Geographers.

2020. \$1,000 – Research Excellence Award. Geography Department, UF.

\$1,000 – Pre-Dissertation Fellowship Award. Center for African Studies, UF.

\$7,500 – FLAS/AFLI Fellowship (Hausa). Center for African Studies, UF.

Total = \$12,850.

RESEARCH

Publications / Refereed articles

Radil S, Walther O, Dorward N, and Pflaum M. 2023. Urban-rural geographies of political violence in North and West Africa. *Africa Security* 16(1). [In press]

Radil, Steven and Walther, Olivier and Dorward, Nicholas and Pflaum, Matthew, Urban-Rural Geographies of Political Violence in North and West Africa (July 24, 2022). SSRN online.

Publications / Edited & Refereed book chapters

Pflaum, Matthew. Forthcoming. "Regional and international implications of globalized security in the Malian conflict." In *African States: Domestic and External Security Challenges*. (Currently selecting Publisher). Abu Bah, editor.

Publications / Reports

OECD/SWAC (forthcoming, 2023), *Borders and conflicts in North and West Africa*, West African Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris. (Credit as external collaborator).

OECD/SWAC (2022), *Borders and conflicts in North and West Africa*, West African Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris. (Credit as external collaborator).

Pflaum, Matthew (2021), *Pastoralist violence in North and West Africa*, West African Papers, No. 31, OECD Publishing, Paris.

OECD/SWAC (2021), *Conflict Networks in North and West Africa*, West African Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris. (Credit as external collaborator).

OECD/SWAC (2020), *The Geography of Conflict in North and West Africa*, West African Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris. (Credit as external collaborator).

Publications / Working papers (current)

Pflaum, Matthew. In process, 2023. *Spatializing insecurity: Socio-cultural vulnerabilities, livelihoods, and security in Mali*.

Pflaum, Matthew. In process, 2023. *An examination of livelihood and mobility responses by pastoralists during the Malian conflict*.

Publications / Book ^(B) and film ^(F) reviews

Pflaum, Matthew. Forthcoming. Review of *Conflict at the Edge of the African State*, by Lindsay Scorgie. *Journal of Borderland Studies*, Spring 2023. ^B

Pflaum, Matthew. Tragic Hope in Diop's Atlantic. *Borders and Globalization Review*, 1(2): 135-136. ^F

Pflaum, Matthew. Review of *Horn, Sahel, and Rift: Fault-lines of the African Jihad*, by Stig Jarle Hansen. *African Studies Quarterly*, 19(1). ^B

Publications / Blogs, journalism, popular press

Pflaum, Matthew. 2023. Assessing vulnerabilities to political violence in Mali. African Networks Lab. <https://anl.geog.ufl.edu/vulnerability-mali/>.

Pflaum, Matthew. 2021. Survivors of war: Internally displaced camps and the Malian conflict. African Networks Lab. <https://anl.geog.ufl.edu/survivors-of-war-internally-displaced->

[camps-and-the-malian-conflict/](#).

Conferences / presented papers

2023: “Spatial insecurity and displacement in the Malian conflict”, ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS. Denver, Colorado. March 23-27.

“Border effects and mobility of pastoralist violence in the Central Sahel”, ASSOCIATION FOR BORDERLAND STUDIES. Eilat, Israel. February 12-17.

2022: “Pastoralist insecurity and displacement in the Sahel”, SEDAAG. Atlanta, GA. Nov 18-19.

“How do borders impact transnational pastoralist violence in the Central Sahel?”, ABORNE. Paris, France. Sep 19-20.

“Transnationalism and urbanization of pastoralist violence”, SERSAS/SEAN (virtual). Mar 26.

“Urbanization, transnationalism, and networks of pastoralist violence since the 2012 Malian civil war”, FSG (virtual). Feb 11-13.

2021: “Fulani insecurity in Mali since the 2012 civil war”, UF SASA lunch. Sep 29.

“Immobilizing the mobile: Coerced decentralization and curtailment of pastoralist mobility”, UNC AFRICAN MOBILITIES (virtual). Mar 12-13.

“Spatial and temporal patterns of pastoralist violence since 1997”, FLORIDA SOCIETY OF GEOGRAPHERS (virtual), Feb 20.

2020: “Pastoralist violence in North and West Africa”, SEDAAG (virtual), Nov 6-7.

“The pastoralist dilemma: Examining the involvement of Fulani and Tuareg pastoralists in the Malian conflicts”, FLORIDA SOCIETY OF GEOGRAPHERS. Feb 7.

Fieldwork

Cameroon	3 months	2017
Central African Republic	4 months	2007
Tanzania	7 months	2005
Mali	2 months	2021, 2022

TEACHING

Courses taught / Instructor (^I), TA (^{TA})

University of Florida (Gainesville, FL, USA)

Geography of Africa (online, GEA3600) ^I

Population Geography (GEO3430) ^I

Geography of Africa GEA3600) ^{TA}

BRAC University (Dhaka, Bangladesh).

Global health

SERVICE

Professional / Referee (A=Ad hoc; B=Board)

African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review ^A

African Studies Quarterly ^B

Professional / Conferences & panels organized

- 2023. African Studies Association. San Francisco, California, Nov 30-Dec 3. (Panel organized: *Examining history and factors of agricultural and pastoralist resilience and livelihoods in North and West African contexts*)
- 2022. African Borderlands Network. OECD/SWAC. Paris, France, Sep 19-20. (Conference committee)

Disciplinary / Service

- 2023-2024. Student Director. Africa Specialty Group (ASG), American Association of Geographers.
- 2022-2023. Student representative. Florida Society for Geography.