

# Olivier J. Walther, Ph.D.

Department of Geography • University of Florida  
3131 Turlington Hall • Gainesville, FL 32611  
[owalther@ufl.edu](mailto:owalther@ufl.edu) • +1 (352) 273-4739  
[olivierwalther.net](http://olivierwalther.net)

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## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. in Geography, University of Lausanne, 2006

Master of Advanced Studies in Development, University of Geneva, 2004

Master of Arts in Geography, University of Lausanne, 2001

Bachelor of Arts, University of Lausanne, 1999

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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Research Foundation Professor, University of Florida, 2024-27

Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Florida, 2023 –

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of Florida, 2019-2023

Visiting Associate Professor, Center for African Studies, University of Florida, 2017-2019

Associate Professor, Center for Border Region Studies and Center for War Studies,  
University of Southern Denmark, Denmark, 2014-2017

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Center for African Studies and  
Division of Global Affairs, Rutgers University, USA, 2013

Senior Researcher, Department of Geography, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic  
Research, Luxembourg, 2007-2012

Visiting Scholar, Department of Geography, University of Basel, Switzerland, fall 2010

Research and Teaching Assistant, Institute of Geography, University of Lausanne,  
Switzerland, 2003-2006

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

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- Political Geography: Security, transnational conflicts, and terrorism in Africa
- Economic Geography: Regional integration, trade and borders cities in Africa
- Quantitative Methods: Social Network Analysis and Spatial Analysis

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

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*Modeling the Spread of Armed Conflict in North and West Africa (2025-26)*. Principal Investigator (PI). Funded by the OECD (\$ 240,000)

*Monitoring the Spatial Evolution of Conflicts in North and West Africa II (2023-24)*. PI. Funded by the OECD (\$ 351,000)

*Integrating Socio-economic and Remotely Sensed Information to Characterize Conflict Precursors and Land Degradation Dynamics in Ghana (2023-25)*. Co-Investigator (Co-I). Funded by NASA SERVIR-USAID (\$ 660,000)

*Monitoring the Spatial Evolution of Conflicts in North and West Africa I (2021-22)*. PI. Funded by the OECD (\$ 202,000)

*Inclusiveness and Diversity as Building Blocks of Resilient International Research Teams in the Age of COVID-19 (2021-22)*. Co-PI. Funded by the National Science Foundation (\$ 298,000)

*Linking Deforestation, Urbanization, and Agricultural Expansion for Land-use Decisions in Ghana (2020-22)*. Co-I. Funded by NASA SERVIR-USAID (\$ 660,000)

*Foreign Interventions and Transnational Insurgencies in the Sahara-Sahel (2019-20)*. PI. Funded by the OECD (\$ 311,000)

*Cities and Borders (2017-18)*. Co-PI. Funded by the OECD (\$ 335,000)

*Gender and Markets: Empowering Women in West African Markets (2017)*. Co-I. Funded by the United Nations World Food Program (\$ 112,000)

*Transnational Extremist Organizations Network (2016-17)*. PI. Funded by Danish Agency for Science and Technology (\$ 45,000)

*West African Perspectives Program III: Cross-Border Cooperation (2015-16)*. PI. Funded by the OECD (\$ 135,000)

*West African Perspectives Program II: Atlas of the Sahel-Sahara (2013-14)*. Co-I. Funded by the OECD (\$ 55,000)

*WANETS. West African Economic Networks (2013)*. PI. Funded by the National Research Fund of Luxembourg (\$ 90,000)

*CROSSTRADE. Informal Trade and Cross-Border Integration in West Africa (2011-13)*. PI. Funded by the National Research Fund of Luxembourg (\$ 625,000)

*MetroNet. Cross-Border Metropolitan Governance in Europe (2010-12)*. Co-I. Funded by the National Research Fund of Luxembourg (\$ 1,430,000)

*GEOSPECS. Geographic Specificities and Development Potential in Europe (2010-12).*  
Collaborator. Funded by European Spatial Planning Observation Network (\$ 1,033,000)

*METROBORDER. Cross-Border Polycentric Metropolitan Regions (2009-11).* Collaborator.  
Funded by the European Spatial Planning Observation Network (\$ 287,000)

*METROLUX. Metropolisation and Urban Governance in Luxembourg (2007-09).* Co-I. Funded  
by the National Research Fund of Luxembourg (\$ 513,000)

*Biodiversity Monitoring and Integrated Development in Hombori (Mali) (2005-09).*  
Collaborator. Funded by the World Wildlife Fund and Leenards Foundation (\$ 21,000)

*Negotiating Conflicts of Interest Related to Water Management (2002-2006).* Ph.D. student.  
Funded by the Geneva International Academic Network (\$ 510,000)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Books**

1. Walther O, Moyo, I, Soi I. (eds) 2026. *Routledge Handbook of African Borderlands*. Routledge.
2. Walther O, Miles W. (eds) 2018. *African Border Disorders. Addressing Transnational Extremist Organizations*. Routledge.
3. Walther O. 2008. *Affaires de Patrons. Villes et Commerce Transfrontalier au Sahel* [Cities and Cross-Border Trade in the Sahel]. Peter Lang.

### **Policy reports**

1. Trémolières M, Walther O, Radil S. 2025. *Roads and Conflicts in North and West Africa*. OECD Publishing.
2. Trémolières M, Walther O, Radil S. 2023. *Urbanisation and Conflict in North and West Africa*. OECD Publishing.
3. Trémolières M, Walther O, Radil S. 2022. *Borders and Conflict in North and West Africa*. OECD Publishing.
4. Trémolières M, Walther O, Radil S. 2021. *Conflict Networks in North and West Africa*. OECD Publishing.
5. Trémolières M, Walther O, Radil S. 2020. *The Geography of Conflict in North and West Africa*. OECD Publishing.
6. Trémolières M, Walther O. 2019. *Women and Trade Networks in West Africa*. OECD Publishing.
7. Trémolières M, Walther O. 2017. *Cross-border Co-operation and Policy Networks in West Africa*. OECD Publishing.

### **Peer-reviewed articles**

1. Walther O, Radil S, Thurston A. 2025. Political violence and transport infrastructure in West Africa. *African Security Review*, DOI: 10246029.2025.2502017

2. Bennett M, Coddington K, Conlon D, Ehrkamp P, Enns C, Menga F, Nagel C, Walther O. 2025. Making spaces for debate in the digital age. *Political Geography* 117, 103266.
3. Walther O, Radil S, Russell D. 2025. The spatial conflict life cycle in Africa. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 115(2): 456-477.
4. Walther O, Nugent P, Goewey S. 2025. The impact of transport policies on road accessibility in Ghana (2010-2019). *African Geographical Review* 44(1), 1–17.
5. Menga F, Bennett M, Coddington K, Ehrkamp P, Enns C, Nagel C, Vradis A, Walther O. 2024. Care, continuity, and meaningful change. *Political Geography* 108, 103049.
6. Prieto-Curiel R, Walther O, Davies E. 2023. Detecting trends and shocks in terrorist activities. *PLoS ONE* 18(9): e0291514.
7. Walther O, Amilhat Szary AL, Brambilla C, Brunet-Jailly E, Klatt M, Laine J, Moyo I, Nugent P, Ptak T, Radil S. 2023. Border studies at 45. *Political Geography* 104, 102909.
8. Radil S, Walther O, Dorward N, Pflaum M. 2023. Urban-rural geographies of political violence in North and West Africa. *African Security* 16(2-3): 199-222.
9. Walther O, Prieto-Curiel R, Padron J, Scheuer J. 2023. Mapping the travel geography of the 9/11 network. *The Professional Geographer* 75(5): 855-869.
10. Walther O, Radil S, Russell D, Trémolières M. 2023. Introducing the Spatial Conflict Dynamics indicator of political violence. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 35(3): 533-552.
11. Radil S, Irmisher I, Walther O. 2022. Contextualizing the relationship between borderlands and political violence: A dynamic space-time analysis in West and North Africa. *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 37(2): 253-271.
12. Rojas J, Walther O. 2022. Revolutionary insurgents or conservative reactionaries? National Liberation Army's transnational expansion in Colombia and Venezuela. *Journal of Latin American Geography* 22(2): 6-33.
13. Ehrkamp P, Bennett M, Enns C, Grove K, Menga P, Vradis A, Walther O. 2023. Small steps. *Political Geography* 100, 102821.
14. Walther O. 2022. Security and trade in African borderlands – An introduction. *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 37(2): 229-234.
15. Walther O, Radil S, Russell D. 2021. Mapping the changing structure of conflict networks in North and West Africa. *African Security* 14(3): 211-238.
16. Walther O, Klatt M, Boedeltje F. 2021. Mapping international co-authorship networks in border studies (1986-2018). *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 36(4): 653-674.
17. Skillicorn D, Walther O, Leuprecht C, Zheng Q. 2021. The diffusion and permeability of political violence in North and West Africa. *Terrorism and Political Violence* 33(5): 1032-1054.
18. Prieto Curiel R, Walther O, O'Clery C. 2020. Uncovering the internal structure of Boko Haram through its mobility patterns. *Applied Network Science* 5(28): 1-23.
19. Valerio V, Walther O, Eilittä M, Cissé B, Muneeppeerakul R, Kiker G. 2020. Network analysis of regional livestock trade in West Africa. *PLoS ONE* 15(5): 1-15.
20. Walther O, Pedersen SP. 2020. Rebel fragmentation in Syria's civil war. *Small Wars & Insurgencies* 31(3): 445–474.
21. Walther O, Dambo L, Koné M, van Eupen M. 2020. Mapping travel time to assess accessibility in West Africa: The role of borders, checkpoints and road conditions. *Journal of Transport Geography* 82, 102590.
22. Walther O, Leuprecht C, Skillicorn D. 2020. Political fragmentation and alliances among armed non-state actors in North and Western Africa (1997-2014). *Terrorism and Political Violence* 32(1): 167-186.
23. Walther O, Dambo L, Koné M. 2020. Urbanisation et villes frontalières en Afrique de

- l'Ouest. *L'Information Géographique* 84(2): 31-47.
24. Walther O, Tenikue M, Trémolières M. 2019. Economic performance, gender and social networks in West African food systems. *World Development* 124: 104650.
  25. Walther O, Koné M. 2018. Commerce de réexportation des textiles et villes frontalières entre Niger et Nigéria. *Cahiers d'Outre-Mer* 278: 465-491.
  26. Leuprecht C, Walther O, Skillicorn D, Ryde-Collins H. 2017. Hezbollah's global tentacles: A relational approach to convergence with transnational organised crime. *Terrorism and Political Violence* 29(5): 902-921.
  27. Kuépié M, Tenikue M, Walther O. 2016. Social networks and small businesses performance in West African border regions. *Oxford Development Studies* 44(2): 202-219.
  28. Leuprecht C, Aulthouse A, Walther O. 2016. The puzzling resilience of transnational organized criminal networks. *Police Practice and Research* 17(4): 376-387.
  29. Zheng Q, Skillicorn D, Walther O. 2015. Signed directed social network analysis applied to group conflict. *IEEE International Conference on Data Mining Workshop*: 1007-1014.
  30. Dörry S, Walther O. 2015. Contested relational policy spaces in two European border regions. *Environment and Planning A* 47(2): 338-355.
  31. Walther O. 2015. Business, brokers and borders: The structure of West African trade networks. *Journal of Development Studies* 51(5): 603-620.
  32. Walther O, Howard A, Retaillé D. 2015. West African spatial patterns of economic activities: combining the 'spatial factor' and 'mobile space' approaches. *African Studies* 74(3): 346-365.
  33. Walther O, Christopoulos D. 2015. Islamic terrorism and the Malian rebellion. *Terrorism and Political Violence* 27(3): 497-519.
  34. Walther O. 2014. Trade networks in West Africa: A social network approach. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 52(2): 179-203.
  35. Walther O, Christopoulos D. 2014. The 2012 Malian conflict network. *Connections* 34(1-2): 52-53.
  36. Dautel V, Walther O. 2014. The geography of innovation in a small metropolitan region: An intra-regional approach in Luxembourg. *Papers in Regional Science* 93(4): 703-726.
  37. Decoville A, Durand F, Sohn C, Walther O. 2013. Comparing cross-border metropolitan integration in Europe: Towards a functional typology. *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 28(2): 221-237.
  38. Walther O, Reitel B. 2013. Cross-border policy networks in the Basel region: the effect of national borders and brokerage roles. *Space & Polity* 17(2): 217-236.
  39. Retaillé D, Walther O. 2013. Conceptualizing the mobility of space through the Malian conflict. *Annales de Géographie* 694(6): 595-618.
  40. Walther O. 2012. Traders, agricultural entrepreneurs and the development of cross-border regions in West Africa. *Entrepreneurship and Regional Development* 24(3-4): 123-141.
  41. Walther O. 2012. Sons of the soil and conquerors who came on foot: The historical evolution of a West African border region. *African Studies Quarterly* 13(1-2): 75-92.
  42. Walther O, Schulz C, Dörry S. 2011. Specialized international financial centres and their crisis resilience: the case of Luxembourg. *Geographische Zeitschrift* 99(2-3): 123-142.
  43. Retaillé D, Walther O. 2011. Spaces of uncertainty: a model of mobile space in the Sahel. *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 32(1): 85-101.
  44. Retaillé D, Walther O. 2011. Guerre et terrorisme au Sahara-Sahel: la reconversion des savoirs nomades. *L'Information Géographique* 76(3): 51-68.
  45. Walther O, Dautel V. 2010. Intra-regional employment growth in Luxembourg (1994-

- 2005). *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography* 92(1): 45-63.
46. Walther O, Schulz C. 2009. Finanzplatz Luxemburg – vom ‘Steuerparadies’ zur Investmentfonds-Kapitale. *Geographische Rundschau* 61(1): 30-35.
  47. Sohn C, Reitel B, Walther O. 2009. Cross-border metropolitan integration in Europe: the case of Luxembourg, Basel and Geneva. *Environment and Planning C* 27: 922-939.
  48. Walther O. 2009. A mobile idea of space. Traders, patrons and the cross-border economy in Sahelian Africa. *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 24(1): 34-46.
  49. Walther O, Retaille D. 2008. Le modèle sahélien de la circulation, de la mobilité et de l’incertitude spatiale. *Autrepart* 47: 109-124.
  50. Beek W van, Lemineur P, Walther O. 2007. Tourisme et patrimoine au Mali. Destruction des valeurs anciennes ou valorisation concertée? *Geographica Helvetica* 4: 249-258.
  51. Walther O. 2007. Villes-frontières et réseaux informels sahéliens (Gaya-Malanville-Kamba). *Geographica Helvetica* 1: 10-20.
  52. Walther O. 2004. Au-delà de l’opposition entre villes et campagnes. Esquisse d’un modèle territorial dynamique en Afrique de l’Ouest. *L’Information Géographique* 68: 308-319.
  53. Racine J.-B, Walther O. 2003. Géographie et religions. Une approche territoriale du religieux et du sacré. *L’Information Géographique* 66: 193-221.

## Book chapters

1. Walther O, Hoffmann L. 2024. Gendered dynamics of cross-border trade in West Africa, in Feghali Z, Toner D (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Gender and Borderlands*. London, Routledge: 309-311.
2. Walther O, Retaille D. 2021. Mapping the Sahelian space, in Villalon L (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of the African Sahel*. Oxford, Oxford University Press: 15-34.
3. Walther O. 2018. Regional integration, in Binns T, Lynch K, Nel E (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of African Development*. London, Routledge: 286-299.
4. Leuprecht C, Walther O. 2018. Applying social network analysis to terrorist financing, in Walker, King, Gurulé (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook on Criminal and Terrorism Financing Law*. Basingstoke, Palgrave MacMillan: 945-966.
5. Walther O, Miles W. 2018. Introduction: states, borders and political violence in West Africa, in Walther O, Miles W. (eds) *African Border Disorders*. New York, Routledge: 1-14.
6. Walther O, Leuprecht C, Skillicorn D. 2018. Networks and spatial patterns of extremist organizations in North and West Africa, in Walther O, Miles W. (eds) *African Border Disorders*. New York, Routledge: 60-86.
7. Skillicorn D, Walther O, Zheng Q, Leuprecht C. 2018. Spatial and temporal diffusion of political violence in North and West Africa, in Walther O, Miles W. (eds) *African Border Disorders*. New York, Routledge: 87-112.
8. Walther O, Retaille D. 2015. Rethinking borders in a mobile world: An alternative model, in Amilhat-Szary A.-L, Giraut F. (eds) *Borderities and the Politics of Contemporary Mobile Borders*. Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan: 191-203.
9. Walther O. 2015. Niger-Benin: The Niger-Mekrou Rivers and the Lété Island, in Brunet-Jailly E (ed.) *Border Disputes: A Global Encyclopedia*. Santa Barbara, ABC-CLIO: 694-704.
10. Decoville A, Durand F, Sohn C, Walther O. 2014. Approche comparée de l’intégration métropolitaine transfrontalière en Europe, in Beck J, Wassenberg B (eds) *Vivre et Penser*

*la Coopération Transfrontalière (vol. 6)*. Stuttgart, Franz Steiner: 175-194.

11. Walther O. 2014. Borders, cross-border co-operation and freedom of movement in the Sahara-Sahel (chap. 7) and Security issues, movement and networks in the Sahara-Sahel (chap. 8), in SWAC/OECD (ed.) *An Atlas of the Sahara-Sahel: Geography, Economics and Security*. Paris, OECD: 155-172, 173-224.
12. Walther O. 2014. La construction historique de la région frontalière du Dendi (Afrique de l'Ouest), in Amadou B, Dambo L. (eds) *Sahel: Entre Crises et Espoirs*. Paris, L'Harmattan: 89-108.
13. Retailé D, Walther O. 2014. Space and mobility: Lessons from the Sahel to the globalized world, in Boesen E, Marfaings L (eds) *Mobilité dans l'Espace Ouest-Africain: Ressources, Développement Local et Intégration Régionale*. Paris, Karthala: 207-234.
14. Walther O. 2012. Regional growth of the knowledge economy in Luxembourg, in Sohn C. (ed.) *Luxembourg: An Emerging Cross-Border Metropolitan Region*. Brussels, Peter Lang: 41- 63.
15. Walther O, Schulz C. 2012. Financial services clustering in Luxembourg-City, in Sohn C. (ed.) *Luxembourg: An Emerging Cross-Border Metropolitan Region*. Brussels, Peter Lang: 65- 90.
16. Walther O. 2012. Metropolitan regions and cross-border demographic integration, in Sohn C. (ed.) *Luxembourg: An Emerging Cross-Border Metropolitan Region*. Brussels, Peter Lang: 185-204.
17. Sohn C, Walther O. 2012. Building a cross-border metropolitan region: the political stakes of scalar restructuring, in Sohn C. (ed.) *Luxembourg: An Emerging Cross-Border Metropolitan Region*. Brussels, Peter Lang: 265-278.
18. Walther O. 2010. Economie et frontières en Afrique sahélienne: un usage clientéliste de la partition coloniale, in Igué JO, Fodouop K, Aloko-N'Guessan J. (eds) *Maîtrise de l'Espace et Développement en Afrique. Etat des Lieux*. Paris, Karthala: 125-137.
19. Schulz C, Walther O. 2009. Finanzplatz Luxemburg, in Bousch P. et al. (eds) *Atlas du Luxembourg*. Cologne, Emons: 130-133.
20. Dautel V, Walther O. 2009. Beschäftigungsdynamik in der Metropolregion, in Bousch P. et al. (eds) *Atlas du Luxembourg*. Cologne, Emons: 128-129.
21. Racine J.-B, Walther O. 2007. Geografia de las religiones, in Hiernaux D, Lindon A. (eds) *Tratado de Geografia Humana*. Barcelona, Anthropos: 481-505.
22. Walther O. 2005. "Merci patron...". L'espérance de recevoir et l'obligation d'offrir dans les relations clientélistes au Niger et au Bénin, in Reynard E, Dambo L. (eds) *Vivre dans les Milieux Fragiles*. Lausanne, Institute of Geography: 60-75.

## Other publications

1. Harris-Coble L, Walther O. 2025. The resilience of agricultural trade networks in West Africa. *OECD West African Papers* 50.
2. Radil S, Walther O. 2024. Identifying local conflict trends in North and West Africa. *OECD West African Papers* 42.
3. Walther O, Russell D. 2024. The fragmentation of conflict networks in North and West Africa. *OECD West African Papers* 41.
4. Walther O, Prieto-Curiel R, Odera E. 2023. How international research teams respond to disruption in their mobility patterns. [arXiv](https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.08554) 2311.08554.
5. Rojas J, Walther O. 2022. As Colombia resumes negotiations with the ELN, the path

- towards peace lies through Venezuela. [NACLA](#), 1 Dec.
6. UNDP 2022. *Voices of Agropastoralists in Africa's Borderland Regions*. Nairobi, UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre.
  7. Walther O, Prieto Curiel R, Padron J, Scheuer J. 2022. Geography lessons from the 9/11 terrorist network. [Lawfare](#), 6 Sep.
  8. Radil S, Walther O, Dorward N, Pflaum M, Trémolières M. 2022. Conflicts are becoming increasingly rural in North and West Africa. [OECD Development Matters](#), 26 July.
  9. Walther O. 2021. Urbanisation and Demography in North and West Africa, 1950-2020. *OECD West African Papers* 33.
  10. Walther O, Hoffmann L. 2021. Gendered dynamics of cross-border trade in West Africa. [SSRN](#) 3830755.
  11. Walther O. 2020. Comment on African Borders: Putting Paid to a Myth. *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 35(2): 311-312.
  12. Walther O. 2020. Femmes et conflicts en Afrique de l'Ouest. *OECD West African Papers* 28.
  13. Walther O, Radil S, Russell D. 2019. Mapping the geography of political violence in North and West Africa. [OECD Development Matters](#), 17 Oct.
  14. Trémolières M, Walther O. 2019. Accessibility and infrastructure in border cities. *OECD West African Papers* 23.
  15. Trémolières M, Walther O. 2019. Business and health in border cities. *OECD West African Papers* 22.
  16. Trémolières M, Walther O. 2019. Population and morphology of border cities. *OECD West African Papers* 21.
  17. Trémolières M, Walther O. 2019. Regional integration in border cities. *OECD West African Papers* 20.
  18. Walther O. 2019. Rivalries between Dogon and Fulani in Central Mali, personal [blog](#).
  19. Walther O. 2019. Frontières, sécurité et développement en Afrique de l'Ouest. *OECD West African Papers* 26.
  20. Radil S, Walther O. 2018. Social networks and geography: a review of the literature and its implications. [arXiv](#) 1805.04510.
  21. Hoffmann L, Melly P, Walther O. 2017. *Empowering Women in West African Markets. Case Studies from Kano, Katsina (Nigeria) and Maradi (Niger)*. Dakar, World Food Programme.
  22. Walther O. 2017. The blurred boundaries of political violence in the Sahel-Sahara. *OECD Development Matters*, 29 September.
  23. Walther O. 2017. Wars and conflicts in the Sahara-Sahel. *OECD West African Papers* 10.
  24. Walther O, Renk S. 2017. *Can social network analysis inform African development policies?* Dakar, World Food Program.
  25. Walther O. 2017. Cross-border co-operation networks in West Africa. *OECD West African Papers* 6.
  26. Walther O, Kuépié M, Tenikue M. 2017. When social networks become a burden for African traders. The Brookings Institution, *Africa in Focus Series*, Jan 3.
  27. Walther O. 2016. Mapping West African Trade Networks. Washington DC, The Brookings Institution, *Africa in Focus Series*, Oct 10.
  28. Walther, O Leuprecht C., 2015. Mapping and deterring violent extremist networks in North- West Africa. *SDU Department of Border Region Studies Working Paper* 4.



29. Walther O, Tisseron A. 2015. Strange bedfellows: a network analysis of Mali's northern conflict. *The Broker*, Dec 18.
30. Walther O. 2015. Eating soup with a knife: Confronting warfare in the Sahara. *OECD Observer* 303.
31. Walther O, Vollmer S. 2015. Mapping the potential of cross-border cooperation in West Africa. *GREAT Insights* 4(6): 34-36.
32. Carpentier S, Dörry S, Lord S, Matthey L, Nelles J, Walther O. 2015. Navigating the heavy seas of online publishing: Reflections on ten years editorship. *Journal of Urban Research*.
33. Walther O. 2015. Social Network Analysis and informal trade. *SDU Department of Border Region Studies Working Papers* 1.
34. Walther O. 2014. Border markets: An introduction. *Journal of Urban Research* 10.
35. Hamez G, Amilhat-Szary A.-L, Paris D, Reitel B, Walther O. 2013. Guest editorial: Modelling and benchmarking of borders. *Belgeo* 1.
36. Walther O, Tenikue M, Kuepié M. 2012. Regional trade and border markets between Niger, Benin and Nigeria. *CEPS/INSTEAD Technical Papers* 3.
37. Nelles J, Walther O. 2011. Changing European borders: from separation to interface? An introduction. *Journal of Urban Research* 6.
38. Schaber C, Walther O. 2010. *Tourism in the Hombori region (Mali)*. Neuchâtel, Hombori Biodiversity Monitoring Project, Mission Report.
39. Walther O, Retaillé D. 2010. Sahara or Sahel? The fuzzy geography of terrorism in West Africa. *CEPS/INSTEAD Working Papers* 35.
40. Walther O, Renaud T, Kissling J. 2008. Heaven on Earth? The development of tourism in the Dogon Country and the Hombori Mountains. *Journal of Urban Research* 4.
41. Walther O. 2007. *L'échange généralisé: urbanisation et relations villes-campagnes en Afrique de l'Ouest*. Paris, Sahel and West Africa Club.

## Book reviews

1. Agbiboa D. Mobility, Mobilization, and Counter/Insurgency. *Space and Polity*, 2022.
2. Kisangani E, Pickering J. African Interventions. *African Studies Quarterly*, 2022.
3. Nugent P. Boundaries, Communities and State-making in West Africa. *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 2021.
4. Schmidt E. Foreign Intervention in Africa after the Cold War. *African St. Quarterly*, 2019.
5. Hiribarren V. A History of Borno. *African Studies Quarterly*, 2018.
6. Pye M. The Edge of the World. *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 2017.
7. Bach D. Regionalism in Africa. *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 2016.
8. Hanson K.T. Contemporary Regional Development in Africa. *J. of Urban Research*, 2016.
9. Lentz C. Land, Mobility, and Belonging in West Africa. *Journal of African History*, 2014.
10. Retaillé D. Les Lieux de la Mondialisation. *Journal of Urban Research*, 2012.
11. Popescu G. Bordering and Ordering the 21st Century. *Journal of Urban Research*, 2011.
12. Glaeser E. Triumph of the City. *Journal of Urban Research*, 2011.
13. Ackroyd P. London. The Biography. *Journal of Urban Research*, 2010.
14. World Bank. Reshaping Economic Geography. *European Journal of Geography*, 2009.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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University of Florida (instructor)

- *Economic Geography* (GEO3502), undergraduate, since 2020
- *Terrorism and Space* (GEO4024C/6938), undergraduate/graduate, since 2021
- *Politics of Ethnic Conflict* (CPO 4721), graduate, Spring 2018

University of Southern Denmark (instructor)

- *New Wars and Conflicts*, graduate, Spring 2017
- *Economic Geography*, undergraduate, 2016
- *Social Networks*, undergraduate, Fall 2014, 2015, 2016
- *Contemporary Perspectives in Border Regions*, undergraduate, Fall 2015
- *European Integration*, graduate, Spring 2014, 2015

Rutgers University (instructor)

- *Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (478:588), graduate, Fall 2013
- *Geography of Africa* (450:338), undergraduate, Spring 2013

University of Lausanne (teaching assistant)

- *Transformations of Developing Countries*, graduate, 2003-06
- *Introduction to Economic Geography*, undergraduate, 2003-06
- *Cartography*, undergraduate, 2002-03

## CONFERENCE AND PANELS ORGANIZED

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### Conferences and workshops

*African Borderlands Research Network Annual Meeting*, Paris, 2022. Chair.  
*African Borderlands Research Network Annual Meeting*, Nairobi, 2024. Co-organizer.  
*Transnational Extremist Organizations Workshop*, Rutgers, 2016. Co-organizer.  
*Border Regions in Transition (BRIT) Conference*, Sønderborg, 2016. Organizer and chair.  
*Guest Lectures on European borders and regional integration*. Sønderborg, 2014-15.  
Organizer.  
*Unpacking Cross-border Governance Conference*, Luxembourg, 2012. Co-organizer.  
*Guest Lectures on Changing borders*, Luxembourg, 2010. Organizer.

### Panels

*Armed conflicts and transport infrastructure*. AAG Annual Meeting, Detroit, 2025.  
*Conflict in the Sahel and West Africa: Which road to regional integration?* Munich Security Conference, Munich, 2025.  
*Geography of armed conflicts in Africa*. AAG Annual Meeting, Hawai'i, 2024.  
*Friend or foe? Understanding conflict networks in North and West Africa*. Munich Security Conference, Munich, 2024.  
*Geography of armed conflicts in Africa*. AAG Annual Meeting, Denver, 2023.  
*Borders and conflicts in North and West Africa*. Munich Security Conference, Munich, 2022.

*Space and social networks*. AAG Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2019.

*Cross-border cooperation and policy networks in West Africa*. European Conference on African Studies, University of Basel, 2017.

*New geographies of war*. AAG Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2016.

*Cross-border cooperation in an international context*. Uddevalla Symposium, University of Southern Denmark, 2015.

*Cross-border conflict in West Africa*. AAG Annual Meeting, Chicago, 2015.

*How to formulate responses to West Africa's multidimensional challenges?* High-level panel, OECD and European Commission, 2014.

*Border towns and transport corridors*. Association for Borderland Studies World Conference, Joensuu, 2014.

*West African border markets and regional integration from below*. African Borderlands Research Network Conference, Univ. of Edinburgh, 2012.

*Governance and economic integration in urban border regions*. AAG Annual Meeting, New York, 2012.

*Flows and business, components of the mobility of borders*. Border Regions in Transition (BRIT) Conference, Geneva, 2011.

*Space and social networks*. AAG Annual Meeting, Seattle, 2011.

*Trade and regional integration*. African Borderlands Research Network Conference, Basel, 2010.

*Borders and cities*. AAG Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2010.

*Cross-border metropolitan integration*. AAG Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, 2009.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS (SELECT)

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Security situation in the Sahel and West Africa. Austrian Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs, May 12, 2025.

Strategies and patterns of Jihadi diffusion. UF Sahel Symposium, May 5, 2025.

Conflicts and Transport Infrastructure in North and West Africa. AAG, Detroit, Mar 28, 2025.

Conflict in the Sahel and West Africa: Which Roads to Regional Integration? Munich Security Conference, Munich, Feb 16, 2025.

Armed conflicts and transport infrastructure in the Sahel. Sahel Coalition, Brussels, Feb 13, 2025.

Evolution of political insecurity in the Sahel, OECD and West African Think Tank (WATHI) Virtual Round Table, Sep 17, 2024.

Borderlands and the spatial conflict life cycle in Africa. African Borderlands Research Network Annual Meeting, Nairobi, Sep 11-13, 2024.

Trajectories of violence: A space-time sequence analysis of political violence in North and West Africa, RGS-IBG Annual International Conference, Aug 27, 2024.

The spatial conflict life cycle in Africa. AAG, Hawai'i, April 16-20, and International Geographical Congress, Dublin, Aug 25-30, 2024.

Doing research with international donors. Carter Conference, Mar 21, 2024.

Insecurity and food crises in the Sahel and in West Africa. Food Crisis Prevention Network, Paris, 3-5 April 2024.

Geography of political insecurity in the Sahel and West Africa. Food Crisis Prevention Network, Praia, Dec 5, 2023.

Borders, cities and conflicts in North and West Africa. United Nations Integrated Border Stability Mechanism inaugural meeting, Abidjan, Sept 13-14, 2023.

Mapping political violence in North and West Africa. European Union External Action Service, Brussels, Jul 13, 2023.

Geography and social networks. Spatial Social Networks Workshop, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, May 18, 2023.

Urban-rural geographies of political violence in North and West Africa. AAG, Denver, Mar 24, 2023.

Data on borders and conflicts in North and West Africa. UNDP Africa Borderlands Data Forum, Nairobi, Mar 8, 2023.

Cities and Transnational Jihadist Organizations in the Sahel. ABS World Conference, Eilat, Feb 13, 2023.

Conflict networks in North and West Africa. Sahel Coalition, Mar 30, 2021; Munich Security Conference, Feb 19, 2022; MINUSMA, Apr 14, 2022; OECD, Apr 19, 2022.

Mapping transnational conflict in North and West Africa. University of Edinburgh, Centre of African Studies, Jan 20, 2021.

Social network analysis: An introduction. State Department, Dec 10, 2020.

Analyzing the footprint of a terrorist group to detect its fragmentation and mobility patterns, Conference on Complex Systems, Dec 7-11, 2020.

Cities and urbanization in West Africa. Berne, Swiss Development Agency. Jun 11, 2020.

West African border cities: growth and density. ABORNE annual conference, Lomé, Sep 16, 2019.

Transnational insurgencies in the Sahel-Sahara. Saharan Futures Conference, Northwestern University, Evanston, Apr 12, 2019.

West African women's trade networks. African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Nov 29, 2018.

More than a metaphor: Reconsidering social networks in human geography. AAG, New Orleans, Apr 10-14, 2018.

Mapping West African trade networks. University of Idaho, Geography Seminar, Moscow ID, Sep 20, 2018.

Security and transnational insurgencies in the Sahara-Sahel. Department of State Analytical Exchange, Washington DC, May 9, 2018.

State border strategies and transnational extremist groups in the Sahel-Sahara. Johns Hopkins SAIS, Washington DC, Nov 15, 2017.

West African cross-border policy networks. European Conference on African Studies, Basel, Jun 30, 2017.

Mapping the Sahelian space. Carter Conference, University of Florida, Feb 23, 2017.

Cross-border cooperation and conflicts. Sciences Po Strasbourg, Nov 7-8, 2016.

Transnational Extremist Organizations. DASTI Workshop, Rutgers, Sep 19-20, 2016.

Mapping cross-border policy networks. Swiss Dev. Agency, Bamako, Jul 28, 2016.

Wars without beginning or end. Baraza Talk, University of Florida, Mar 11, 2016.

Strange bedfellows: Northern Mali's conflict. Rutgers, Mar 9, 2016.

Borders, brokers and borders: The structure of West African trade networks. Rurban Conference, University of Copenhagen, Jan 27, 2016.

The map in our mind: How borders still affect policy-makers in Europe. Kiel University, Kiel, Jun 15, 2015.

Addressing cross-border economic development in city-regions. Uddevalla Symposium, University of Southern Denmark, Sønderborg, Jun 11-13, 2015.

Borders and Islamist violence in the Sahel-Sahara. Workshop on Subnational Governance and Conflict. University of Sussex, Brighton, May 21-22, 2015.

Mapping and deterring radical groups in the Sahara-Sahel. AAG, Chicago, Apr 24, 2015.

Armed conflicts and terrorism in the Sahara-Sahel. Rutgers Division of Global Affairs Colloquium, Newark, Apr 22, 2015.

Trans-Saharan Islamist networks. United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, New York, Apr 21, 2015.

Radical Islamic groups and borders in West Africa. Balsillie School of International Affairs, Waterloo, Mar 19-20, 2015.

West African border towns: Demography and Economic centrality (1950-2010). Borders at the Interface Conference, Beer Sheva, Dec 8, 2014.

Comparing policy spaces in border regions. Border Regions in Transition Conference, Lille, Nov 7, 2014.

West African border markets, Association for Borderlands Studies World Conference, Joensuu, Jun 9, 2014.

Understanding transnationalism in West Africa. Workshop on Cross-Border Trade, World Bank, Washington, DC, Mar 3, 2014.

Instability and regional geopolitics, Sahel and West Africa Club Forum, The Future of the Saharo- Sahelian Areas, Abidjan, Nov 28, 2013.

Cross-border trade networks between Niger, Nigeria and Benin, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Nov 23, 2013.

Trans-border terrorist networks and the Malian rebellion in the Sahel-Sahara, Association of Borderlands Studies Conference, Denver, Apr 11, 2013.

Border markets and economic networks in West Africa, African Borderlands Research Network Conference, Edinburgh, Jun 5, 2012.

Regional trade and economic networks in West Africa, UK Social Network Analysis Conference (UKSNA), Bristol, Jun 28, 2012.

Investigating cross-border networks in European border regions, AAG, New York City, Feb 25, 2012.

Integration of informal economic cross-border networks in West Africa, OECD, Paris, Oct 27-28, 2011.

Comparing cross-border metropolitan integration in Europe, Border Regions in Transition Conference, Geneva-Grenoble, Sep 6-9, 2011.

Cross-border governance networks in the trinational region of Basel, UK Social Network Analysis Conference, Greenwich, Jul 7-9, 2011.

Border markets and economic networks in West Africa, European Conference on African Studies, Uppsala, Jun 15-18, 2011.

Understanding the spatiality of cross-border governance networks, AAG, Seattle, Apr 12-16, 2011.

## **AWARDS AND OTHER GRANTS**

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- University of Florida Research Foundation Professorship Award (2024-2027)
- Publication award, \$18,000, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (2025)
- Bastion of Knowledge Award, OECD (2024)
- Outstanding Team Award, OECD (with Steve Radil, OECD)
- University of Florida, travel award, \$1,000 (2017), \$700 (2018)
- Journal of Development Studies' Dudley Seers Prize, £750 (2016)
- Southern Jutland Research Fund, publication grant, €2,000 (2016)
- Carlsberg Foundation, conference grant, €8,000 (2015)

- Southern Jutland Research Fund, conference grant, €7,000 (2015)
- National Research Fund of Luxembourg, exchange visit grant, €78,700 (2013)
- European Science Foundation, exchange visit grant, €3,500 (2010)
- National Research Fund of Luxembourg, research grant, €3,500 (2010)
- National Research Fund of Luxembourg, conference grant, €7,500 (2010)
- Alphonse Weicker Foundation and CEPS, publication grant, €11,700 (2009)
- University of Lausanne, PhD publication grant, CHF 7,000 (2007)
- Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities, PhD Fellowship, CHF 10,000 (2005)
- University of Lausanne, Academic Excellence Award (2002)
- University of Lausanne, Institute of Geography Alumni Association Prize (2001)
- Van Walsem Foundation, Master thesis grant, CHF 3,000 (1999)

## SERVICE TO PROFESSION

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### Postdoctoral researcher advising

- Dr. Tatiana Smirnova. *Foreign Interventions and Transnational Insurgencies in the Sahara-Sahel*. Funded by the OECD. University of Florida, 2020.
- Dr. Leena Koni Hoffmann. *The Impact of Local Politics on Cross-Border Trade in West Africa*. Funded by the National Research Fund of Luxembourg, 2013-14.
- Dr. Frédéric Durand. *CROSSPLANNING. Comparing Cross-Border Metropolitan Planning*. Funded by the National Research Fund of Luxembourg, 2010-11.
- Dr. Jen Nelles. *METROCO-OP. City-Region Governance and Multilevel Policy in Cross-Border Regions*. Funded by the National Research Fund of Luxembourg, 2010-11.

### Graduate student advising

- Cory Satter. *Urban flooding in the Sahel*. UF, 2024- (jury)
- Lacey Harris-Coble (PhD). *Trade networks in West Africa*. UF, 2022- (chair)
- David Russell (PhD). *Conflict networks in North Africa*. UF, 2022- (chair)
- Margaret Eduonoo (PhD). *Rebels in Africa*. UF, 2023- (jury)
- Matthew Pflaum (PhD). *Pastoralism and conflict in West Africa*. UF, 2019-2024 (chair)
- Rhoumour A. Tchilouta (PhD). *Borders in Niger*. University of Grenoble, 2023 (jury)
- Gabriel Madej (MA). *Foreign interventions in Africa*. UF, 2022-23 (jury)
- Valerie Valerio (PhD). *Trade networks in West Africa*. UF, 2018-2023 (jury)
- Olajumoke Ayandele (PhD). *Extreme ideologies in Africa*. Rutgers, 2016-20 (jury)
- Rannveig E. Hjaltadóttir (PhD). *Cross-border innovation cooperation*. SDU, 2014-16 (jury)
- Nino J. Larsen (PhD). *Human capital in regional assemblages*. SDU, 2014-16 (jury)
- Moustapha Koné (PhD). *West African traders and border markets*. LISER, 2011-15 (chair)

### Undergraduate student advising and student assistants

2025: Peter Kostantinov (militias). 2024: Elizabeth McDaniel (conflict datasets), Peter Kostantinov (Jihadism). 2023: Stefani Wald (networks), Sean Buechele (innovation), John Wiedner (conflicts), Julie Peeling (land use). 2022: Jason Scheuer (9/11), Joseph Padron (9/11). 2021: Susanna Goewey (land use), Maria Uribasterra (land use). 2018: Hye Ryeon (Helen) Jang (conflict). 2017: Jonas Frandsen Jensen (Islamic State), Steffen Hyldig Jørgensen (dark networks), Mikkel-Emil Hansen (terrorism), Patrick Steen Pedersen

(Syria). 2016: Egle Rymolaityte (development). 2015: Anders Dohn Sonne (separatism), Maximilian Zeller (aid).

### Editorial boards

- Associate Editor, *Political Geography* (Elsevier), 2022 –
- Editor, *Palgrave Series in African Borderlands Studies* (Springer), 2021-2024
- Editor, *Journal of Borderlands Studies* (Taylor & Francis), 2015-2022
- Editorial Board Member, *Connections* (INSNA), 2015-2022
- Editor and founder, *Journal of Urban Research*, 2005-2015

### Affiliations

- Affiliated Faculty, Global Food Systems Institute, University of Florida, 2021 –
- Affiliated Faculty, Center for Global Islamic Studies, University of Florida, 2020 –
- Affiliated Faculty, Center for African Studies, University of Florida, 2019 –
- Faculty Member, Sahel Research Group, University of Florida, 2017 –

### Professional organization service

- Board of Directors, Association for Borderlands Studies, 2025-2028
- Executive Committee, African Borderlands Research Network (ABORNE), 2016 –
- Social Media Coordinator, Department of Geography, U. of Florida, 2024 –
- Digital Editor, Sahel Research Group, University of Florida, 2017 –
- Advisory Board Member, A Research and Educational Framework for Incorporating Spatial Heterogeneity into Social Network Analysis (CAREER) project, 2021-24
- Advisory Council member, Center for African Studies, University of Florida, 2019-22
- Graduate Committee, Department of Geography, U. of Florida, 2020-23
- Social Media committee, Department of Geography, University of Florida, 2019-23
- Advisory Board Member, African Governance and Space (AFRIGOS) project, 2016-22
- Digital editor, Centre for Border Region Studies, U. of Southern Denmark, 2014-21
- Expert, Security & Rule of Law Program, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NL, 2015
- Africa Editor, *Border Disputes: A Global Encyclopedia* (ABC Clio), 2015
- Committee Member, Remaking Eastern Borders in Europe, COST ISO 803, 2010-12
- Proofreader, *Geographica Helvetica*, Swiss Journal of Geography, 2003-12

### Peer reviewer

African Security Review; African Studies; Annals of the American Association of Geographers; Belgeo; Civil Wars; Entrepreneurship and Regional Development; European Journal of Development Research; Entrepreneurship and Regional Development; Espaces, Populations, Sociétés; Espace Politique; Geopolitics; Global Public Health; Humanities and Social Sciences Communication; International Journal of Geographical Information Science; International Economics and Economic Policy; International Journal of Security and Development; International Small Business Journal; International Trade Journal; Journal of African History; Journal of Alpine Research; Journal of Borderlands Studies; Journal of Development Studies; Journal of Modern African Studies; Networks and Spatial

Economics; One Earth; PLOS ONE; Review of African Political Economy; Review of International Political Economy; Review of Network Economics; Routledge; SAGE; Springer; Stability; Terrorism and Political Violence; Transnational Social Review; Social Forces; Social Networks; Social Science Journal; University of Arizona Press. World Development.

## RESEARCH TRIPS AND FOREIGN RESIDENCE

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- United States: 1996, 2013, since 2017
- Denmark: 2014-2017
- Luxembourg: 2007-2012
- Niger: 1987-1989 and 2003, 2004, 2005, 2012, 2017 (3 years in total)
- Benin: 2003, 2004, 2005, 2012, 2017 (9 months in total)
- Nigeria: 2003, 2004, 2005, 2012 (9 months in total)
- Mali: 1999, 2000, 2006 (4 months in total)
- Ghana: 1994 (2 weeks) and 1995 (1 month)
- Mauritania: 2000 (1 month)

## COMPUTER SKILLS

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- Geographic Information Systems (ArcGIS)
- Social network analysis (UCINET, ORA)
- Cartography and graphic arts (Illustrator, Photoshop)
- Website management (WordPress, Lodel, Manuscrits, SiteCore, T4)

## LANGUAGES

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- French: Native
- English: Very good reading, writing and verbal skills. Daily practice at work, 2010-
- German: Good reading, writing and verbal skills. Regular practice at work, 2014-17