The Wars of the Democratic Republic of Congo
Human Survival and Social Change Amidst Devastation

March 24-25, 2011
GL 220, Modesto Maidique Campus
Florida International University
The Wars of the Democratic Republic of Congo
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This conference will address the social crises wrought by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)’s wars, which have raged in the country continuously since 1996. From 1996 to 2010, the DRC wars have involved the intervention of several neighboring states, the emergence of rebel armies that have sought to seize control of resources and of the state, and the advent of local militias created for both predation and protection. The social costs have been devastating. The conflicts have caused more deaths—estimates range to over 5 million—than any violent conflict since World War II. Meanwhile, the wars have shredded the social and political fabric of the eastern region, and have had overwhelmingly destructive impacts on the entire country. Social and environmental devastation have led to the emergence of new forms of spirituality, new techniques for survival amidst chaos, and new patterns of state-society relations. The papers presented at this conference shed light on the social and political transformations that have accompanied the long years of war in the DRC.

Thursday, March 24, 2010
GL 220, FIU, Modesto Maidique Campus
4:00pm Conference Keynote Address
Chris Gray Memorial Lecture
The Impact of Social and Political Violence on Congo’s Children
Solange Ghonda, The DRC’s Ambassador for Children

6:00pm Conference’s Opening Reception
CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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Friday, March 25, 2010
GL 220, FIU Modesto Maidique Campus

8:00am Registration
Continental Breakfast

9:00am Welcoming Remarks
Douglas Wartzok, Provost, Florida International University
John Stack, Director, School of International & Public Affairs, FIU
Jean Muteba Rahier, Director, African & African Diaspora Studies, FIU

9:15am The Conference’s Concept
John Clark, Florida International University

9:25am The Social and Environmental Impact of the Congo Wars
Chair: Jean Muteba Rahier, Florida International University

9:30am The Intergenerational Health Effects of Rape during the
Congo Wars
Nicole d’Errico, University of Florida

9:50am The Social Impact of the Conflict in the Ituri Region of the DRC
Dan Fahey, University of California—Berkeley

10:10am The Exploitation of Mineral Resources and Its Impact on Nation Building
and Development in the Congo
Charles Tshimanga, University of Nevada—Reno

10:30am Q&A

11:00 Coffee Break

11:15am Wars and Economic Subsistence in the DRC
Chair: Alex Lichtenstein, Florida International University

11:20am Unearthing the ‘Politics of the Belly’ from Below: The Role of Peripheral
Economies in Eastern DRC
Ann Laudati, Utah State University

11:40am The Impact of the Wars on Everyday Economic Life
Emizet Kisangani, Kansas State University

12:00 pm Q&A

12:20 pm Lunch
2:00pm  **Civil-Military Relations in Congo as the Wars Wind Down**  
Chair: John Clark, Florida International University

2:05pm  **Civil-Rebel Relations and the Transformation of Post-Conflict Society in Western Congo.**  
Tatiana Caryannis, Social Science Research Council

2:25pm  **The Evolution of the Forces Armées de la RDC (FARDC) and Its Impact on Society**  
Aaron Hale, Seton Hall University

2:45pm  **Punishments and Pleasures: Violence Against Civilians and the Role of Civil-Military Relations and (Un)Gendered Identities in the DR C**  
Marie Eriksson Baaz, Gothenberg University, Sweden

3:05pm  **Q&A**

3:25pm  **Coffee Break**

3:40pm  **Violence, Social Behavior, and Religion After the Congo Wars**  
Chair: Véronique Helenon, Florida International University

3:45pm  **Kuluna! War Culture and Youth Gangs in Kinshasa**  
Didier Gondola, Indiana University—Purdue University, Indianapolis

4:05pm  **From Devastation to Mobilization: The Muslim Community’s Involvement in Social Welfare in Post-Conflict DRC**  
Ashley Leinweber, University of Florida

4:25pm  **Q&A**

4:45pm  **By Way of Conclusion, a Roundtable Discussion**  
Chair: John Clark, Florida International University

Pierre Michel Fontaine, University of Miami  
Laurie Shrage, Women’s Studies, FIU  
Jean Rahier, African & African Diaspora Studies, FIU

5:45pm  **Conference’s Closing Reception**