Mershon Center events

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ulil Abshar-Abdalla

“Is God Subject to Vote? Islam, Democracy and Religious Pluralism in Indonesia”

Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Ulil Abshar-Abdalla is founder of Jaringan Islam Liberal (Liberal Islam Network, widely known in Indonesia as JIL), which he began as a response to the rising trend of Islamic conservatism that ensued after the collapse of the authoritarian regime of Suharto in May 1998. Abshar-Abdalla has a long history of political activity in Indonesia. Besides founding JIL, he was director of the Freedom Institute and executive director of the Institute for the Study of Free Flow of Information (ISAI), a non-governmental organization that advocates freedom of expression and free press in Indonesia, founded after the closing of prominent weekly magazine, Tempo, by the Suharto regime in 1994. Read more and RSVP

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Isabel Hull

“Imperial German Warfare: Colonial or European?”

3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Co-sponsored by the departments of History and Germanic Languages and Literatures

Isabel Hull is the John Stambaugh Professor of History at Cornell University, where she has taught since 1977. Hull is author of Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany (Cornell University Press, 2004). In Absolute Destruction, Hull argues that the practices and routines of the Imperial German Army, unchecked by civilian institutions, increasingly aimed for absolute destruction of the enemy as the only guarantee of the nation’s security. The deeply embedded logic of “military necessity” was the impetus for extreme destruction of civilian property and lives. The book is called a cautionary tale for today with serious implications for the nature of warmaking in any modern power. Read more and RSVP

Friday-Saturday, May 11-12, 2007

Peace Matters: A Forum on the Discipline and Practice of Peace and Conflict Studies
Peace Matters, co-sponsored by the Ohio Council of Churches, will be an interdisciplinary workshop on peace and conflict studies in the United States. Day One will concentrate on how the subject is taught at U.S. universities, where it should head in the future, and how to institutionalize its presence in campus curricula. Day Two will feature peace activists from Ohio and beyond, highlighting practical steps that people interested in peace can take beyond the confines of the academy. For more information, see the conference web page.

This conference is free and open to the public. To register for either Friday, Saturday, or both days, please contact Julie Clemens, Mershon Center Peace Studies Coordinator, by Friday, May 4.

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Anita Bucknam

"Inside the CIA"

Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Anita Bucknam is the CIA Officer in Residence for 2006-08 at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. She is teaching a variety of intelligence-related courses during her time here, including International Studies 350, "Introduction to Intelligence." Bucknam received her B.A. from Cornell in Russian Language and Literature, and her M.A. from Harvard in Soviet Area Studies. She joined the CIA in 1992 to conduct analytic assessments of Russian economic and political issues. After the events of 9/11, Bucknam transferred her analytic work to counterterrorism issues, particularly related to homeland security. She also served short tours in the National Security Agency, the State Department, and the White House, and she served overseas in Moscow. During this presentation, Bucknam will share her experiences at the CIA, as well as slice through some of the many myths about the agency. Read more and RSVP

Friday, May 18, 2007

Michael Hiscox


3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Monday, May 21, 2007

Jennifer Foster

“Can Positive Group Experiences Shift Attitudes Toward Group Work?”
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Jennifer “Gigi” Foster is a Senior Lecturer in Applied Microeconomics and Econometrics in the School of Commerce, Division of Business, at the University of South Australia. Her areas of research include social effects in education, health, and the workplace; human sorting processes; labor and health economics; and applied microeconomics. Foster will speak on her working paper, “Can Positive Group Experiences Shift Attitudes Toward Group Work? New evidence from a diverse undergraduate setting.” In this paper, Foster uses a new data set on university undergraduates working in study groups first to estimate the influence on actual group performance of prior attitudes toward group work, and then to determine the residual effect of prior attitudes on group members’ post-evaluation of their work. Results illuminate the extent to which young adults’ prior attitudes about working in groups are malleable over the course of one semester. Read more and RSVP

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Gregory Gause

“Oil and Democratic Prospects in the Persian Gulf States”
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Gregory Gause is an associate professor of political science at the University of Vermont, and director of the University's Middle East Studies Program. His research focuses on the international politics of the Middle East, with a particular interest in the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian/Arabian Gulf. He has published two books -- Oil Monarchies: Domestic and Security Challenges in the Arab Gulf States (Council on Foreign Relations Press, 1994), and Saudi-Yemeni Relations: Domestic Structures and Foreign Influence (Columbia University Press, 1990). He was previously on the faculty of Columbia University (1987-95) and was Fellow for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York (1993-94). Read more and RSVP

Other events

Monday, May 7, 2007

Nada Mustafa Ali

“Gender, Race and Conflict in Darfur”
3 p.m., Hale Black Cultural Center, 153 W. 12th St.
Sponsored by the Center for African Studies

Nada Mustafa Ali is a scholar and advocate whose research focuses on gender politics, human rights, and health issues. She will be speaking in a personal capacity about Darfur. Currently a researcher in the Women’s Rights Division for Human Rights Watch, she received her B.A. from Univ of Khartoum, Sudan; an M.A. from the American University in Cairo, and a Ph.D. from the University of Manchester, UK. Before joining Human Rights Watch, she was director of a London-based African nongovernmental organization working with refugees from 20 African countries on HIV/AIDS and other issues. She was also the former
women’s program coordinator at the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies in Egypt, and was also a Fellow at the International Centre for Research on Women in Washington, D.C.

Monday, May 7, 2007

**Suraiya Faroqhi**

“The Beast at the Feast: Animals at Sultanic Festivals in the Ottoman Empire”
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.
Sponsored by the Middle East Studies Center

**Suraiya Faroqhi** is Professor in History in the Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des Nahen Orients sowie für Turkologie at Ludwig-Maximilians Universität, Munich. She received her doctorate from the University of Hamburg. Her publications include *The Ottoman Empire and the World Around It, 1540s to 1774* (2004), *Approaching Ottoman History: An Introduction to the Sources* (1999), with H. Inalcik and D. Quataert, *An Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire* (1997), *Men of Modest Substance, House Owners and House Property in Seventeenth Century Ankara and Kayseri* (1987), and *Towns and Townsmen of Ottoman Anatolia, Trade, Crafts, and Food Production in an Urban Setting 1520-1650* (1984).

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

**Patricia Richards**

“Good Women and Bad Indians: Constructing and Resisting the Gendered Mapuche Subject in Post-Dictatorship Chile”
Noon, 300 Youkin Success Center, 1640 Neil Ave.
Co-sponsored by OSU Women in Development

**Patricia Richards** is an Assistant Professor in Sociology and Women’s Studies at the University of Georgia. Her publications include “The Politics of Difference and Women’s Rights: Lessons from Pobladoras and Mapuche Women in Chile” (forthcoming, *Social Politics*), “The Politics of Gender, Human Rights, and Being Indigenous in Chile” (*Gender & Society*, 2005), and *Pobladoras, Indígenas, and the State: Conflicts Over Women’s Rights in Chile* (Rutgers University Press, 2004). This talk is part of a broader project that examines how gendered and racialized meanings of belonging, and of the nation itself, are deployed by different groups in the “neoliberal multicultural” context, and how national and transnational policies and discourses are internalized, interpreted, and resisted in everyday life. Read more

Friday, May 11, 2007

**African American Males: Beyond the School to Prison Pipeline and Moving Toward Opportunity**
9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saxbe Auditorium, Drinko Hall, Moritz College of Law
Sponsored in part by the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

**African American Males** will focus on the different and sometimes subtle ways in which the educational system and prison system interact to create disparate situations for African American males. Top scholars from across the country will gather at Ohio State to discuss factors and policies that contribute to the success of black males and solutions and recommendations for alleviating the disparities males face. Central to the focus of this conference is not only to understand the pressing issues males encounter, but to bring
to light a deeper understanding of the factors that support economic, political, and social opportunities for males. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit kirwaninstitute.org or call (614) 688-5429.

Friday, May 11, 2007

Justin Tighe

“Rethinking the Frontier: Northwest Travel in Republican China”
1:30 p.m., 251 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Road
Sponsored by the Institute for Chinese Studies

Justin Tighe, a lecturer in Chinese Studies at the University of Melbourne, is currently a post-doctoral fellow sponsored by the East Asian Studies Center at The Ohio State University. His research interests include late Qing/Republican constructions of Inner Asia and their significance in the making of empire and nation state. Tighe is the author of Constructing Suiyuan: The Politics of Northwestern Territory and Development in Early Twentieth Century China (Brill 2005). He is currently teaching a course in the International Studies program titled “China and Inner Asia.”

Friday, May 11, 2007

God Grew Tired of Us

With discussion by Ohio State students Bol Aweng and Jok Dau, two of the “Lost Boys” of Sudan

New Venue! 7 p.m., Drexel Theater in Bexley, 2245 East Main St., 43209
Sponsored by Community Refugee and Immigration Services

God Grew Tired of Us is an inspirational movie about three young Sudanese men who -- after 10 years wandering the African wilderness -- fly to their new homes in the United States. Winner of both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, the movie shows how these three astonishing “Lost Boys” triumph over insurmountable adversities, form a family, adjust to a new culture, and continue to work for those left behind. Tickets are $15 and all proceeds go to support the Duk Lost Boys Medical Clinic in Southern Sudan. Tickets may be purchased online at http://my.directchange.org/page/cris. For more information contact Jane McGrew at 614-235-5747 or jmcgrew@cris-ohio.com. Please RSVP by noon on May 10.

Friday, May 18, 2007

Gray Tuttle

“From Demon Worship to the Dalai Lama’s Zone of Peace: Changing Western Perceptions of Tibet and Its Buddhism”
1:30 p.m., 251 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Road
Sponsored by the Institute for Chinese Studies

Gray Tuttle is the Leila Hadley Luce Professor of Modern Tibetan Studies in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University. He specializes in the history of 20th century Sino-Tibetan relations as well as Tibet’s relations with the China-based Manchu Qing Empire. His publications include Tibetan Buddhists in the Making of Modern China (Columbia University Press, 2005), which examines the failure of nationalism and race-
based ideology to maintain the Tibetan territory of the former Qing empire as integral to the Chinese nation-state. Instead, a new sense of pan-Asian Buddhism was critical to Chinese efforts to hold onto Tibetan regions. Tuttle’s current research focuses on the support of Tibetan Buddhist institutions by Chinese governments from the 17th to 20th centuries, and how this support, along with economic growth, has fueled expansion of these institutions. Other projects include co-editing Sources of Tibetan Tradition for the series Introduction to Asian Civilizations, and co-writing Tibet: History, Society, and Culture.

Monday, May 21, 2007

Horace Campbell
3 p.m., Hale Black Cultural Center, 153 W. 12th St.
Sponsored by the Center for African Studies

Horace Campbell is Professor of African American Studies and Political Science at Syracuse University. His areas of teaching and research include African politics, African international relations, pan-Africanism, and Caribbean society since independence, and issues of militarism and transformation in Africa. He did his doctoral work at Sussex University in the United Kingdom, and taught previously at Northwestern University, Illinois and at the University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. As a member of the Dar Es Salaam school, he was active in the debates on the transition beyond colonialism. At Syracuse, Campbell is a faculty affiliate with the University's Program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflict (PARC).

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Multiple Modernities: Development of Civil Society
“Shaping the Modern Middle East: History, Literature, and Post-Ottoman Identities”
12-3:30 p.m., Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities, 104 E. 15th Ave.
Sponsored by Clusters of Interdisciplinary Research on International Themes

Speakers include Salim Tamari, Bir Zeit University and University of Califorina-Berkeley; Fred H. Lawson, Mills College; Carter Findley, History, The Ohio State University; and Joseph Zeidan, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, The Ohio State University. Lunch will be served to those who RSVP to cirit@osu.edu.

Achievements

Geoffrey Parker, Andreas Dorpalen Professor of History, was named University Distinguished Professor in a surprise visit by President Karen Holbrook and Provost Barbara Snyder to the History Department meeting on Tuesday, May 1. The Distinguished University Professor title recognizes accomplishments in research, scholarly or creative work, teaching, and service that are both distinguished and distinctive. The award honors faculty an annual budget of $10,000 for a period of three years to support their academic work. At the Mershon Center, Parker’s projects have included Climate and Catastrophe: The World Crisis of the 17th Century, which examines the economic, social and political impact of extreme climatic events on states and their population by looking at the last global crisis to leave abundant records: 1640-60 (2005-06); Ohio and

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