October 29, 2007

Coming up at the Mershon Center
Other events
Midwest Slavic Association essay contest
Feature group: Watson Institute

Coming up at the Mershon Center
Thursday, Nov. 1, 2007

Anja Jetschke
"Explaining Variation and Persistence: Asia’s Cultural Approach to International Cooperation"
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Anja Jetschke is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. Jetschke, an Assistant Professor of International Relations at the University of Freiburg, is working on her second book, *Explaining Variation and Persistence: Asia’s Cultural Approach to International Cooperation*. The project explores how and why cultural preferences among Asian states appear to consistently lead to a less institutionalized form of international collaboration. Jetschke argues that previous explanations of the Asian approach to international cooperation don’t take context into account, and she uses comparative case studies to explore the Asian approach in areas such as economics, security and human rights. [Read more and RSVP](#)

Monday, Nov. 5, 2007

Derek Penslar
“When May We Kill our Brethren? Jews at War in Europe, 1848-1918”
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Derek Penslar is Samuel Zacks Professor of Jewish History and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at University of Toronto. His publications focus on Jewish political, economic, and cultural life in modern Europe, particularly Germany, and on the history of the Zionist movement and state of Israel. Penslar’s books include *Zionism and Technocracy: The Engineering of Jewish Settlement in Palestine, 1870-1918* (1991, Hebrew version 2001); *In Search of Jewish Community: Jewish Identities in Germany and Austria, 1918-1933* (1998, co-edited with Michael Brenner); *Shylock’s Children: Economics and Jewish Identity in Modern Europe* (2001); *Orientalism and the Jews* (co-edited with Ivan Kalmar, 2004); *Contemporary Antisemitism: Canada and the World* (2005); and *Israel in History: The Jewish State in Comparative Perspective* (2006). [Read more and RSVP](#)

Friday, Nov. 9, 2007
**Dennis Thompson**

“Deliberative Democracy in Action: The Case of the Citizens Assembly”
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.
Co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science

Dennis Thompson is Professor of Government and Alfred North Whitehead Professor of Political Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University. He is also a professor of public policy in the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and founding Director of the University Center for Ethics and the Professions (now the Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics). Thompson is the author with Amy Gutmann of *Why Deliberative Democracy?* (Princeton, 2004), which explores the most widely debated conception of democracy in recent years -- the idea that citizens or their representatives owe each other mutually acceptable reasons for the laws they enact. [Read more and RSVP](#)

**Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2007**

**Birgit Brock-Utne**

“Women Protesting Against War, Writing and Acting for Peace”
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.
Co-sponsored by OSU Women in Development

Birgit Brock-Utne is a Professor of Education and Development and Director of the M.Phil. in Comparative and International Education at the University of Oslo. Her research interests include peace education from a gender perspective, education in Africa, language in education, higher education in Africa and donor influence on education in the developing world. Brock-Utne is author of *Educating for Peace* (Pergamon Press 1985; translated into Korean, Italian and Norwegian), *Feminist Perspectives on Peace and Peace Education* (Pergamon Press 1989) and *Whose Education for All?* (Falmer Press 2000; reprinted by africanabooks.org 2006). [Read more and RSVP](#)

**Other events**

**Monday, Oct. 29, 2007**

**Nemata Eshun-Baiden**

Founder, Sierra Leone Women’s Working Group, The 50/50 Group
4 p.m., Saxbe Auditorium, Moritz College of Law, 55 W. 12th Ave.
Sponsored in part by the Institute on Women, Gender and Public Policy

The 50/50 Group, a women’s group in Sierra Leone working for equitable participation in politics, won this year’s Madeleine K. Albright Award given annually by the National Democratic Institute. This award “honors the achievements of a small grassroots organization that has worked effectively to promote women’s participation in politics and that is committed to addressing the dramatic under-representation of women in political leadership positions.” Nemata Eshun-Baiden, one of the founders of 50/50, will speak about the organization, its activities and role in the recently passed legislations in Sierra Leone on the rights of women, and how they are shaping public opinion with regard to women’s participation in politics. RSVP by Friday, October 26, to instituteonwomen@osu.edu
Connie Schultz won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 2005 as a columnist for The Plain Dealer in Cleveland. In June 2007 Schultz published ...and His Lovely Wife: A Memoir from the Woman Beside the Man, which chronicles her experiences on the campaign trail with Sen. Sherrod Brown, her husband. In 2003, she was a Pulitzer finalist and won the Robert F. Kennedy Award for social justice reporting for her series “The Burden of Innocence,” which chronicled the ordeal of Michael Green, who served 13 years in prison for a rape he did not commit. Don’t miss this informative and engaging speaker’s look at life on the political trail. The John Glenn School of Public Affairs is pleased to present the annual Barbara K. Fergus Women in Leadership Lecture Series. This initiative recognizes Barbara’s passion for encouraging and motivating young people to achieve their fullest potential as business, community and political leaders.

Midwest Slavic Association essay contest

Essays written in the Russian language are invited from students at all levels – 1st year through 3rd year. With their teachers’ help, students can select for submission an essay they have written as part of their course work during the current academic year.

The three best essays at each level will be published in a special edition sponsored by the Center for Slavic and East European Studies and will be made available at the Annual Midwest Slavic Conference to be held April 2008. The top three essays in each category will receive a certificate from the Midwest Slavic Association.

Participation in the Midwest Russian Essay Contest:

- Provides students with an opportunity to compete with their regional counterparts.
- Gives undergraduates a chance to be published.
- Raises the visibility of the Russian program.

Please ask students to submit essays electronically as a Microsoft Word attachment to Susmita Sundaram sundarams@kenyon.edu no later than December 15. For those who prefer to write and not type the essay, please send by mail to:

Susmita Sundaram  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Russian  
Vice-president Midwest Slavic Association  
Modern Languages and Literatures  
Kenyon College  
010 Ascension Hall  
Gambier, OH 43022
Feature group: Watson Institute

Editor’s note: Mershon Memo will periodically feature stories about peer groups and organizations that engage in scholarly and academic study of issues related to national security. If you would like to see a particular organization discussed, please email Laura Tompkins at tompkins.46.

Founded in 1986, the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University is dedicated to producing high quality teaching and research on today’s global problems. By addressing these challenges through multiple disciplines, the Watson Institute aims to generate scholarship with an emphasis on practical policy implementation.

The Institute’s current research themes include globalization and inequality; political economy and development; global security and environment; and politics, culture, and identity. The center houses more than 400 students its International Relations Program, and provides lectures, webcasts, policy papers, research, workshops and conferences for the university and the larger academic community.

The institute is also responsible for publishing the journal Studies in Comparative International Development, and the Brown Journal of World Affairs, which is run by undergraduate students.

For more information, see http://www.watsoninstitute.org/

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