Mershon Dissertation Fellowship

The Mershon Center hosts a competition for Dissertation Fellows, graduate students within one year of completing their dissertation (or other terminal degree) in the field of international security. Fellowships come with a stipend and benefits.

For information on applying for the 2006-2007 Dissertation Writing Fellowships, click here.

Mershon Center Dissertation Writing Fellow

Bridget Coggins

Bridget Coggins is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Political Science at Ohio State University. Her dissertation project, Secession, Recognition and the International Politics of Statehood, explores the politics of external support for secession and their influence upon conflict outcomes. She argues that recognition is an important, but often overlooked determinant of successful State-seeking. The politics of external recognition, however, are not well understood. International relations scholarship tends to treat States as exogenous and static rather than focusing upon their emergence or failure. Yet the system is not static and the pattern of new States resulting from secession is not straightforward and predictable. Conflicts in Indonesia, Somalia, Yugoslavia and the former USSR beg the question, How do statesmen decide which actors will be admitted into the exclusive group of sovereign States and which will remain subject to the jurisdiction of others? As she proceeds beyond the dissertation stage, Bridget expects to concentrate her research in the areas of ethno-national conflict, the internal-external conflict nexus and international relations theory. She is also pursuing a project on existential threat and domestic mobilization. More information about Bridget and her work are available at http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/grads/coggins.

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