In his book The Psychology of Nuclear Proliferation: Identity, Emotions, and Foreign Policy, Jacques Hymans explores why few states have acquired nuclear weapons even though dozens have long been capable of doing so. He finds that the key to this surprising historical pattern lies not in externally imposed constraints, but in state leaders’ conceptions of national identity.

Richard Herrmann (left), Director of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, presents the Edgar S. Furniss Book Award to Jacques E.C. Hymans, Assistant Professor of Government at Smith College, on February 25, 2008.

Jacques Hymans (second from right), speaks with a group of Mershon Center faculty members shortly before his lecture on February 25, 2008. With him are (from left to right) Ted Hopf, Associate Professor of Political Science; Bear Braumoeller, Assistant Professor of Political Science; Allan Silverman, Professor of Philosophy; and Marilynn Brewer, Professor of Psychology.