



Mershon Memo

An e-newsletter of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies

September 24, 2008

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Coming up at the Mershon Center

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mary Ellen O'Connell

"The New Militarism"

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



Mary Ellen O'Connell became the Robert and Marion Short Professor of Law in 2005. Prior to joining the Notre Dame faculty in this position, she was the William B. Saxbe Designated Professor of Law at the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University. O'Connell's primary research focuses on international legal regulation of the use of force and conflict and dispute resolution, especially peaceful resolution of disputes prior to an escalation to armed conflict. She teaches contracts as well as a number of courses in the area of international law. In conjunction with research on these issues, O'Connell examines the processes by which international law is made, applied, and enforced, and is particularly interested in the enforcement of international law and the question of whether it is time for a classical revival in international law. [Read](#)

[more and RSVP](#)

Monday, October 6, 2008

Patrick James

"What Way Forward for Offensive Realism?"

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



Patrick James is Director of the Center for International Studies and Professor of International Relations at the University of Southern California. His teaching and research interests are international relations, including conflict, crisis and war; comparative politics, primarily Canadian politics; rational choice, focusing on collective action, expected utility and game theory; and empirical methods, involving research design and statistics. His most recent work, *Rethinking Realism in International Relations: Between Tradition and Innovation* (John Hopkins University Press, forthcoming), with Annette Freyberg-Inan and Ewan Harrison, will be released in winter 2008. He completed publications in 2006 and 2007 analyzing Canadian foreign policy. [Read more and RSVP](#)

[Read more and RSVP](#)

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Juan R.I. Cole

"Can Ayatollah Sistani's Alternative to Khomeinism Survive?"

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



Juan R.I. Cole is Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History at the University of Michigan. He has written extensively about Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and South Asia. For three decades, Cole has sought to put the relationship of the West and the Muslim world in historical context. His most recent book is *Engaging the Muslim World* (Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming) and he recently authored [Napoleon's Egypt: Invading the Middle East](#) (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007). *This event is sponsored by the Middle East Studies Center.*

[Read more](#)

Thursday, October 9, 2008

The Hon. Mary Robinson

"Women and International Policy "

4:30 p.m., Mershon Auditorium, 1871 High St.



Mary Robinson, the first female president of Ireland and formerly the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has spent most of her life as a human rights advocate. She now chairs the Council of Women World Leaders and is President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative. Robinson has been named a "Hero and Icon" as one of *Time* magazine's 2005 Top 100 men and women whose "power, talent or moral example is transforming the world." *This event is co-sponsored by the John Glenn School of Public*

Affairs and the International Studies Program. [Read more and RSVP](#)

Other events

Friday, October 10, 2008

Study Abroad Fair and Global Fest ... a Celebration of Cultures

10 a.m.-3 p.m., Tom W. Davis Special Events Gym

RPAC (Recreation and Physical Activity Center), 337 West 17th Ave.

Sponsored by the [Office of International Affairs](#)

Students can explore a myriad of opportunities to learn in another country at The Office of International Affairs' **Study Abroad Fair**. The fair will showcase 100 different programs available in more than 40 countries that support and complement students' progress in their curriculum. Students will be able to talk with the Office of International Affairs study abroad staff about the wide range of programs available in Asia, Australia, the Middle East, South America, Europe and Africa, how to earn academic credit, and what options are available to finance their study abroad. Also on hand will be representatives from Ohio State academic departments who help facilitate study abroad programs, as well as other representatives. Students also will be able to obtain passport applications and have their passport photo taken for a fee on site from representatives of the United States Postal Service. [Read more](#)

Mershon Center offers podcasts and more

As autumn quarter begins, you may see students and faculty listening to Mershon Center lectures on their iPods. Users can now download audio podcasts of past Mershon speaking events onto their iPods or mp3 players and listen on the go, rather than having to access them online.

Please feel free to download Mershon Center podcasts and promote them in your courses this fall. To access them, visit <http://itunes.osu.edu> and launch or download iTunesU. This will take you to the Ohio State section of iTunes, where you can access Mershon recordings under Centers - Academic. More than 200 audio recordings from the past five years are available.

You can also find video and audio streams from Mershon events held during the past five years on the [Event Recordings](#) page of our web site. Streaming videos differ from podcasts in that podcasts can be downloaded while streaming videos cannot.

Pictures taken at Mershon Center events are being collected in an online album using Google's Picasa service. You can view and download photos of past events, organized by quarter and academic year, by visiting our [photo archive](#).

Finally, the Mershon Center is now archiving materials from all events, publications, web pages, and more in The Ohio State University's [Knowledge Bank](#). You can search by author, title, or subject to find resources since 2003.

For more information, please contact [Cathy Becker](#) or [Melanie Mann](#).

'Origins' examines crucial presidential elections



[Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective](#) is pleased to announce the publication of its October 2008 issue, featuring "Punishing the Past: Presidential Elections in Times of Crisis (1932, 1968, 2008)" by Bruce Kuklick.

With the campaign for the November election at full throttle, candidates will be working hard to persuade voters that their vision for the future is better than their opponents. Historian Bruce Kuklick offers a provocative and counter-intuitive way to think about the upcoming election by arguing that rather than being about the future of the nation, elections must be about the past.

Origins is a publication from the Public History Initiative and eHistory in Ohio State University's History Department. In each feature article, an academic expert analyzes a particular current issue -- political, cultural, or social -- in a larger, deeper historical context. *Origins* also includes podcasts, images, maps, graphics, timelines, and other material to complement the essay.

Origins can be found at <http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/>. The podcast is found at <http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/podcasts.cfm>.

Recent topics include fishing and over-fishing in American waters, Olympic controversies, the mortgage crisis, the 2008 Taiwan elections, and the meaning of "Muslim fundamentalist." Next month: "Clash in the Caucasus: Imperial Games and Contrived Conflicts in Georgia," by Stephen F. Jones.

Featured Mershon research project

Dissent Repression Nexus

Principal Investigators: [Katherine Meyer](#), [J. Craig Jenkins](#), and others

The Middle East is often seen as caught in a cycle of dissent and repression, influencing almost all aspects of existence. This “dissent/repression nexus” is crucial because the Middle East lies at the crossroads of three continents and contains vast reserves of natural resources. Its conflicts have also spilled into other parts of the world.

Despite the importance of understanding contention in the Middle East, there has been little systematic study of conflict dynamics in the region. To address these gaps, an interdisciplinary, multi-university team has set out to study the dissent/repression nexus in the Middle East. The project focuses on Egypt, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Kuwait, and Turkey from 1990 to the present.

Their questions include:

- How do dissent and repression influence one another?
- What kinds of repression produce what kinds of dissent and vice versa?
- How are contentious activities influenced by the dominant forces of economic and political globalization?

The team has just completed the third year of the project. This has included in-depth surveys in each of the six countries, with multiple sources of data, event analysis, and content analysis of newspapers using Lexis-Nexis. Essential has been the work of 17 graduate and undergraduate students who each worked in depth on one country.

The team has found that diverse and unique factors fuel contention in each nation. Varieties of religious restriction and regulation, ideologies of gender equity, potential for protest, and colonial history all matter. Issue frames are important to understanding Israel and Palestine. The international stage, human rights pressures, policing and security are all important to state action in Turkey. Civil society and organizations (both secular and religious) influence the development and sustainment of contentious activity in all nations.

For more, please see the Dissent Repression Nexus [project summary](#) and [web site](#).

About Mershon Memo

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