



# Mershon Memo

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

September 29, 2008

## In this issue

1. Coming up at the Mershon Center
2. Other events
3. Featured Mershon research project

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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 in 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. She 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](#)

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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](#)

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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](#)

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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](#)

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Tuesday, October 14, 2008

## Robert Rakove

"Getting the Worst of Both Worlds': John F. Kennedy and Decolonization"

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

Robert  
Rakove

Robert Rakove has a M.A. in European History from Stanford University and will receive his Ph.D. in U.S. History from the University of Virginia in December 2008. His project, "Befriending the Nonaligned: Kennedy, Johnson, and the Neutralist Powers," examines the efforts of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations to create lasting, constructive relations with leading states of the non-aligned world. Rakove will explore how U.S. policies of interaction with non-aligned powers helped define relations between the United States and its allies, many of whom had tense relations with the new post-colonial states in Africa and Asia. [Read more and RSVP](#)

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Friday-Saturday, October 17-18, 2008

## China Plural: Local Identity, Contesting Visions, and Constructing Nations

Organized by Kwang-Kyoon Yeo, Visiting Scholar, Institute for Chinese Studies

180 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Road

Co-sponsored by the [East Asian Studies Center](#)

Kwang-  
Kyoon Yeo

Since the 1990s, China has been one of the most speculated, researched, and analyzed topics in academia, mass media, and policy debates in the United States. However, most of the analysis has been framed by the idea that China has a homogenous history, people, and culture. This monolithic image has shaped not only the study of China, but dominated the policy debates and public imagination of China in the United States. **China Plural: Local**

 **Identity, Contesting Visions, and Constructing Nations** will communicate, elaborate, and expand an interdisciplinary discourse on a multifaceted view on China. By convening scholars working on local, linguistic, and cultural diversity of China, the conference will highlight the heterogeneous and dynamic inner workings of China, and examine the representation, construction, and reproduction of a homogeneous China both inside and outside its national boundary. [Read more](#)

## 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](#)

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Tuesday, October 14, 2008

### **Dawood Azami**

*"Drug Money: Opium, Crime, and Insurgency in Afghanistan"*

4 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Sponsored by the [Middle East Studies Center](#)



**Dawood Azami** is a writer and broadcast journalist. He has been working with the BBC World Service for nearly 10 years. As a senior producer, he supervises and produces news and current affairs transmissions in Pashto and Persian languages. He has also worked in the BBC's English Network, BBC World Television, and BBC News Online covering international news and current affairs. Dawood specializes in politics, security and culture in Central and South Asia and the Middle East (especially Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan including the

Tribal Areas). He has produced several special radio documentaries for the BBC World Service on politics, religion and human rights. [Read more](#)

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Friday, October 17, 2008

### **Bernd Fischer and May Mergenthaler**

*"Enlightenment, Culture, and the Public Sphere"*

3:30 p.m., 488 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Ave.

Sponsored by the Department of [Germanic Languages and Literatures](#)

In this seminar, we will discuss two short seminal texts: "Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?" by Immanuel Kant, and "On the Question: What Does It Mean to Enlighten?" by Moses Mendelssohn. This event is part of a larger project on **The Public Sphere and Modern Social Imaginaries**, which includes a reading group, lectures and seminars, and a conference in 2010-

11. The goal is to investigate how cultural and artistic expressions arising from and contributing to modern social imaginaries work within and against the classical Habermasian notion of the political public sphere of German speaking and European societies, in a historical (1750-today) and global context. Our guiding question is whether the creation of a political public sphere is and has indeed been necessary for establishing and maintaining social freedom and justice. Please indicate your interest by replying to [mergenthaler.4@osu.edu](mailto:mergenthaler.4@osu.edu).

## Featured Mershon research project

### Comparative National Elections Project

Principal Investigator: [Richard Gunther](#), Department of Political Science

The Comparative National Elections Project (CNEP) is a multi-year, multi-county examination of how citizens in democracies around the world receive information about policies, parties, candidates, and politics during the course of election campaigns.

The project began in 1990 with a series of surveys in Germany, Britain, the United States and Japan. It was expanded in 1993 to include eight more countries in South America, Southern Europe, Eastern Europe and East Asia, and to include questions about support for democracy in newly emerging or re-established democratic regimes.

CNEP has recently expanded again to encompass 35 national election surveys in 21 countries including two in Africa as well as China. The surveys have also been expanded to include questions about the quality of democracy and corruption in the electoral process, the nature of identity in multi-cultural societies, and values that affect democracy or give rise to conflict. CNEP is now the third-largest international project of its kind.

Over the past year many of the country team leaders and the data archiving staff in South Africa have been engaged in the massive task of standardizing response categories for each of the 35 surveys, some of which include up to 600 different variables. This will greatly facilitate analysis of these data, which form the basis of the project's next book.

The 35 national surveys are all posted on the CNEP web site. Researchers can download macro reports, as well as questionnaires, SPSS data sets, and other information. These data sets are one of CNEP's biggest contributions, providing the basis not only for the CNEP project itself, but for social science research around the world.

So far CNEP has produced more than 100 book chapters and journal articles and six books. For more information, please see the CNEP [project page](#) or [web site](#).

## About Mershon Memo

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