



Mershon Memo

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

October 27, 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

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

Jeff McMahan

"Killing Civilians in War"

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



Jeff McMahan is professor of philosophy at Rutgers University. His research is known for its combination of philosophical rigor and simultaneous accessibility to the non-specialist audience. He is author of [The Ethics of Killing: Problems at the Margins of Life](#) (Oxford University Press, 2002), described as "the first comprehensive study of the ethics of killing, where the moral status of the individual killed is uncertain." McMahan's most recent work focuses on the ethics of killing in war, as self-defense, and as a mode of punishment. A significant strand of this current work is dedicated to the re-examination of traditional just war theory. McMahan seeks to pry apart the perceived assumptions grounding this theory's arguments, using the tools of metaphysics and ethical theory. [Read more and RSVP](#)

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Matthew Fehrs

"Are You Talkin' to Me? The Domestic Politics of Government Signaling in International Conflicts"

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



Matthew Fehrs received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Duke University. His project explores three puzzles in international relations theory: What causes a country to have or perceive incomplete information and lead states to war? Why, despite high levels of transparency and freedom of information, are democracies likely to be attacked? What is the role of opposition groups in military crises? To answer these questions, Fehrs developed a theory that focuses on the unity and hawkishness of the government in democratic states. He hypothesizes that the more unified a government, the less likely it is to send mixed signals to potential challengers. Likewise, the more hawkish a country, the more likely it is to use military posturing and harsh rhetoric. [Read more and RSVP](#)

Friday, November 7, 2008

Carol Anderson

"Bourgeois Radicals: The NAACP and the Struggle for Colonial Liberation, 1941-1960"

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



Carol Anderson is associate professor of history at the University of Missouri and will be joining the faculty in African American Studies at Emory University in January 2009. Anderson focuses on public policy, particularly the ways domestic and international policies intersect through the issues of race, justice, and equality in the United States. She is the author of [*Eyes off the Prize: The United Nations and the African American Struggle for Human Rights, 1944-1955*](#), published by

Cambridge University Press and awarded both the Gustavus Myers and Myrna Bernath Book Awards. In her forthcoming book, *Bourgeois Radicals: The NAACP and the Struggle for Colonial Liberation, 1941-1960*, Anderson uncovers the long-hidden role of the nation's most powerful civil rights organization in the fight for the liberation of peoples of color in Africa and Asia. [Read more and RSVP](#)

Thursday, November 13, 2008

Richard Holbrooke

2008 Joseph J. Kruzel Memorial Lecture

"A Foreign Policy Agenda for the Next President"

4 p.m., Room 1008 Evans Laboratory, 88 W. 18th Ave.



Richard Holbrooke served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, where he was also a member of President Clinton's cabinet from 1999 to 2001. He played a central role in the development of U.S. policy toward the United Nations, the Balkans, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and humanitarian crises such as AIDS. As Assistant Secretary of State for Europe from 1994-96, Holbrooke was chief architect of the momentous 1995 Dayton peace agreement that ended the war in Bosnia. From 1993-94 he was U.

S. Ambassador to Germany. Holbrooke has written numerous articles and two books: *To End a War* (Modern Library, 1999), a memoir of the Dayton negotiations, and, as co-author, *Counsel to the President*, Clark Clifford's memoir, as well as a volume of the Pentagon Papers. He is currently Vice Chairman of Perseus, a leading private equity firm, and writes a monthly column for *The Washington Post*. [Read more and RSVP](#)

Other events

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

Ken Stein

"Israel on American Campuses: Teaching or Preaching?" Noon, Ohio State Hillel, 46 E. 16th Ave.

"The U.S. and the Middle East in the Next Administration," 7:30 p.m., Columbus Jewish

Community Center, 1125 College Ave.

Sponsored by Susie and Jon Diamond, Melton Center for Jewish Studies, College of Arts and Humanities, and Columbus Jewish Federation

Ken Stein is William E. Schatten Professor of Contemporary Middle Eastern History, Political Science and Israeli Studies at Emory University. Since coming to Emory in 1977, he founded and developed the International Studies Center, was the first director of the Carter Center (1983-86), and established the Institute for the Study of Modern Israel in 1988. Stein is the author of numerous books including *Hebrew and English editions of Heroic Diplomacy: Sadat, Kissinger, Carter, Begin and the Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace* (Routledge, 1999), *Making Peace Among Arabs and Israelis: Lessons from Fifty Years of Negotiating Experience* (United States Institute for Peace, 1991), and *The Land Question in Palestine, 1917-1939* (North Carolina, 1984, 1985, and 2003). Reservations are required by Monday, October 27, 2008. Call (614) 292-0967. For more information, visit <http://meltoncenter.osu.edu>.

Featured Mershon research project

Political Regimes, Financial Market Institutions, and Stability in Asia

Principal Investigators: [Mary Cooper](#), Department of Political Science



How much does the type of government in a country affect the shape of its stock market? Are non-democratic regimes more likely to produce unstable financial markets?

To begin answering these questions, Mary Cooper plans to compare the stock markets of China, India and Taiwan. China and India not only have experienced dramatically booming stock markets in recent years, but also are among the world's fastest-growing economies and are both of great strategic importance to the United States. Taiwan is smaller, but its complicated history and ongoing tensions with China make it significant.

Most research on financial markets falls into two camps: analyzing the causes of economic liberalization and covering its consequences. Few studies take regime type into account, and those that do use quantitative methods almost exclusively.

Cooper's research goes beyond previous studies in several ways. First, she has a more complete concept of financial markets that looks not only at the extent of economic liberalization, but at other variables such as:

- types of companies on the stock exchange
- types of investors
- mechanisms for openness to foreign capital
- the state's role as regulator and/or participant
- the political foundation for creation and operation

Second, Cooper's use of case studies allows a more detailed understanding to emerge. Combining quantitative data from stock markets and regulatory agencies with qualitative analysis that incorporates sources such as government officials, financial market participants, the media, think tanks and local universities, her research will help clarify the political decisions that determine how and when a market is opened to foreign capital.

A grant from the Mershon Center has enabled Cooper to do research in Beijing at the China Securities Regulatory Commission and other agencies. She will also conduct interviews in Taiwan and India.

Cooper plans to publish two articles. In the first, comparing China and Taiwan, Cooper finds that party and state play quite different roles in the financial markets. While in Taiwan the role of the Kuomintang Party eclipsed the role of the state, in China the state (rather than the Communist Party) is a key participant in stock markets. This trend has been reinforced since Taiwan began democratizing in the late 1980s.

Cooper's second article will compare China and India, countries with a similar level of economic development but different political systems. She hopes to find out whether a democratic vs. authoritarian government produces different types of financial liberalization, and whether one financial system is more vulnerable to instability.

For more information, please see the [project web page](#).

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