



Mershon Memo

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

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Coming up at the Mershon Center

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Allan Millett

"They Came From the North: The War for Korea, 1950-51"

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



Allan Millett is director of the Eisenhower Center for American Studies and Stephen E. Ambrose Professor of History at the University of New Orleans since 2006, and the Raymond E. Mason Jr. Professor Emeritus of Military History at The Ohio State University. He specializes in the history of American military policy and 20th century wars and military institutions. In the past decade, Millett has become a specialist of international stature on the history of the Korean War. He began his work on the war as a Fulbright Distinguished Professor at Korean National Defense University in 1991, and a fellow of the Korea Foundation in 1996. The first volume of *The War for Korea*, entitled *A House Burning: The War for Korea 1945-1950*, was published by the University Press of Kansas in 2005. He will speak about the second volume, forthcoming from University Press of Kansas, which covers 1950-51. [Read more and RSVP](#)

Friday, November 21, 2008

Caroline Elkins

"British Colonial Violence and the End of Empire"

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



Caroline Elkins is Hugo K. Foster Associate Professor of African Studies in the Department of History at Harvard University. Her research interests include colonial violence and post-conflict reconciliation in Africa, and violence and the decline of the British Empire. Elkins's book, [Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya](#) (Henry Holt, 2004), was awarded the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction. It was also selected as one of *The Economist's* best history books for 2005, was a *New York Times* editor's choice, and was a finalist for the Lionel Gelber Award. *Imperial Reckoning* draws on a variety of sources -- including extensive oral testimonies, archival evidence, and personal accounts -- to construct an understanding of the Mau Mau uprising and Britain's policy of interning 1.5 million people of the Kikuyu tribe in detention camps from 1952 to 1960. [Read more and RSVP](#)

Undergraduate Research Forum to take place November 20

Undergraduates are invited to join a panel of Mershon Center affiliated faculty for pizza and an interdisciplinary discussion on the basic ingredients of a good undergraduate research project.

Recipe for Success: Basic Ingredients for Undergraduate Research will take place at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2008, in 130 Page Hall, 1810 College Ave.

Panel members will cite examples of good undergraduate research projects and address such questions as:

- How do you develop good research questions?
- What types of methodologies should you use in your research?
- What foundation do you need to have before undertaking a research project?
- How can undergraduates make connections with faculty members?

Panelists include:

- [Edward Crenshaw](#), Associate Professor of Sociology
- [Randy Schweller](#), Professor of Political Science
- [Barbara Hanawalt](#), King George III Professor of British History

This was one of the most successful undergraduate events sponsored by the Mershon Center last year, with more than 69 percent of respondents rating it as extremely valuable.

Co-sponsored by the [Undergraduate Research Office](#). To attend, students should respond to uro@osu.edu by Monday, November 17, and enter "RSVP 11/20/08" in the subject line of the e-mail. For more information, contact Helene Cweren at cweren.1@osu.edu or 688-4910.

Mershon Center opens annual grant competition

Each year the Mershon Center for International Security Studies holds a competition for Ohio State faculty and graduate students to apply for research grant funds.

Grants may be used for a variety of research purposes including travel, seminars, conferences, interviews, experiments, workshops and more. Applications must be for projects that relate to one or more of the Mershon Center's three areas of focus: the use of force and diplomacy; the ideas, identities and decisional processes that affect security; and the institutions that manage violent conflict.

For more information, including application forms and instructions, please see the [Grants](#) section of the Mershon Center web site. The deadline is **January 30, 2009**.

Office of International Affairs issues travel advisory

As more students, faculty and staff travel abroad to study independently, conduct research, and attend conferences, it is important that they notify the Office of International Affairs, take advantage of Ohio State's supplemental health insurance program, and register with the U.S. Embassy or consulate.

The health and safety of the Ohio State community become increasingly more important as the university continues to grow globally. Taking some precautionary steps before traveling abroad for university business can help protect students, faculty and staff.

Faculty and staff who are accompanying a group of students to international locations for the purpose of research, internships, special projects, conferences, and/or service learning are required to comply with three Ohio State risk management policies:

- Notify the Office of International Affairs of their travel plans and complete the Faculty International Travel Form as soon as possible, and preferably at least one quarter in advance of travel.
- Participate in an orientation session conducted by the Office of International Affairs.
- Provide the Office of International Affairs with a list of students' names and contact information at least one quarter in advance of travel.

Faculty who are advising students who will be traveling abroad independently are required to refer students to the Office of International Affairs as soon as possible, and preferably at least one quarter in advance of their travel plans, so that they can be advised of the supplemental health insurance program and U.S. Embassy registration procedures.

Faculty and staff who are enrolled in a university medical plan are automatically enrolled in GlobalCare, which provides health access outside the United States. For more details or to print a card, visit hr.osu.edu/benefits/healthglobal.htm. However, students are encouraged to apply for Ohio State's supplemental health plan through the Office of International Affairs.

Faculty, staff, and student employees who are injured while conducting university business abroad are covered under Ohio Workers Compensation and should notify their department of the injury immediately. They also should complete an Employee Accident Report, which can be found on the HR web site at hr.osu.edu/forms/accidentrpft.pdf.

To register travel plans with the U.S. Embassy, students, faculty, and staff can visit the U.S. Department of State's travel registration site at travel.state.gov.

It is also recommended that students schedule an international travel appointment at the Ohio State Wilce Student Health Center (or with a personal physician) as soon as possible, preferably at least one full quarter before departure, to review any special health concerns and determine vaccinations needed. Faculty and staff may visit the OSU Rardin Family Practice for their international travel medical needs.

For more information, visit oia.osu.edu and click on "International Travel Health and Safety" in the Quick Links section.

Featured Mershon research project

Issues in Multi-Dimensional Legislative Bargaining: Collective vs. Particularistic Goods

John Kagel, Department of Economics



Whether it's the U.S. Congress debating the latest defense spending bill or the Iraqi parliament distributing oil revenues, one of the most important jobs of any legislature is to allocate government resources. Legislative bargaining models attempt to explain how legislators bargain with each other to allocate resources between competing needs.

To test these models, social scientists conduct legislative bargaining experiments in which players representing legislative parties make different proposals for splitting a finite budget, and then bargain with each other until they come to an agreement.

Last year, John Kagel used a Mershon grant to examine legislative bargaining on two dimensions -- particularistic or private goods that benefit one district, and collective or public interest goods that benefit society as a whole.

Kagel ran a series of experiments in which differing values were placed on collective and particularistic goods. In some cases, public goods were valued highly, while in other cases private goods were given a high value. Other experiments saw values in between.

The goal was to test a model by Alan Wiseman and Craig Volden (*American Political Science Review*, 2007) with a counter-intuitive prediction. The model predicts that even when legislators place more value on private goods, they end up with a budget that contains lots of public goods. This happens because bargainers get private goods for themselves by voting for a budget that contains public goods for everybody else.

In last year's experiments using students acting as legislators, many aspects of the model's prediction did not pan out. So this year Kagel's team ran the same set of experiments using actual legislators recruited by former student Steven Lehrer, now at Queen's University School of Public Policy in Canada.

Running the experiment with actual legislators has provided a more accurate test of the Wiseman-Volden model. But more important, it is allowing Kagel to extend the model. In order to provide tractable results, many bargaining models and experiments simplify the conditions by making unrealistic assumptions.

Kagel plans to talk with the legislators who went through the experiments to find out which elements were most unlike the real world, then create new models and experiments to address these issues.

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

About Mershon Memo

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