



Mershon Memo

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

December 1, 2008

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Coming up at the Mershon Center

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies has wrapped up its events for fall quarter. Visit our web site to find information about winter and spring quarter events. Some events are still being finalized, so be sure to check back soon. Meanwhile, here are just a few that you can sign up for now:

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Jonathan Winkler

"An Emerging Approach in International History: Information Technology, Strategy and Diplomacy"

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



Jonathan Winkler is an Assistant Professor of History at Wright State University in Dayton. The author of *Nexus: Strategic Communications and American Security in World War I* (Harvard University Press, 2008), he is a historian of U.S. diplomatic, military and naval history, and international affairs in the modern era. Winkler's current book project is an analysis of how the United States government coordinated commercial and military communications networks to meet transforming global strategic interests across

the entire 20th century. [Read more and RSVP](#)

Friday, January 30, 2009

Torben Iversen

"A Political-Institutional Model of Real Exchange Rates, Competitiveness, and Division of Labor"

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



Torben Iversen is Harold Hitchings Burbank Professor of Political Economy in the Department of Government at Harvard University. His research and teaching interests include comparative political economy, electoral politics, and applied formal theory. He is the author of *Capitalism, Democracy, and Welfare* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), *Contested Economic Institutions* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), and co-editor of *Unions, Employers and Central Bankers* (Cambridge University Press, 2000). He is currently working on two

book-length projects: one on the political representation of economic interests (with David Soskice), and another on the political economy of gender inequality (with Frances Rosenbluth). [Read more and RSVP](#)

Friday, February 6, 2009

John Bowen

"Can Islam be French? Pluralism and Pragmatism in a Secularist State"

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



John Bowen is the Dunbar-Van Cleve Professor in Arts and Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis. He studies problems of pluralism, law, and religion, and contemporary efforts to rethink Islamic norms and law in Asia, Europe, and North America. His most recent book on Asia is *Islam, Law and Equality in Indonesia: An Anthropology of Public Reasoning* (Cambridge, 2003), and his *Why the French Don't Like Headscarves* (Princeton, 2007) concerns current debates in France on Islam and laïcité. Forthcoming are *Can Islam be*

French? (Princeton), on Muslim debates and institutions in France, and the overview work *The New Anthropology of Islam* (Cambridge). [Read more and RSVP](#)

Joseph J. Kruzel Memorial Lecture

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Joseph Nye

"The Powers to Lead "

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



Joseph Nye is University Distinguished Service Professor and Sultan of Oman Professor of International Relations at Harvard University. He is also the former Dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government. Nye has worked in three government agencies. He served as Deputy to the Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology, from 1977 to 1979. He held the position of chairman of the National Intelligence Council, which coordinates intelligence estimates for the President, from 1993 to 1994. He then served

as Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, from 1994 to 1995. Nye is author of

numerous books and more than 150 articles in professional journals. His most recent publication is [The Powers to Lead](#) (Oxford University Press, 2008). In this book, Nye discusses the nature of leadership and how it has been transformed by the information revolution. He also explores his theory of soft power, a

leadership approach that seeks to attract, inspire, and persuade rather than dictate. [Read more and RSVP](#)

Mershon Center holds 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**.

Mershon scholar writes about North Korea in 'Origins'



Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective is pleased to announce the publication of its December 2008 issue, featuring "Making Sense of the 'Hermit Kingdom': North Korea in the Nuclear Age," by Mershon faculty affiliate [Mitchell Lerner](#).

The Bush administration's controversial October 2008 decision to take North Korea off the list of state sponsors of terrorism, in an effort to keep Pyongyang's nuclear program halted, opens a new chapter in the history of North Korea's international relations. Nuclear proliferation is worrisome anywhere in the world, but particularly coming from secretive, unpredictable, and, for many analysts, incomprehensible North Korea.

Water Mondale once said "Anyone who claims to be an expert on North Korea is either a liar or a fool." This month, Mitchell Lerner, Professor of History at Ohio State-Newark, braves being called one or the other. He offers insight into how policy is formed in North Korea and what drives its seemingly fickle relations with the rest of the world.

Also of note is Saul Cornell's newly updated February 2008 article "The Second Amendment Goes to Court."

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 at <http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/podcasts.cfm>.

Recent topics include the Georgian-Russian conflict, presidential elections in times of crisis, fishing and over-fishing in American waters, Olympic controversies, the mortgage crisis, and the 2008 Taiwan elections. Next Month: "With a Little Help from Our Friends? The Costs of Coalition Warfare" by Patricia A. Weitsman.

About Mershon Memo

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