

[home](#) > [people](#) > [visitors](#) > matthew fehrs[Faculty](#)[Fellows and Visitors](#)[Staff](#)

Matthew Fehrs

Postdoctoral Fellow
220E Mershon Center
614.292.9542
fehrs.1@osu.edu

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, Duke University (2008)
M.A., International Relations, Columbia University (2002)
B.A., Political Studies and Psychology, Pitzer College (1998)

Mershon Project

Matthew Fehrs will spend his time at Mershon working on articles for publication as well as revisions to his dissertation. His project, "Are You Talkin' to Me? The Domestic Politics of Government Signaling in International Conflicts," 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.

Fehrs plans to pursue two case-study articles. The first will provide an alternative explanation for the Falklands War based on his dissertation theory, analyzing the divisions within the British government and how these were viewed by the Argentines. The second will apply Fehrs' theory to contradictions in British signaling prior to World War I.



Matthew Fehrs
Postdoctoral Fellow
Mershon Center
for International
Security Studies

Teaching Experience

Instructor for International Relations, Elon University (2008)

Instructor for Democracy and International Politics, Duke University (2007)

Teaching Assistant for International Political Economy, Duke University (2005)

Selected Honors and Awards

Duke University Summer Research Fellowship (2007)

Preparing Future Faculty Fellow, Duke University (2006-07)

Graduate Fellowship, Department of Political Science, Duke University (2002-06)

European Institute Graduate Student Fellowship (2001-02)

Fulbright Scholarship (1998-99)

© 2006-08 Mershon Center for International Security Studies

1501 Neil Ave.

Columbus, OH 43201

Phone: 614.292.1681

Fax: 614.292.2407

Email: mershoncenter@osu.edu