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Coming up at the Mershon Center

Wednesday, January 28, 2009
**Thomas Christensen**
“Crafting a China Strategy: Some Recent Lessons for the New Administration”
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Thomas J. Christensen is Professor of Politics and International Affairs and Director of the Princeton-Harvard China and the World Program at Princeton University. From 2006 to 2008 he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, with responsibility for China, Taiwan, and Mongolia. Christensen's research and teaching focus on international security, international relations with East Asia, and China's foreign relations. He has published a book, *Useful Adversaries: Grand Strategy, Domestic Mobilization, and Sino-American Conflict, 1947-1958* (Princeton, 1996), as well as many articles and book chapters. Christensen has consulted often for the U.S. Government and in 2002 was presented with a Distinguished Public Service Award by the United States Department of State. [Read more and RSVP](#)

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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

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**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 in particular 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). Forthcoming are *Can Islam be French?* (Princeton), on Muslim debates and institutions in France, and the overview work *The New Anthropology of Islam* (Cambridge). His current research projects concern the interplay of civil law and religious norms on family in England and France, comparing Islamic judicial practices across a global country sample, and examining variation in operant models of difference across Europe. Read more and RSVP

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**Monday, February 9, 2009**

**Miles Hewstone**

"*Living Apart Together: Segregation vs. Mixing as Sources of or Solutions for Intergroup Conflict*"

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

Miles Hewstone is Professor of Social Psychology and Director of the Oxford Centre for the Study of Intergroup Conflict at Oxford University. His research interests include attribution theory, social cognition, social influence, stereotyping, intergroup relations, and intergroup conflict. His work focuses on the reduction of intergroup conflict via intergroup contact, stereotype change, and crossed categorization. Currently, he is working on a project titled "Cross-Community Contact, Sectarian Attitudes, and Forgiveness in Northern Ireland." Hewstone's books include *Understanding Attitudes to the European Community: A Social Psychological Study in Four Member States* (Cambridge, 1986); *Causal Attribution: From Cognitive Processes to Collective Beliefs* (Blackwell, 1989); *Contact and Conflict in Intergroup Encounters* (Blackwell, 1986); and *Stereotypes and Stereotyping* (ed. with C.N. Macrae and C. Stangor; Guilford, 1996). Read more and RSVP
Other events

Thursday, January 22, 2009

**John Esposito**

"Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think"

11:30 a.m., Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St.

Sponsored by the Columbus Council on World Affairs

Cost: $25 members; $30 non-members; $15 students

The media has played a major role in shaping perceptions of Islam and the Muslim world, often centering on discussions of religious extremism and global terrorism. But what do the voices of the Muslim people really tell us? Who are extremists? What do Muslim women want? Do Muslims desire democracy? Join us as **John Esposito**, Professor of Religion, International Affairs and Islamic Studies at Georgetown University, gives us data-driven insight into the real Muslim world as he discusses his book *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think*, the product of Gallup World Poll’s massive, multiyear research study. Esposito is founding director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at the Walsh School of Foreign Service. He specializes in Islam, political Islam from North Africa to Southeast Asia, and Religion and International Affairs. To attend the event, please register online.

'Origins' explores conflict in Darfur

*Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective* is pleased to announce the publication of its February 2009 issue, featuring "'The World's Worst Humanitarian Crisis': Understanding the Darfur Conflict, by Ahmad A. Sikainga.

Since 2003, the Darfur region of western Sudan has been the site of terrible violence, death, and displacement, what the United States has labelled "genocide." Despite what is currently the world's largest relief operation, efforts to calm the conflict and assist the 5 million Darfurians suffering ongoing deprivation have produced precious few results. With no end in sight for the turmoil, Ahmad Sikainga, a native of Sudan and Professor of History at The Ohio State University, explores the origins and current status of the Darfur conflict.

*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/](http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/). The podcast is at [http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/podcasts.cfm](http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/podcasts.cfm).

Recent topics include coalition warfare, North Korea in the nuclear age, 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: "Kosovo’s Year Zero: Between a Balkan Past and a European Future," by Edin Hajdarpasic and Emil Kerenji.

Mershon Center holds annual grant competition

Each year the Mershon Center for International Security Studies holds a competition for Ohio State faculty and students to apply for grants to support research in international security.

Grants may be used for a variety of purposes including travel, seminars, conferences, interviews, experiments, surveys, workshops, library cost, student assistants, 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.

Junior faculty and graduate students are especially encouraged to apply. 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.

About Mershon Memo

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