



# Mershon Memo

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

April 20, 2009

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## Coming up at the Mershon Center

Monday, April 20, 2009

### Man-houng Lin

*"The Neglected Taipei Treaty: A New Perspective of Taiwan's Legal Status"*

4 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Co-sponsored by the [East Asian Studies Center](#)



**Man-houng Lin** has been a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica since 1990 and Professor of History at National Taiwan Normal University since 1991. In 2008, she was named president of Taiwan's Academia Historica, or State History Academy. Lin's main area of research focuses on treaty ports and modern China, native opium of late Qing China, currency crisis and early 19th century China, various empires and Taiwanese merchants' Great East Asian overseas economic networks, 1860-1961.

She has published five books and about 70 papers in Chinese, English, Japanese and Korean in these areas. Her book, *China Upside Down: Currency, Society and Ideologies, 1808-1856* (Harvard East Asian Series, 2006) links China's topsy-turvy change from the center of the East Asian order to its modern tragedy with the Latin American Independence Movement. [Read more and register](#)

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Tuesday, April 21, 2009

### Saskia Sassen

*"Neither Global nor National: Novel Assemblages of Territory, Authority and Rights"*

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

Co-sponsored by the [Center for Latin American Studies](#)



**Saskia Sassen** is Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and a member of the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University. Her new books are *Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages* (Princeton University Press, 2008,) and *A Sociology of Globalization* (W.W.Norton, 2007). Other recent books are the third fully updated edition of *Cities in a World Economy* (Sage, 2006), the edited *Deciphering the Global* (Routledge, 2007), and the co-edited *Digital Formations: New Architectures for Global Order* (Princeton University Press, 2005). Working for UNESCO, she has just completed a five-year project on sustainable human settlement with a network of researchers and activists in more than 30 countries; it is published as one of the volumes of the *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems* (EOLSS Publishers). [Read more and register](#)

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Friday, April 24, 2009

### **Women in Politics: Global Perspectives**

Organized by Pam Paxton, Department of Sociology

Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.



**Women in Politics: Global Perspectives** is a one-day workshop featuring three panels of speakers with planned discussion and extended opportunity for informal communication. Three panels will be convened: (1) Women and Democracy, National Security, and Conflict, (2) Women's Global Organizing, and (3) Women in Politics - Gaining Access, Changing Institutions. The goal of the panels is to demonstrate multiple approaches to the same topics, spark conversations about fruitful ways to explain women's representation in regions and countries where traditional explanations are less helpful, and provide the backdrop for facilitated discussions of practical concerns in researching women in politics globally. [Read more](#) or register at the [conference web site](#).

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Tuesday, April 28, 2009

### **Leonardo A. Villalón**

*"Negotiating Democracy in Muslim West Africa: Sahelian Trajectories"*

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



**Leonardo A. Villalón** is Director of the Center for African Studies and Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Florida. His research specialization is in contemporary African politics, and he has focused in particular on issues of Islam and politics and on democratization in the Sahelian countries of Senegal, Mali, and Niger. Villalón is author of *Islamic Society and State Power in Senegal* (Cambridge University Press, 1995), and co-editor of *The African State at a Critical Juncture: Between Disintegration and Reconfiguration* (Lynne Rienner publishers, 1998), and *The Fate of Africa's Democratic Experiments: Elites and Institutions*. (Indiana University Press, 2005), as well as of numerous articles and book chapters on

politics and religion in West Africa. [Read more and register](#)

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Friday-Saturday, May 1-2, 2009

## **The Race in Culture: 20th-Century Ethnology and Empire in Comparative Perspective**

*Organized by Alice Conklin, Department of History, and Dorothy Noyes, Department of English*  
Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.



**The Race in Culture: 20th-Century Ethnology and Empire in Comparative Perspective** examines the persistence of such representations in post-imperial states and international institutions. We compare the 20th century trajectories of three states torn among nationalist, imperialist, and universalist aspirations: France, the United States, and China. The conference will have two principal foci. First, we examine ethnological museums, their original importance as knowledge institutions, and their contested roles today as vehicles for promoting cultural diversity. Second, we consider how, in the wake of the Holocaust and the breakup of European empires after World War II, earlier concepts were reconfigured rather than erased. An overall shift from "race" to "culture" as the internationally legitimate framing of human difference can be dated to the 1950 UNESCO Declaration on Race. Nonetheless, continuities as well as ruptures can be traced in many realms of policy and administration. [Read more and register](#).

## **Other events**

Thursday, April 23, 2009

### **Koo Jamyung**

*"Personal Journey into Korean Fictional World"*

3:30 p.m., 115 Mendenhall Lab, 125 S. Oval Mall

*Sponsored by the [Korean Studies Initiative](#)*



Since the tidal wave of globalization hit at the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s, Korea has been caught up in the pursuit of new trends. Accelerated information technology and massive-scale global capitalism permeate Korean lives with unparalleled speed and repercussions. Koreans adapt to the new cutting edges with as much ease as the people of any highly developed country, in some instances even leading the world where innovation matters. When **Koo Jamyung**, a leading figure in the Korean minifiction movement, made her debut as a novelist in 1997, the postmodern had already hit home among many in Korean literary circles. In her storytelling, Koo purposefully stays with the realities of the characters that seem either too spiritual or unfit for the world that forever requires speed, readiness, and material savvy. She persistently and convincingly captures the earthy humanity in her characters with compassion, grace and a realist precision. In this event, Koo shares her narrative philosophy and art with readings of several excerpts from Korean contemporary writings including her own. She will also host a Minifiction Writing Workshop for students interested in Korean language and literature at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, in 388 Hagerty Hall.

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Friday, May 8, 2009

## Wings of Defeat: Once, We Were Kamikaze ...

A film screening and discussion with producer/director Risa Morimoto

7 p.m., 155 Jennings Hall, 1735 Neil Ave.

Sponsored by the [East Asian Studies Center](#)

In Japan, World War II Kamikaze are still revered as self-sacrificing heroes. Internationally, they remain a potent symbol of fanaticism. Until now, few outsiders knew that many Kamikaze survived their suicide missions. The candid, heartbreaking testimony of surviving Kamikaze conveys the true depth of war's travesty. Sixty years later, these humble men tell us about the horrors of the cockpit, their dramatic survival and the survivor's guilt still haunting them. **Risa Morimoto** (producer/director) is president of Edgewood Pictures, Inc., a motion picture production company. Her credits include *The LaMastas*, a feature film she produced in 1998; *Cinema AZN*, an award-winning half-hour show on Asian film; as well as numerous other pieces for film and television. She holds a master's degree in film and education from New York University, where she previously served as associate director of the Asian/Pacific-American Studies Program and Institute. From 2002-06, she served as executive director of Asian CineVision, a non-profit media arts organization. A second-generation Japanese-American, Morimoto studied at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan.

## 'Origins' considers rise and fall of Detroit



[Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective](#) is pleased to announce the publication of its April 2009 issue, featuring "Requiem: Detroit and the Fate of Urban America" by Kevin Boyle.

No city in America has had its fortunes tied to the rise and fall of the manufacturing economy more than Detroit. Home to the American auto industry, symbol of post-war prosperity, Detroit now stands as a synonym for urban decline. This month historian and Detroit native Kevin Boyle gives us a very personal meditation on the city and puts his own experience of growing up in Detroit in historical perspective.

*Origins* is a free, non-commercial publication from the Public History Initiative and eHistory in The Ohio State University's History Department. Each month, an academic expert analyzes a particular current issue -- political, cultural, or social -- in a larger, deeper historical context. In addition to analysis, *Origins* also includes podcasts, images, maps, graphics, timelines, and other material to complement the article.

*Origins* can be found at <http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/>. The podcast is at <http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/podcasts.cfm>. You can also subscribe to the [Origins RSS Feed](#).

Recent topics include marriage debates, Kosovo, the Darfur conflict, coalition warfare, North Korea in the nuclear age, the Georgian-Russian conflict, and the mortgage crisis. Next Month: "Pirates of

Puntland, Somalia" by Andrew Carlson.

## Call for papers: Millennium Journal's annual conference

The annual conference of *Millennium Journal of International Studies* will take place on October 17-18, 2009, at the London School of Economics and Political Science. The conference will focus on the role of liberalism today and in the future.

The Millennium 2009 Conference, marking the 20th anniversary since the end of the Cold War, presents a unique opportunity to put recent developments in international relations into theoretical perspective. If the first 20 years crisis sounded the "death toll" of liberalism, do events today once again mean a victory for realism? Is the liberal moment announced in 1989 now over? To what extent can IR "learn from history," or like Wilsonian liberalism after World War I, will the end of this liberal order bring very different outcomes and results?

Finally, in light of recent scholarship integrating political philosophy and IR, what value does liberalism as an ideology, celebrating the normative primacy of the individual, have in guiding us through current international problems?

The keynote speaker will be G. John Ikenberry of Princeton University, with an opening address by Mick Cox of the London School of Economics. A selection of the conference papers will be published in *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 38, no. 3.

For more information, including a full conference statement and suggested panel topics, please see <http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/intrel/millenn>. Please submit your abstracts by April 30, 2009, to [millennium@lse.ac.uk](mailto:millennium@lse.ac.uk)

## About Mershon Memo

Mershon Memo is a weekly e-mail newsletter distributed by the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. You have received this newsletter because you have been identified as a party to whom these mailings may be of interest. If you would like to unsubscribe, please e-mail [mann.281@osu.edu](mailto:mann.281@osu.edu).



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