



Mershon Memo

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

April 27, 2009

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Coming up at the Mershon Center

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](#)

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.](#)

Edgar S. Furniss Book Award Winner

Monday, May 4, 2009

Erin K. Jenne

"Ethnic Bargaining: The Paradox of Minority Empowerment"

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



Erin K. Jenne is Associate Professor of International Relations and European Studies at Central European University in Budapest. Her first book, [Ethnic Bargaining: The Paradox of Minority Empowerment](#) (Cornell University Press, 2007), received the [Edgar S. Furniss Award](#). In the book, Jenne explores the conditions under which groups radicalize their demands against their state governments. Using field research conducted on seven minority groups in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, and Serbia, the book demonstrates that claims by ethnic minority groups have become more frequent since 1945, even though nation-states are generally more responsive to these claims. This finding runs counter to prevailing theories of ethnic conflict. The reason this occurs, Jenne argues, is that minorities perceive an increase in their bargaining power, so they tend to radicalize their demands from affirmative action to regional autonomy to secession, in an effort to attract ever greater concessions from the central government. [Read more and register](#)

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Lisa Wedeen

"The Politics of Deliberation: Qat Chews as Public Spheres in Yemen"

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



Lisa Wedeen is Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Chicago. Her research interests include comparative politics, the Middle East, political theory, and feminist theory. She is author of two books, *Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric, and Symbols in Contemporary Syria* (University of Chicago Press, 1999)

and *Peripheral Visions: Publics, Power and Performance in Yemen* (University of Chicago Press, 2008). In *Peripheral Visions*, Wedeen draws on 18 months of field experience in Yemen. She found that much of public life revolves around qat, a leafy stimulant typically chewed during afternoon socializing. Qat chews foster a wide range of discussions and interactions among community members as well as strangers, including intense debates of political issues. By analyzing these informal gatherings, Wedeen reveals how the study of public discussions, existing outside of official electoral or governmental institutions, provides insight into the development of participatory politics. [Read more and register](#)

Friday, May 8, 2009

Caroline Ford

"France's New Museums in a Postcolonial Age"

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



Caroline Ford is Professor of History at University of California at Los Angeles, where she teaches on modern France, French colonialism and the Algerian war, religion and nationalism, modern European History, and European landscape and environmental history in comparative perspective. Her book *Divided Houses: Religion and Gender in Modern France* (Cornell University Press, 2005) focuses on the feminization of religion in postrevolutionary France and its impact on the status of women and the creation of a distinctive laïc republican political culture by the early 20th century. It concludes with current debates over the veiling of Muslim women in the late 20th century. She is currently writing a book on the transformation of environmental sensibilities in France between 1840 and 1940, which will be published by Harvard University Press as *Nature and Artifice: Culture and Conservation in Metropolitan and Colonial France*.

[Read more and register](#)

Other events

Monday, April 27, 2009

Ralph Ghadban

"Islamic Law of Muslim Minorities in the West"

3:30 p.m., 306 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Road

Sponsored by the [Middle East Studies Center](#) and [Near Eastern Languages and Cultures](#)



Ralph Ghadban is a German Islamic scholar and member of the Institute for Advanced Studies. He will discuss the traditional Muslim view of the West as forbidden land to settle in, and the unexpected 20th century western migration that has led to more than 1.2 billion Muslims living in non-Muslim countries. Between 25 and 30 million Muslims live in Western Europe and North America, most arriving during the second half of the 20th century. In their everyday life they were confronted with new norms and customs, a new structure of society, and most of all a secular law system, all of which they had never or barely encountered in their home countries. What the first immigrants brought along to deal with this situation was the traditional Sharia Law that considers the West as dar al harb (territory of war) and therefore forbids Muslims from

continuously living there. The Muslims did not intend to take up permanent residence in the West. Many wanted to save money and return home to start a business, but as unskilled workers, they were not able to earn enough to reach their goal.

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Matt Miller

"Bloomberg: U.S. /Ohio Business and the Global Economy"

7:30 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. breakfast program

Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E Broad St.

Sponsored by the [Columbus Council on World Affairs](#)

After serving as a correspondent in Frankfurt and London, **Matt Miller** is now a host for Bloomberg News from its New York headquarters. Bloomberg is a worldwide 24-hour business and financial TV network, broadcasting in seven languages. Miller keeps his hand on the pulse of financial markets through daily interviews with corporate, economic and political players. Past interview subjects include economists David Malpass and Ed Hymman; politicians John Kerry and former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson; and executives Rick Wagoner, former Chairman and CEO of General Motors, Steve Jobs, Chairman and CEO of Apple, and Paul Otellini, CEO of Intel. [Read more and register](#)

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.

New publications by Mershon faculty

Mershon affiliated faculty are among the most productive at Ohio State, and this spring is no exception.



March saw the inaugural issue of the new Cambridge journal [*International Theory*](#), edited by Alexander Wendt, Ralph D. Mershon professor of international security. *International Theory* promotes theoretical scholarship about the positive, legal, and normative aspects of world politics. Its over-arching goal is to promote communication and engagement across theoretical and disciplinary traditions. Topics covered in the first issue include the logic of suicide terrorism, the duties of transnational corporations, and the philosophical foundations of international relations.



Also in March, Carole Fink, humanities distinguished professor of history, published an edited volume, [*Ostpolitik, 1969-1974: European and Global Responses*](#) (Cambridge University Press). The book is a direct result of a conference she organized at the Mershon Center in May 2006. It argues that the Ostpolitik policy of West German Chancellor Willy Brandt not only redefined Germany's relation with its Nazi past but also altered the global environment of the Cold War.



In April, Alexander Thompson, assistant professor of political science, published [*Channels of Power: The UN Security Council and U.S. Statecraft in Iraq*](#) (Cornell University Press). The book surveys U.S. policy toward Iraq from the Gulf War through the 2003 invasion and its aftermath. Thompson offers a framework for understanding why powerful states often work through international organizations when conducting coercive policies -- and why they sometimes choose instead to work alone.



Also in April, the Moritz College of Law's journal *I/S: A Journal of Law and Policy for the Information Society*, published a [*special issue on e-democracy*](#). The issue addresses to what extent and in what ways online government information and consultation initiatives can shape democratic life, and features five articles written by leading experts in law, political science, communication, public policy, information science, and cyberlaw. It is the result of a Mershon-supported conference in March 2008 organized by Peter Shane, Jacob E. Davis and

Jacob E. Davis II chair in law and executive director of the Knight Commission on the Information Needs of Communities in a Democracy.



Finally, Robert Rakove, postdoctoral fellow at the Mershon Center, published an April 24 opinion column in *The Columbus Dispatch*. [*"Handshake sent message to potential allies"*](#) compares the recent handshake between President Barack Obama's and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez to handshakes between American presidents and other controversial world leaders in the past.

Mughan wins distinguished service award



Anthony Mughan, professor of political science, has been named 2009 winner of the Faculty Award for Distinguished University Service. The award honors faculty members whose contributions to the development and implementation of university policies and programs through non-administrative roles have been extensive and have made documentable impact on the quality of the university.

Besides serving on the University Senate since 1988, including a 2007 term as chair of the Steering Committee, Mughan has been director of the [Undergraduate International Studies Program](#) since 1994. Award recipients are nominated by members of the university community and selected by a committee of faculty, administrators, and previous recipients.

"Under Tony's leadership, the Undergraduate International Studies Program has grown and flourished, becoming one of the most desired undergraduate majors," one nominator wrote. "He has added new geographic and thematic tracks, whereby ensuring the relevance and dynamic aspect of the international studies major to current and future generations of Ohio State students."

Kroc Institute seeks women peace makers, peace writers

The **Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ)** in San Diego is currently accepting applications for its Women PeaceMakers Program (WPM). The WPM program is designed for leaders from conflict-affected countries around the world who are transforming conflict and assuring gender-inclusion in post conflict recovery through human rights advocacy and peace building efforts they lead. These are women whose stories and best practices will be shared internationally; they are women who will have a respite from the frontlines work they do.

Four Women PeaceMakers are selected each year to spend two months in residence at the Institute. They will receive a small stipend while having their unique peacemaking stories documented, through both film and narratives, that will be available to inspire others around the world. Women PeaceMakers in residence will have the opportunity to engage with the community through a series of public panels and to meet with other activists and leaders involved in human rights, political action and peacemaking efforts.

Four Peace Writers are selected each year to document the stories of Women PeaceMakers for publication. Writers will interview the women and engage in extensive research to become familiar with the histories of their conflicts and peacemaking efforts.

Residency dates are Sept. 14 to Nov. 6, 2009, for Peace Makers and Sept. 8 to Nov. 28, 2009, for Peace Writers.

For more information about the program and an application please visit the IPJ web site at <http://peace.sandiego.edu> or contact Erika Lopez, Women PeaceMakers Program Officer, at erika.lopez@sandiego.edu. The application deadlines are **June 1, 2009**, for Women PeaceMakers and **June 15, 2009**, for Peace Writers.

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