



Mershon Memo

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

May 4, 2009

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Coming up at the Mershon Center

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](#)

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Eduardo Gamarra

"Evo Morales, Bolivian Democracy, and U.S. Policy: Still on the Brink?"
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.
Co-sponsored by the [Center for Latin American Studies](#)



Eduardo Gamarra is Professor of Comparative Politics, Latin America, and the Caribbean at Florida International University. Author of more than 40 articles and several books, Gamarra is co-author or editor of *Revolution and Reaction: Bolivia 1964-1985* (Transaction Publishers, 1988), *Latin American Political Economy in the Age of Neoliberal Reform* (Lyne Rienner Publishers, 1994), *Democracy Markets and Structural Reform in Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico* (Lyne Rienner Publishers, 1995), and *Entre la Droga y la Democracia* (Freiderich Ebert Foundation, 1994). He has been cited for his expertise on Bolivia and other Latin American countries in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, *El Tiempo de Bogota*, *El Mercurio de Chile*, and *La Razon de La Paz*, Bolivia. [Read more and register](#)

Friday, May 14, 2009

Military Frontiers: A Graduate Symposium

Organized by Robert Clemm, Sarah Douglas, Peter Mansoor, and Geoffrey Parker, Department of History
Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.



Military Frontiers: A Graduate Symposium brings together leading graduate students engaged in national academic debate within military history. The conference seeks to revive discussions of the successful "Theatrum Militarum" graduate conference held at Ohio State in the 1990s. This year, discussion will focus on issues raised by emerging scholars of the "Great War." Panelists will present on the role the United States played in providing humanitarian relief from 1914-1924 in response to war sufferings, the American military identity as presented in uncensored war testimonies gathered during the Great War, and the impact of changing military technology on leadership development of the United States military during the 20th century. The

keynote address will be given by **Rick Atkinson** (left), Pulitzer Prize-winning author and former *Washington Post* correspondent, on "Writing the Liberation Trilogy." [Read more and register](#)

Friday, May 8, 2009

Isis Nusair

"Gendered Bodies/Gendered Wars: Iraqi Women Refugees in Jordan"

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

Co-sponsored by [Women in Development](#)

Isis Nusair is Assistant Professor of International Studies and Women's Studies at Denison University. She graduated from the Women's Studies Ph.D. Program at Clark University with a dissertation on "Gendered Politics of Location: Generational Intersections of Palestinian Women in Israel, 1948-1998." She previously served as a researcher in the Middle East and North Africa at the Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch. She also worked as a researcher with the Euro-Med Human Rights Network. This presentation is based on extensive research with Iraqi women refugees in Jordan during 2007 and 2008. It traces the causes that prompted the women to leave Iraq after 2003. It also traces the transition they went through and the economic, social, and political challenges they currently face as urban refugees in Jordan. [Read more and register](#)

Other events

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Joshua Cohen

"Philosophy, Social Science, Global Poverty"

3:30 p.m., Spencer Room, 2130 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall

Sponsored by the [Department of Political Science](#)

Joshua Cohen is the Martha Sutton Weeks Professor of Ethics in Society, Professor of Political Science, Philosophy and Law, and Director of the Program on Global Justice. His interests center around issues that lie at the intersection of democratic norms and institutions. He has written extensively on democratic theory, particularly on the theory of deliberative democracy, and the implications of that idea for personal liberty, freedom of expression, electoral finance, and new forms of associative and direct-democratic participation. He is currently working on issues of global justice, including the foundations of human rights, distributive fairness, and supra-national democratic governance. Cohen is also editor of [Boston Review](#), a bi-monthly magazine of political, cultural, and literary ideas, and has edited more than 25 books that have grown out of forums that initially appeared in Boston Review, including *For Love of Country?*, *Is Multiculturalism Bad For Women?*, *What's Wrong With a Free Lunch?*, and *Islam and Toleration*.

Friday, May 8, 2009

Jeremy Wallace

"*Stability in Motion: China's Changing Urban-Rural Policies*"

2:30 p.m., Jennings Hall 060, 1735 Neil Ave.

Sponsored by the [Institute for Chinese Studies](#)



Jeremy Wallace is Assistant Professor of Political Science at The Ohio State University. He studies the politics of urbanization in non-democracies, particularly China, as well as development and redistribution. His dissertation, *Cities and Stability: Urbanization, Migration, and Authoritarian Resilience in China*, examines how the Chinese government shapes urbanization to maintain its rule. Recently, the Chinese government has begun subsidizing rural areas after 50 years of taxing them. Most developing non-democratic regimes, however, are urban-biased, in response to the threat of urban unrest. This paper demonstrates support for the theory that these pro-rural policies are being implemented in part to shape the process of urbanization in China, using Chinese qualitative and quantitative data.

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.

Saturday, May 9, 2009

Andrew Welsh-Huggins, Tim Young, Doug Berman

"*Perspectives on Ohio's Death Penalty*"

2 p.m., Saxbe Auditorium, Moritz College of Law, 55 W. 12th Ave.

Sponsored by the [Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity](#)

The death penalty is one of the most contentious issues in the United States. Recently, New Mexico became the 15th U.S. state to abolish capital punishment, a decision that has resulted in strong reactions from proponents and opponents alike. The ongoing debate on this issue is especially relevant in Ohio, which has a long history with the death penalty and has carried out a total of 371 executions. The panel of speakers for this event will include **Andrew Welsh-Huggins**, reporter with the Associated Press in Columbus and author of *No Winners Here Tonight: Race Politics, and Geography in One of the Country's Busiest Death Penalty States* (Ohio University Press, 2009); **Tim Young**, Director of the Office of the Ohio Public Defender; and **Doug Berman**, William B. Saxbe Designated Professor at Moritz College of Law. **Andrew Grant-Thomas**, Deputy Director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, will serve as moderator. [Read more](#)

Institute for Cultural Diplomacy holding summer seminars

The [Institute for Cultural Diplomacy](#) is currently accepting applications for the following four weeklong seminars, all of which will take place in Berlin during June 2009.

- [Cultural Diplomacy in the Mediterranean: A Forum for Young Leaders](#) (June 9-13)
- [Europe Meets East Asia: A Forum for Young Leaders](#) (June 16-21)
- [Cultural Diplomacy in Europe: A Forum for Young Leaders](#) (June 21-26)
- [USA Meets Germany: A Forum for Young Leaders](#) (June 29-July 3)

The seminars are open to applications from current students and young professionals with an active interest in the relationship in focus. The programs will consist of lectures, seminars, workshops, and cultural activities in and around Berlin. The participants will meet with leading figures from the political, diplomatic, academic and civil society spheres to discuss the relationship in question and consider how it can be supported through organised cultural exchange.

The seminars aim to inform the participants about the field of cultural diplomacy and its importance today, raise awareness of key issues in the relationship in focus, create a network between seminar participants, and give the participants creative ideas and support for future initiatives.

After completing the weeklong seminars, participants are supported by the ICD in conducting research, organizing and developing leadership initiatives, and are invited to join the ICD Online Forum where they can network with the other Young Leaders from around the world.

More information about the seminars, including brochures, timetables, and the online application forms, can be found at http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?en_forum

About Mershon Memo

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