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Coming up at the Mershon Center

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mark Beissinger

“Imperial Reputations: How Sovereignty and Self-Determination Norms Have Altered the Politics of Empire”

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

Mark Beissinger is professor of politics at Princeton University. His main fields of interest include nationalism, state-building, imperialism, and social movements, with special reference to the Soviet Union and the post-Soviet states. In addition to writing numerous articles and book chapters, Beissinger has published four books. He is author of Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State (Cambridge University Press, 2002).

This book won the 2003 Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award, presented by the American Political Science Association, as well as the 2003 Mattei Dogan Award, presented by the Society for Comparative Research. He is currently working on a book tentatively entitled Imperial Reputation: The Politics of Empire in a World of Nation-States. Read more and RSVP

Friday-Saturday, October 30-31, 2009

West Africa and the U.S. 'War on Terror'

Organized by Kalechi Kalu, Department of African and African American Studies; Laura Joseph, Center for African Studies; and George Klay Kieh, University of West Georgia

Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Since September 11, heightened security attention has focused on West Africa. Regions such as the oil-producing Niger-Delta zone can be an appealing base for terrorist groups. To address such issues, the United States launched a $500 million counterterrorism initiative to boost the military capacity of West African nations and counter the security threats posed by terrorists. The establishment of the U.S. military’s Africa Command (AFRICOM) in 2007 also marked the growing importance of Africa in U.S. security calculations. Although these developments represent a dramatic departure from past U.S. policy toward Africa, scholarly efforts to understand these transformations are
lacking. *West Africa and the U.S. 'War on Terror'* seeks to provide a comprehensive study of the evolving U.S.-Africa security partnership. [Read more and RSVP](http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/publications/emailnewsletter/MershonMemo10-19-09.html)

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**Monday, November 2, 2009**

**Global Military Issues Symposium: Russia, China and the SCO**

5:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

*Co-sponsored by the Center for Slavic and East European Studies and East Asian Studies Center*

Students, faculty and the public are invited to attend the first annual *Global Military Issues Symposium* at The Ohio State University. This symposium will explore the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a permanent intergovernmental international organization created in 2001 in Shanghai by the Republic of Kazakhstan, People's Republic of China, Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan. The SCO member states occupy a territory of around 30 million square kilometers, equal to three-fifths of the Eurasian continent, and have 1.5 billion people, a quarter of the planet's population. The discussion will be led by [Peter Mansoor](http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/publications/emailnewsletter/MershonMemo10-19-09.html), Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair in Military History, and will include presentations on both the Russian and Chinese militaries. [Read more and RSVP](http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/publications/emailnewsletter/MershonMemo10-19-09.html)

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**Wednesday, November 4, 2009**

**Nicholas Rankin**

"*Secrets and Lies: How the British Used Camouflage and Deception in Two World Wars*"

3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.


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**Thursday, November 5, 2009**

**Catherine Weaver**

"*The Politics of IO Accountability: Transparency and Evaluation in the International Monetary Fund*"

3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

*Catherine Weaver* is assistant professor of international relations at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and research coordinator for the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas. Her research and teaching focuses on international organizations, international political economy and development, with a particular focus on the politics and reform of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Weaver's book, *Hypocrisy Trap: The World Bank and the Poverty of Reform* (Princeton University Press, 2008) received both the Chadwick Alger Prize...
for best book on International Organizations and Multilateralism from the International Studies Association and the Harold D. Lasswell Prize from the Society of Policy Scientists. She is also the co-editor or co-author of three books in progress, *The Politics of International Organizations: Bridging the Rationalist-Constructivist Divide* (with Alexander Thompson and Michael J. Tierney), *International Political Economy and the Transatlantic Divide* (with Nicola Phillips), and *Theory and Practice of International Organizations* (with Michael Lipson and Michael Mosser). She is also working on a new book called *The Paradox of Accountability: Transparency, Evaluation, and the IO Learning Curve*. Read more and RSVP

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**Friday, November 6, 2009**

**Janice Bially Mattern**

*"The Emotional Politics of Transnational Crime"

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

![Janice Bially Mattern](image)

Janice Bially Mattern is associate professor of international relations at Lehigh University. Her research focuses on the social dynamics of world political orders and their transformations. She teaches courses on international relations theory, criminality and transnational crime, international ethics, sovereignty, as well as international organization, especially global governance and transformations in world order. Her current project, tentatively entitled *Illicit Sovereigns*, examines the role of emotion in mobilizing transnational crime networks to transnational political violence. Bially Mattern is the author of *Ordering International Politics: Identity, Crisis, and Representational Force* (Routledge: 2005). She has written a number of journal articles and book chapters on topics ranging from soft power and language power to the politics of identity. Read more and RSVP

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**Other events**

**Tuesday, October 20, 2009**

**CIA Career Information Session**

3-4 p.m., Room 090 Science and Engineering Library, 175 W. 18th Ave.

During this session, the CIA will be recruiting primarily for its full-time positions in the National Clandestine Service: core collectors (overseas-based intelligence collectors) and language officers. Numerous opportunities exist for Chinese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, and Persian linguists.

Core collectors, following successful completion of the 18-month Clandestine Service Trainee (CST) Program, serve on the front lines of human intelligence collection overseas for the National Clandestine Service (NCS). The program trains and certifies individuals to perform the full range of steps leading to the clandestine recruitment and handling of sources with access to vital foreign intelligence. Within the Core Collector profession, there are two career tracks, Operations Officer and Collection Management Officer. All Core Collectors are expected to engage in the full cycle of clandestine operations while serving in overseas assignments. Therefore, all applicants seeking entry into the Core Collector ranks must demonstrate the skills, abilities and personality traits necessary for the safe, secure, and effective conduct of clandestine intelligence collection operations overseas.

Language officers apply advanced foreign language skills, experience, and expertise to provide high-quality translation, interpretation, and language-related support for a variety of NCS clandestine operations. In addition to expert language skills, Language Officers provide in-depth cultural insight. They also work closely with officers in other NCS disciplines, particularly field collectors, to support the overall mission of intelligence acquisition. Language Officers are primarily based in Washington, though short-term and some long-term foreign travel opportunities are available.
Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Research Expo
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Thompson Library, West Reading Room
Opening Remarks from President Gee at 9 a.m.

Please join us as we kick off our Research Awareness Month celebration with the Research Expo -- a full day of exhibits, events, and educational sessions focused on research at Ohio State. The Expo is open to the entire Ohio State research community: faculty, staff, and students. Expo Highlights:

- Discover how to build strategic multidisciplinary collaborations on campus from a panel of Ohio State researchers who have done just that
- Obtain tips from the pros on how to write winning NIH, NSF, DOE, DOD, and NEH proposals
- Learn to how to explain your research to the media and the general public
- Gain insight into building successful industry collaborations and how to move your intellectual property towards commercialization
- Tour the Expo and find out about the newest electronic research tools as well as the many research support services available to facilitate your research
- Learn how to search for funding opportunities
- Network with fellow Ohio State researchers
- Meet representatives from the Office of Research

Check out the entire schedule of events and register here.

Mueller to speak at TEDx Columbus

John Mueller, Woody Hayes Chair of National Security Studies, is one of eight featured speakers at the first TEDx Columbus event, to take place on October 20, 2009, at the Wexner Center for the Arts.

TEDx Columbus highlights people in central Ohio whose talents, inspirations, and innovations have touched the globe. It is modeled on the national TED, an annual event in which some of the world's leading thinkers and doers are invited to share what they are most passionate about.

At TEDx Columbus, Mueller will discuss his new book Atomic Obsession: Nuclear Alarmism from Hiroshima to Al-Qaeda (Oxford University Press, 2009). In this book, he argues that while the actual impact of nuclear weapons has been modest, they have had a massive influence on rhetoric, theorizing, and defense expenditures. Remarkably few countries have tried to develop nuclear weapons, and those that have did not find them to be an advantage. Nor are terrorists likely to surmount the practical difficulties involved in developing, delivering, and detonating an atomic device.

This year Mueller headlined a panel on "Atomic Obsession" at the American Political Science Association conference, and spoke about his ideas at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo.

"TED" stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design - three broad subject areas that are collectively shaping our future. The event showcases ideas that matter in any discipline. TED was first held in 1984 in Monterey, Calif. In recent years, it has expanded to include an international conference, TEDGlobal; media initiatives, including TED Talks and TED.com; and the TED Prize.
TEDx Columbus is sold out, but presentations will be posted online after the event. For more information, see [http://www.tedxcolumbus.com](http://www.tedxcolumbus.com).

### Initiative for Population Research wins NIH award

The Ohio State University's Initiative in Population Research (IPR) recently received a center grant award from the National Institutes of Health, establishing it as a premier population research center with signature strengths in the study of family demography, population health, and geographic analysis of health.

The $2.2 million, five-year award will position the IPR to become a national and international leader in the study of population and health.

"These awards are highly competitive and much sought after. This success is an affirmation of the innovative character of the research being conducted by the scientists affiliated with IPR," said Mershon Center affiliate John Casterline, who is Robert T. Lazarus Professor in Population Studies and IPR director.

The IPR was established in 2000 with the goal of building a multidisciplinary population and health research center of excellence. It unites behavioral and health scientists from six colleges and 14 departments across Ohio State to better understand the health of children, adults, families, and communities.

For more information about the NIH grant, see [http://ipr.osu.edu](http://ipr.osu.edu).

### Sreenivas discusses population in India in 'Origins'

*Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective* is pleased to announce the publication of its October 2009 issue, featuring "Population Bomb: The Debate over Indian Population" by Mershon affiliate Mytheli Sreenivas.

As the population of the globe surges past 6 billion, India is on the verge of surpassing China as the world's most populous nation. For at least two centuries, India has struck many Westerners as a place that is overpopulated, famine-prone, and, as a result, a threat to global stability. In fact, as historian Mytheli Sreenivas details, the question of "over-population" is relative. Is India producing too many people or too few resources? Does a growing population represent an opportunity or a danger? These questions take on a new urgency and relevance as India emerges as a major economic power and consumer society, and as the world confronts an ongoing food crisis. This month, Sreenivas puts these pressing concerns about population in historical perspective.

*Origins* is a free, non-commercial publication from the Public History Initiative and eHistory in 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 the analysis provided in each month's feature, *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/](http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/). The podcast is found at [http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/podcasts.cfm](http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/podcasts.cfm). You can also follow *Origins* on Twitter: OriginsOSU

Recent topics include Central Asia and the new world order, Somali pirates, Detroit and the fate of urban America, marriage debates, Kosovo, and the Darfur conflict. Next month: "1989 Twenty Years On: The End of Communism and the Fate of Eastern Europe" by Theodora Dragostinova.

### About Mershon Memo

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