January 4, 2010

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Coming up at the Mershon Center

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

**Trafficking and Civil Society: Denial, Distress, Danger**

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

*Co-sponsored by the Center for Slavic and East European Studies, and the Columbus Council on World Affairs*

The U.S. Department of State estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Of these, 80 percent are women and children, most of whom are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Also known as trafficking in persons, human trafficking comprises the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Despite this, governments around the world are only beginning to address the problem. In most countries, traffickers operate with almost total impunity even in the most severe cases. **Trafficking and Civil Society: Denial, Distress, Danger** is an interdisciplinary discussion of the realities of human trafficking and analysis of how NGO networks, government officials, and civil society as a whole can effectively work together to address and combat human trafficking. Panelists include Yana Hashamova, director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies; Marguerite Hernandez, PhD candidate in sociology; and Kristin Silver, undergraduate major in psychology. The panel features Ambassador Mark P. Lagon (above), executive director and CEO of Polaris Project, a leading anti-human trafficking nonprofit organization running the primary national hotline, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Lagon will speak on “The Crucial Role of Civil Society in Fighting Human Trafficking: As Much in America as the World.” [Read more and register](http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/publications/emailnewsletter/MershonMemo01-04-10.html)

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

**Jeffrey Checkel**

“**Causal Mechanisms and the (Transnational) Dynamics of Civil War**”

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

*Jeffrey Checkel* is Professor of International Studies and Simons Chair in International Law and Human Security at Simon Fraser University. He is also Research Professor at the Centre for the Study of Civil War at the International Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), where he leads a working group on Transnational and International Facets of Civil War. Checkel is author of *Ideas and International Political Change: Soviet/Russian Behavior and the End of the Cold War* (Yale, 1997), editor of *International Institutions and Socialization in Europe*
(Cambridge, 2007), and co-editor (with Peter J. Katzenstein) of European Identity
(Cambridge, 2009). His current research projects include Mobilizing Across
Borders: Transnational Mechanisms of Civil War, which explores the relation of the transnational to
the local in the context of civil war, and The More the Better? Human Rights Law in a Changing
Europe, which explores the consequences of the growing amount of human-rights lawmaking at
the European regional level. Read more and register

Friday, January 22, 2010
Jeffrey Engel
“1989 and the Key to the Present”
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Jeffrey Engel is associate professor of history and public policy at the Bush School of
Government & Public Service at Texas A&M University. He teaches courses in American
foreign policy and the evolution of international strategy, with primary research
interests including diplomacy’s domestic and localized effects, technology and foreign policy,
and economic warfare. He is author of Cold War at 30,000 Feet: The Anglo-American Fight
for Aviation Supremacy (Harvard, 2007), which won the 2008 Paul Birdsall Award from
the American Historical Association for the most important work on European military or
strategic history since 1870. His next project, Seeking Monsters to Destroy: Language and
War from Thomas Jefferson to George W. Bush (Oxford, forthcoming) is a history of the personification
effect, addressing how the American tendency to personify international conflicts alters policy options.

Mershon Center launches Twitter feed

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies has launched a new Twitter feed. Although some of
our affiliates are not using Twitter, many are, and Twitter has tools that allow users to keep up with news
and events not only at the Mershon Center but at peer organizations at Ohio State and other universities as
well as journalism outlets, government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

We will be using the Mershon Twitter feed to “tweet” out announcements of our events, links to articles in
which Mershon faculty members are quoted, as well as general Mershon news. If we are able to get
wireless access within the Mershon Center, we could also use Twitter to send short summaries of what is said
at lectures and conferences. This is one of the most popular and practical uses of Twitter.

To access the Mershon Center Twitter feed, visit http://twitter.com/mershoncenter. If you join Twitter, you
can set up your own news feed by “following” the Mershon Center and any other feeds you might be
interested in. For more information, please contact Cathy Becker.

Streaming videos, audio podcasts, event archives

Did you know that the Mershon Center makes past events available though streaming videos, audio
podcasts and event archives in the OSU Library Knowledge Bank?

You can find streaming video and audio recordings from Mershon events from the past six years on the
Event Recordings page of our web site. Hundreds of presentations are available for viewing or listening
at your computer. Most events are in video form, but some of the older events are audio only.

Mershon Center events from the past six years are also available for download as audio podcasts. Podcasts
differ from streaming recordings in that you can download the file and listen to it on your computer or iPod,
or burn it to a CD and listen to it in your car.

You can access the Mershon Center podcasts in two ways. The simplest is to check the Ohio State Public
Podcasts page. Mershon podcasts are listed under Centers - Academic by year of event. Click on "Subscribe to this Podcast" to see all events from that year. Or you can go to the Ohio State University section in iTunes U. This link will launch iTunesU and take you to the Ohio State section, where you can find Mershon recordings listed by year under Centers - Academic. If you do not have the free iTunes application on your computer, you may have to download it.

Finally, the Mershon Center is archiving materials from all events, publications, web pages, and more in The Ohio State University Library System's Knowledge Bank. Mershon Center materials since 2003 are organized under events, news, people, publications, and research projects. All materials are searchable by author, title, or subject.

For more information, please contact Cathy Becker or Cheryl King.

### Mershon offers faculty, student research grants

Each year, the Mershon Center for International Security Studies holds a competition for Ohio State faculty and students to apply for grant funds. Grants may be used for a variety of purposes including travel, research, seminars, conferences, interviews, experiments, workshops and more. Applications must be for projects related to the study of national security in a global context. Please keep in mind that the Mershon Center is interested in participating in the university’s efforts to open global gateway communities in China, India, and Brazil. For more, including an application form and instructions, please see [http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/grants/grants/grants.htm](http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/grants/grants/grants.htm). The deadline is January 29, 2010.

### OIA holds FLAS, study abroad information sessions

Students are invited to attend one of several information sessions being held this month on the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship for Summer 2010 and Academic Year 2010-11. The FLAS allows students to focus on intensive language study and covers much of their tuition and some fees plus a living stipend. Information sessions are being sponsored by the East Asian Studies Center, Center for Slavic and East European Studies, and more. Application requirements and procedures are different for each center, so we highly encourage attendance at one of the information sessions for further details.

Information sessions are also being offered this quarter for various study abroad programs, including Intensive Chinese Language Study in Qingdao, the Beijing Experience, Honors & Scholars Nicaragua: Community Engagement in the Americas, Living Jerusalem, Intensive Russian Language, Mexico Latino Workforce Issues in Land-based Industries, Homeland Security and the Transatlantic Alliance, Oxford Pre-Law Program, Czech Republic: Central Europe in Transition, German Language Study Abroad, Poland Summer School in Social Sciences Research, and more.

To find a list of FLAS and study abroad information sessions, visit the event calendar for the Office of International Affairs.

### 'Origins' examines historical context of child kidnapping

*Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective* is pleased to announce the publication of its January 2010 issue, featuring “Child Kidnapping in America” by Paula Fass.

It was a strange and haunting coincidence. Jaycee Dugard was rescued from the husband and wife who kidnapped her 18 years ago in California at virtually the same moment Elizabeth Smart confronted her kidnapper in a Utah courtroom. Once again, the nation was riveted by the phenomenon of child kidnapping. As historian Paula Fass describes, child abduction, and our reactions to it, have a long history in the United States. This month she puts kidnapping 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/. The podcast is found at 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, the legacy of 1989 in Eastern Europe, and the Darfur conflict. Next month: "Charles Darwin's American Adventure: A Melodrama in Three Acts," by Steven Conn

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