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Coming up at the Mershon Center

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. Read more and register

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**Monday, February 1, 2010**

**George Gavrilis**

"State Failure and Regional Containment"

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

Read Gavrilis's paper in *Foreign Affairs*

George Gavrilis is assistant professor of government at the University of Texas-Austin and an International Affairs Fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations. He has previously held the positions of director of research for the Council on Foreign Relations Oral History Project (Columbia University), associate research fellow at the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (Columbia University), and national security postdoctoral fellow at the Olin Institute for Strategic Studies (Harvard University). His research and teaching interests include border management, judicial politics, strategies of conflict, and state failure and international cooperation. His field experience includes the Middle East, Central Asia, and Europe. Gavrilis's first book, *The Dynamics of Interstate Boundaries* (Cambridge, 2008), explains why some borders deter insurgents, smugglers, bandits and militants while most suffer from infiltration and crisis. Read more and register

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**Thursday, February 4, 2010**

**Richard Ned Lebow**

"Why We Fight? Past and Future Motives for War"

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

Richard Ned Lebow is James O. Freedman Presidential Professor of Government at Dartmouth College and Centennial Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He was formerly a professor of political science, history, and psychology at The Ohio State University and served as director of the Mershon Center. Lebow's research interests include international relations theory, conflict management, psychological models of learning, philosophy of social science, conflict prevention, regional conflict, bargaining and negotiation, and methodologies including case studies, psychological experiments, and scenario generation. His most recent books are *A Cultural Theory of International Relations* (Cambridge, 2008) and *The Tragic Vision of Politics: Ethics, Interests and Orders* (Cambridge, 2003). *Forbidden Fruit: Counterfactuals and International Relations* is forthcoming this winter from Princeton University Press. Read more and register

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**Friday, February 5, 2010**

**But What About Culture? Alexander Stephan's Interdisciplinary Project**

*Symposium and Tribute*

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

Alexander Stephan came to The Ohio State University in 2000 as the first Ohio Eminent Scholar in the Humanities. He was professor of German in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and senior fellow at the Mershon Center. Stephan's research on the Weimar Republic, anti-fascist exile, and the postwar period did much to establish German Studies as it exists today both here and abroad. During his years at Ohio State, Stephan's attention to transatlantic studies, European-American relations, and
international responses to American culture and politics greatly enriched the interdisciplinary conversations of the Mershon Center and the College of Humanities. We remember Alex with talks by two of his friends and colleagues whose interdisciplinary breadth mirrors his own. There will be an opportunity during the tribute for those who wish to speak briefly about Alex. A reception will follow.

Read more and register

Other events

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

**Sen. Tom Daschle**

"Perspectives on Health Care Reform"

4 p.m., Wexner Center Film/Video Theater, 1850 College Road

Sponsored by the [John Glenn School of Public Affairs](http://glenn.osu.edu/news/muroff2010/)

Is health care a right for every U.S. citizen? Join former U.S. Senate Majority Leader **Tom Daschle** for an insider’s look at one of the largest changes in national health policy in recent history. Thomas Daschle, a representative and a senator from South Dakota, served in Congress from 1978 to 2005. An outspoken advocate for health care reform, he is author of *Critical: What We Can Do About the Health-Care Crisis*. Seating is limited and RSVPs are required: please visit [http://glenn.osu.edu/news/muroff2010/](http://glenn.osu.edu/news/muroff2010/) or call 614-688-3206, ext. 1 by Friday, February 5.

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Thursday-Saturday, March 11-13, 2010

**Transforming Race: Crisis and Opportunity in the Age of Obama**

The Hyatt on Capitol Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus

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

February 15 is the Early Bird Registration deadline for the Kirwan Institute’s upcoming conference, **Transforming Race: Crisis and Opportunity in the Age of Obama**. Some 600 advocates, activists, scholars, students, spoken-word performers, and practitioners from all stripes will engage in roughly 50 plenary sessions and panels, workshops and performances, tackling the pressing issues of our time with a focus on race. As optional Friday-evening entertainment, [Sarah Jones](#), Tony-award winning Broadway performer, will be on hand with an insightful one-woman performance. For more information, go to [transforming-race.org](http://transforming-race.org).

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Mershon Center 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 research grant funds. Applications must be for projects related to one of our areas of focus: the use of force and diplomacy; the ideas, identities, and decisional processes that affect security; and the institutions that manage violent conflict. We will also consider projects related to Ohio State’s global gateways in China, India and Brazil, as well as policy issues in biosecurity and cybersecurity. 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**.
Chinese war photography exhibit opens today

January 19 - March 27, 2010

Art, Documentary, and Propaganda in Wartime China: The Photography of Sha Fei
Curated by Eliza Ho
The OSU Urban Arts Space, 50 W. Town St. (the Historic Lazarus Building), Columbus
Reception: Friday, February 26, 2010, 5 - 7 p.m.

Legendary Chinese photographer Sha Fei (1912-1950) produced one of the most fascinating photographic records of war. The Sino-Japanese War of 1937-1945 reshaped China and the lives of its citizens. Sha Fei's lens captured these dramatic changes, especially as they occurred in North China behind Japanese lines. His photographs depict the northern Communist army as it resisted the Japanese. Moreover, they portray the socialist revolution as it progressed in China's countryside. Combining photography's potential for art, documentary, and propaganda, Sha Fei created a large body of photographs in his brief life of 38 years. While most of the original prints have been lost, their negatives have survived.

Art, Documentary, and Propaganda in Wartime China: The Photography of Sha Fei was curated by Eliza Ho, doctoral student in History of Art and winner of two research grants from the Mershon Center. The exhibition features a highly selective group of photographs, reprinted from the digital scans of Sha Fei's original prints and negatives provided by Sha Fei's family members. The exhibit chronologically traces the photographer’s development, conceptually divided into three periods: (1) Sha Fei the fine art photographer; (2) Sha Fei the social documentarian; and (3) Sha Fei the propagandist. His professional evolution underscores the intertwining relationship between art and politics that was at the heart of modern Chinese art in the 20th century. For more information, visit http://uas.osu.edu/shafei.

Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective is pleased to announce the publication of its February 2010 issue, featuring "Charles Darwin's American Adventure: A Melodrama in Three Acts" by Stephen Conn.

2009 was celebrated around the world as "The Darwin Year." It marked the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his landmark On the Origin of Species. While Darwin's theory of natural selection caused considerable controversy at the time, his ideas are now accepted as the foundation of all modern biological sciences. With the festivities winding down, this month historian Steven Conn looks back on Darwin's history in the United States — the only developed country where Darwin denial is still widespread — to look at the strange career Darwin had in this country.

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, Somalian pirates, Detroit and the fate of urban America, the legacy of 1989 in Eastern Europe, and child abduction. Next month: "Feast and Famine: The Global Food Crisis," by Chris Otter.
The Dirksen Congressional Center invites applications for grants to fund research on congressional leadership and the U.S. Congress. A total of up to $35,000 will be available in 2010. Awards range from a few hundred dollars to $3,500.

The competition is open to people with a serious interest in studying Congress. Political scientists, historians, biographers, scholars of public administration or American studies, and journalists are among those eligible. The center encourages graduate students who have successfully defended their dissertation prospectus to apply and awards a significant portion of the funds for dissertation research. Applicants must be U.S. citizens who reside in the United States.

The awards program does not fund undergraduate or pre-Ph.D. study. Organizations are not eligible. Research teams of two or more people are eligible. No institutional overhead or indirect costs may be claimed against a Congressional Research Award.

There is no standard application form. Applicants are responsible for showing the relationship between their work and the awards program guidelines. Applications are accepted at any time. Applications which exceed the page limit and incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the screening committee for consideration.

All application materials must be received on or before February 1, 2010. Awards will be announced in March 2010. Complete information about eligibility and application procedures may be found at the center's web site: http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_CRAs.htm.

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