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Coming up at the Mershon Center

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

**Susanne Schmeidl**

"Military Intervention and the Protection of Civilians in Afghanistan"

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

**Susanne Schmeidl** is the co-founder and senior advisor of the Liaison Office in Afghanistan. She is also a visiting fellow at the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy at Australian National University and non-resident research associate at the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies of the University of Otago, New Zealand. Schmeidl has worked on Afghanistan since 2000. She managed the swisspeace office in Kabul between 2002 and 2005, supporting civil society development and civilian peace building mainly through the Afghan Civil Society Forum, which she co-founded. She has written over 40 research publications in the areas of early warning/conflict prevention, civilian peace building/state building, protracted displacement, human security, and gender and civil society. Her most recent publications and research focus on the impact on the private security sector on the local peace building process, a critique of top-down state building and displacement in Afghanistan. [Read more and register](#)

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

**Mark Bradley**

"The United States and the Global Human Rights Imagination"

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

**Mark Bradley** is professor of international history at University of Chicago. His research and teaching focus on 20th century U.S. international history, the global history of human rights politics and postcolonial Southeast Asian history. Bradley is author of *Imagining Vietnam and America: The Making of Postcolonial Vietnam* (North Carolina, 2000), which won the Harry J. Benda Prize from the Association for Asian Studies, and *Vietnam at War* (Oxford, 2009). He is co-editor of *Making Sense of the Vietnam Wars* (Oxford, 2008) and *Truth Claims: Representation and Human Rights* (Rutgers, 2001). He also serves as co-editor of the Cornell University Press book series *The United States in the World*. Bradley is currently completing a book that explores the place of the U.S. in the global human rights revolutions of the 20th century to be published by Cambridge University Press. [Read more and register](#)
Thursday, February 25, 2010

Jonathan Landay

"It’s The Region, Stupid: The Real Dangers of U.S. Failure in Afghanistan-Pakistan"
3:30 p.m., Saxbe Auditorium, Moritz College of Law, 55 W. 12th Ave.

Jonathan Landay is senior national security and intelligence correspondent for McClatchy Newspapers. He is a veteran foreign affairs reporter and has written on U.S. defense, intelligence and foreign policies for nearly 25 years. Landay writes regularly on issues such as the Iranian and North Korean nuclear programs, the U.S. missile defense program, U.S. intelligence matters and U.S. interrogation and detainee policy. Landay writes regularly on issues such as the Iranian and North Korean nuclear programs, the U.S. missile defense program, U.S. intelligence matters and U.S. interrogation and detainee policy.

He covered the 2001 U.S.-led intervention in Afghanistan, including the Battle of Tora Bora, and in 2003, he spent four months in northern Iraq covering preparations for the U.S.-led invasion and later, the invasion itself. Landay has been nominated three times for a Pulitzer Prize for his investigative work with Warren P. Strobel and Bureau Chief John Walcott on the Bush administration's use of exaggerated and bogus pre-war intelligence on Iraq and the lack of post-invasion stability operations planning.

Friday-Saturday, February 26-27, 2010

The Cold War in the Third World
Conference organized by Robert McMahon
Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

The first generation of Cold War scholarship was overwhelmingly Eurocentric, concentrating on the Soviet-American confrontation in Europe while paying cursory attention to non-Western areas. In recent years, that imbalance has been righted as most scholars now recognize that the Cold War was a truly global phenomenon. One of the central paradoxes of the Cold War is that it ushered in the longest sustained period of peace in modern European history at the same time that Asia, Africa, and the Middle East were convulsed by unprecedented amounts of violence and conflict. The Cold War in the Third World will address two questions. First, how did the Third World affect the course of the Cold War and the behavior and priorities of the two superpowers? Second, what impact did the Cold War have on the developing states and societies of Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America? This conference will bring together leading younger and established scholars from international, diplomatic, and Third World history to produce an integrative, broadly focused approach to this large and complex subject.

Thursday-Friday, March 4-5, 2010

Human Rights: Confronting Images and Testimonies
Conference organized by Amy Shuman, Wendy Hesford, and Ann Hamilton
Wexner Center for the Arts, 1850 College Road

This conference begins with the question “What is Evidence?” Art offers a lens through which we come to recognize the politics of power and abuse. Human Rights: Confronting Images and Testimonies brings together artists, activists, and scholars who will discuss their work in the context of human rights as it transforms the raw material of individual and collective suffering into legible and convincing data, confrontational imagery, and testimony. This conference will begin at 4 p.m. with a presentation by artist activist Coco Fusco. It will conclude with the collaborative project Combatant Status Review Tribunals, pp. 002954-0034064: A Public Reading.
Tuesday, March 9, 2010

James Holston
“Right to the City, Right to Rights, and Insurgent Urban Citizenship”
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

James Holston is professor of anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley. He research and teaching focuses on cities and citizenship; political theory, democracy, and law; planning and architecture; urban ethnography; Brazil, and the Americas. Holston is author of *Insurgent Citizenship: Disjunctions of Democracy and Modernity in Brazil*, (Princeton, 2008), *The Modernist City: An Anthropological Critique of Brasilia* (Chicago, 1989), and editor of *Cities and Citizenship* (Duke, 1999). His current research examines the worldwide insurgence of democratic urban citizenships, their entanglement with entrenched systems of inequality, and their contradiction in violence and misrule of law under political democracy. He is also studying the new institutions and practices of participatory urban planning in Brazil and preparing a book that will document, through photographs and interviews, the autoconstruction of houses and neighborhoods in the urban peripheries of São Paulo. Read more and register

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Linda Tropp
“Emerging Perspectives on Intergroup Contact”
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Linda Tropp is associate professor of psychology and director of the Psychology of Peace and Violence Program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her research concerns how members of different groups approach and experience contact with each other, and how group differences in power or status affect views of and expectations for cross-group relations. Tropp has received the Allport Intergroup Relations Prize from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues for her research on intergroup contact, the Erik Erikson Early Career Award for distinguished research contributions from the International Society of Political Psychology, and the McKeachie Early Career Teaching Award from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology. Tropp has collaborated with national organizations to present social science evidence in Supreme Court cases on racial desegregation, worked on state initiatives designed to improve interracial relations in schools, and partnered with non-governmental organizations to evaluate applied programs designed to reduce racial and ethnic conflict. Tropp is co-editor of *Improving Intergroup Relations: Building on the Legacy of Thomas F. Pettigrew* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2008). Read more and register

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Vincent Pouliot
“The United States and the Global Human Rights Imagination”
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Vincent Pouliot is assistant professor of political science at McGill University. His interests include international relations theory (especially international political sociology), international security and peace research, global governance and international organizations, interpretive methodology, and philosophy of social science. Pouliot’s current research projects deal with reform of the U.N. Security Council, global governance of security, and NATO-Russia relations. He is author of *International Security in Practice*:
The Politics of NATO-Russia Diplomacy (Cambridge, 2010) and co-editor with Markus Kornprobst, Nisha Shah, and Ruben Zaiotti with Metaphors of Globalization: Mirrors, Magicians and Mutinies (Palgrave, 2008). Read more and register

Other events

Monday, February 22, 2010
Jeffrey Mankoff
"Russian-U.S. Foreign Policy: Differing Narratives since 1991"
4:30 p.m., 180 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Road
Sponsored by the Center for Slavic and East European Studies

The Center for Slavic and East European Studies would like to invite faculty and students to a lecture by Jeffrey Mankoff of Yale University and the Council on Foreign Relations. Mankoff will be talking about the different narratives that the U.S. and Russia have for NATO, foreign relations, and events since 1991. The lecture will be followed by a brief question and answer session. Mankoff's recent publications include Russian Foreign Policy: The Return of Great Power Politics (Council on Foreign Relations, 2009) and several articles on Russian foreign policy. For more information, please contact csees@osu.edu or 614-292-8770.

Tuesday, February 23, 2010
Matthew Silver
"Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution in the Israel-Arab Dispute: Limits and Possibilities"
Noon, Saxbe Auditorium, Moritz College of Law, 55 W. 12th Ave.
Sponsored by the Jewish Law Students Association

Matthew Silver is a scholar of Middle Eastern history at Max Stern College of Emek Yezreel in Israel. He is a visiting scholar at The Ohio State University for 2009-10, hosted by the Melton Center for Jewish Studies. Silver received his BA degree from Cornell University and completed his MA and PhD degrees in Modern Jewish History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Silver has taught numerous courses on contemporary politics in Israel, American Jewish-Israel relations, peace studies, comparative religious history of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity; the Arab-Israeli conflict, and many other related topics. He has contributed to numerous publications and served on the Ha'aretz newspaper editorial staff. Silver's newest project, Our Exodus: Leon Uris and the Making and Unmaking of Israel's Founding Narrative (Wayne State Press), is to be published this year. In this presentation, Silver will discuss the legal aspects of the Israeli/Arab peace process with an emphasis on dispute resolution. Lunch will be served.

Thursday, February 25, 2010
Arash Khazeni
3:30 p.m., 168 Dulles Hall, 230 W. 17th Ave.
Sponsored by the Middle East Studies Center

Between the 16th and 19th centuries, the steppes of Central Eurasia were explored, surveyed, and mapped by Eurasian empires. This gathering of information about the natural world was a fundamental aspect of global frontier and environmental processes in an age of imperial expansion. Knowledge about the natural world allowed the domestication of environments across the globe. Only recently have scholars begun to mine encounters that took place outside of a Western colonial framework and within an Asian setting. Persian travel accounts, natural histories, and geographical chronicles about the Central Eurasian steppes were part of the global imperial venture to classify and reclaim the natural world. These indigenous
descriptions of Central Eurasia were marked by the material encounter with the steppes and were projects for reclaiming the wildlands of the Oxus. Through an analysis of Riza Quli Khan Hidayat’s mid-19th-century travel book, *Sifaratnama-yi Khvarazm*, Arash Khazeni, assistant professor of history at Claremont McKenna College, will examine the geographical and cultural construction of the boundary between Qajar Iran and the Central Eurasian steppe. For more information, contact Cory Driver at 614.688.4406 or driver.27@osu.edu.

### International Affairs Faculty Grant competition opens

The Office of International Affairs is now accepting faculty grant applications for projects that explore the languages, cultures, arts, politics, economy, or socio-demographic aspects of a foreign region. Proposals addressing global issues are also eligible if these issues are explored in a regional context. Preference will be given to proposals concerning the regions represented by Ohio State’s Area Studies Centers: Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Russia, Middle East, Central Asia, and East Asia. The deadline is Friday, February 26, 2010. More information can be found at [http://oia.osu.edu](http://oia.osu.edu).

### About Mershon Memo

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