March 1, 2010

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Coming up at the Mershon Center

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. Read more

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 Brasília (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  
“International Security in Practice: The Politics of NATO-Russia Diplomacy”  
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, March 1, 2010  
Daniel Prior  
“Tradition and Innovation Among Nomad Rulers: A New Look at the Northern Kirghiz”  
4:30 p.m., 140 Jennings Hall, 1735 Neil Ave.  
Sponsored by the Center for Slavic and East European Studies

Daniel Prior (Ph.D. Indiana University, 2002) teaches Central Asian and world history and researches the history, cultures, and folklore of Central Asia, mainly of Turkic nomadic peoples. His current research project, for which he was awarded an NEH Fellowship, is a history of the northern Kirghiz chieftains (manaps) in the 19th and 20th centuries. He is author of The Semetey of Kenje Kara: A Kirghiz epic performance on phonograph (Otto Harrassowitz, 2006), and numerous articles and reviews. Prior taught previously at The Ohio State University and Indiana University, and was head of the library of the Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies at Indiana University. He has lived in China, Japan, and for 3 1/2 years in Kirghizstan, before and after its independence from the Soviet Union.
Tuesday, March 2, 2010

**Sen. John Warner**

“Solving Global Climate Change Can Help Ensure America’s Security”
1:30-3 p.m., OSU Faculty Club, 181 S. Oval Drive

Sponsored by the [John Glenn School of Public Affairs](http://www.osu.edu) and the [Pew Project on National Security, Energy and Climate](http://www.pewclimateenergy.org).

Former **Sen. John Warner** (R-VA) and the Pew Project on National Security, Energy and Climate will convene a public forum in conjunction with The Ohio State University's John Glenn School of Public Affairs. Ohio State is home to some of Ohio's leading clean energy policy experts and to several of the nation's premier climate researchers. Sen. Warner will speak to the critical links between national security, energy and global warming and to new strategies for combating climate change, protecting our national security, increasing our energy independence, and preserving our nation's natural resources. Clean energy research conducted in Ohio is simultaneously critical to energy independence, reducing carbon emissions, and stimulating technology-driven industries in Ohio. Leading Ohio policy experts will join Sen. Warner at the forum to describe Ohio's role in reducing climate threats and to identify our opportunities for growing clean energy industries. To attend, RSVP to tom.bullock.ohio@gmail.com.

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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](http://www.kirwan.osu.edu).

Special Ohio State University student and faculty discounts are available to attend **Transforming Race: Crisis and Opportunity in the Age of Obama**, a conference hosted by the Kirwan Institute. Advocates, activists, scholars, students, spoken-word performers, and practitioners from all stripes will engage in more than 50 sessions and panels, workshops and performances, tackling the pressing issues of our time with a focus on race. For information and registration, go to: [http://transforming-race.org/index.html](http://transforming-race.org/index.html).

**Two videos look at research by Mershon doctoral students**

Each year the Mershon Center awards grants to faculty and students to support research that advances the understanding of national security in a global context. Now, two videos examine research by doctoral students Elo-Hanna Seljamaa in Comparative Studies and Eliza Ho in Art History.

Seljamaa is researching national identity in Estonia, particularly in terms of Estonia's relations with Russia and ethnic Russians in Estonia. Eliza Ho seeks to understand the career of the Chinese war photographer Sha Fei. She has curated the first U.S. exhibition of his photographs at the OSU Urban Arts Space.

You can see short videos about their research on the multimedia page of the Mershon Center web site. The center will be producing more videos soon about other research projects by faculty and students.

**About Mershon Memo**

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