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Coming up at the Mershon Center

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

John O'Loughlin
The Wikileaks Afghanistan War Logs: A Boon or Bane for Academic Research?
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

John O'Loughlin is professor of distinction in geography at the University of Colorado. His research focuses on the spatial analysis of conflict, including the relationship between climate/environmental change and conflict as well as in the political geography of the post-Soviet Union, including Russian and Ukrainian geopolitics, Eurasian quasi-states, and ethno-territorial nationalisms. At this event, he will review the findings of a spatial analysis of the 77,000 secret war logs released by Wikileaks in summer 2010 in the context of a broader review of the dynamics of conflict in Afghanistan-Pakistan. Read more and register

Thursday-Saturday, May 19-21, 2011

The Camouflage Project
Organized by Lesley Ferris and Mary Tarantino
Drake Events Center, 1849 Cannon Drive
Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

The Camouflage Project is a three-part interdisciplinary endeavor on secret agents, camouflage, deception and disguise in World War II. Produced by the Department of Theatre, Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design, and Mershon Center for International Security Studies, the project includes a performance, exhibition, and symposium focusing on the work of female agents in France. Dates include:

- Thursday (5/19): Exhibition and symposium at the Drake Center, keynote address by Juliette Pattinson. Register at http://thecamouflageprojectsymposiumdrake.eventbrite.com
- Friday (5/20) - Saturday (5/21): Symposium at the Mershon Center. Register at http://thecamouflageprojectconference.eventbrite.com

For more information, visit http://camouflage.osu.edu.

Monday, May 23, 2011

Risa Brooks
'Stupid' Terrorists? Why Homegrown Terrorists are Often Incapable of Deadly Attacks in the United States
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.
Risa Brooks is assistant professor of political science at Marquette University. Her current research explores the relationships between militant/terrorist groups and the societies in which they originate, embed, or with which they identify. Brooks is author of Shaping Strategy: The Civil-Military Politics of Strategic Assessment (Princeton, 2008) and editor (with Elizabeth Stanley) of Creating Military Power: The Sources of Military Effectiveness (Stanford, 2007). In this presentation, she will explore factors that explain the incapacity of domestic terrorists: a lack of experience, lack of skills, and mechanisms for detection. Read more and register

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

A Current Events Symposium: U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East
With Richard Herrmann, Peter Mansoor, Georges Tamer, and Sabra Webber
Noon, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St.
Co-sponsored by the Columbus Council on World Affairs

This panel will analyze the issues surrounding the recent uprisings in the Middle East including Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, and Libya. Participants will discuss the historical background, forces driving change, and implications for the future of democracy in the Middle East and U.S. policy toward the region. Participants include Richard Herrmann, director of the Mershon Center; Peter Mansoor, Gen. Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair in Military History; Georges Tamer, M.S. Sofia Chair in Arabic Studies; and Sabra Webber, associate professor of comparative studies and near eastern languages and cultures. Read more and register

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Sean Kay
Ontological Security and Locating Danger in Peace-Building: The Case of Northern Ireland
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Sean Kay is professor of politics and government and chair of the International Studies Program at Ohio Wesleyan University, specializing in international politics, international security, international organizations, and U.S. foreign and defense policy. He is also Mershon Center associate and a non-resident fellow at the Eisenhower Institute in Washington. Kay’s publications include Global Security in the 21st Century: The Quest for Power and the Search for Peace (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006). In this presentation, he will be discussing parts of his forthcoming book, Celtic Revival?: The Rise, Fall, and Renewal of Global Ireland (Rowman and Littlefield). Read more and register

Other events

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

H-2 Worker
Screening and discussion with Stephanie Black
6:30 p.m., Saxbe Auditorium, Moritz College of Law
Sponsored by the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

H-2 Worker documents the plight of the 10,000+ Caribbean men brought to Florida each year under a temporary guest-worker (H-2) visa to harvest sugar cane for American sugar corporations. The 70-minute film, which Stephanie Black both produced and directed, was broadcast on national PBS as well as on national television in twenty countries abroad, and also was screened in the Library of Congress and the Florida State Senate. The film won both Best Documentary and Best Cinematography at the 1990 Sundance Film Festival. The film was selected as the U.S. representative in the prestigious Semaine de la Critique (Critics Week) section at Cannes. In addition, it has won many festival awards including the John Grierson Award at the American Film and Video Festival, and Special Gold Jury Award at the Houston Film Festival. For more information, see the event flier.
Friday, May 20, 2011

Tom O'Donnell
Re-imagining Global Oil Security: Revolution and Change in OPEC States
Noon, 125 Mendenhall Lab, 125 S. Oval Mall
Sponsored by the Middle East Studies Center

From Saudi Arabia and Iraq, to Libya and Algeria, democracy movements are confronting autocratic regimes. So too, OPEC’s Latin American governments, such as Venezuela, face popular pressure. The common threads across OPEC are popular movements for democratic reform, using oil rents for social justice and national economic development. These changes will transform relations among OPEC states and with the US, Europe and China. Tom O'Donnell is a PhD nuclear physicist, and an expert on the global petroleum sector, the OPEC states of Latin America and the Middle East, and the market and geopolitical policies of the United States, China, and EU. He teaches graduate international affairs at The New School University in New York. Register at http://www.ria4edu.com/clients/oliaevents/node/538. For more information, see the event flier.

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Ruby Maloni
Colonial Legacy and Post Colonial Reality: Race, Ethnicity and Caste in India
Noon, Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Center, 153 W. 12th Ave.
Sponsored by the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

India is a 64-year-old country. On the eve of the departure of the British, on August 14, 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru declared, “Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge.” The task ahead included the end of poverty, and equality of opportunity, putting aside differences of race, ethnicity and caste. It is not hard to notice that these aims remain largely unaccomplished. To counter this resilient stratification, Ruby Maloni, professor of history at University of Mumbai, argues that what is needed is more activism in the political organization of the disadvantaged sections of Indian society. Many lessons can be learned from the United States, which shares a common history of colonialism and inequality. Please e-mail your reservation to kirwaninstitute@osu.edu. For more information, see the event flier.

Previous events available for viewing

Richard Herrmann (le), director of the Mershon Center, introduced Robert Pape, who is his former student.
Pape speaks on consequences of American decline

Watch a streaming video of Robert Pape, professor of political science at the University of Chicago, speaking about "America's Relative Decline and Its Consequences" on September 25, 2009, at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. Pape's work focuses on American grand strategy, causes and solutions to suicide terrorism, the logic of soft balancing in a unipolar world, and the limits and advantages of precision air power.

Full Archive

Visit the Event Recordings page for the full list of streaming videos from previous events sponsored by the Mershon Center. Note: Streaming videos recorded before Fall 2010 require RealPlayer. If you do not have RealPlayer, you can download it free.

Mershon News

Mills to teach one-time course on Afghan women

Near Eastern Languages and Cultures 345: Women in the Muslim Middle East
Instructor: Margaret Mills
MW 1:30-3:18
Course #: 26630

This course, for fall 2011 only, will concentrate entirely on the lives of women of Afghanistan, especially their stories told in their own voices, aimed for different audiences. We will read the narratives of Afghan women whose life histories and personal experience narratives have appeared in English, published over the last 20 years and some unpublished. The women are of various ages and come from different backgrounds, rural and urban, different classes and family backgrounds, with different educational opportunities, work or professions, religious and political views, hopes and dreams.

In the process of reading a selection of these women's personal narratives, we will consider not only the general and specific situations of some remarkable Afghan women, but also how their personal testimony reaches a global audience, and some things these different forms of personal stories tell us about the politics and history of women's self-representation in general (autobiographies, personal experience narratives, testimony, and other forms). This course is part of a series of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures courses which focus on the peoples and cultures of the Middle East region.

The positions of Middle Eastern women are not expressions of traditional or religious sentiments in any essentialist way. Rather, they are patterns in which large social and historical issues, including religious issues and processes, are expressed.

Prereq: English 110. GEC arts and humanities cultures and ideas and social diversity - international issues (Global) course.

'Origins' examines nuclear power in Japan

Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective is pleased to announce the publication of its June 2011 issue, featuring "'The Energy of a Bright Tomorrow': The Rise of Nuclear Power in Japan" by Craig D. Nelson.

The devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan left the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant crippled and the world worrying about the consequences of this nuclear disaster. This month, Craig Nelson looks at the long relationship the Japanese have had with nuclear power to explore the paradox of how the nation that suffered nuclear destruction in 1945 came to embrace nuclear energy so enthusiastically.

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


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