Tuesday, January 25, 2011

M. Taylor Fravel
Explaining the Evolution of China's Military Strategy
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

M. Taylor Fravel is Cecil and Ida Green Career Development Associate Professor of Political Science and member of the Security Studies Program at MIT. He studies international relations, with a focus on international security, China and East Asia. His current projects examine the evolution of China's military strategy since 1949 and the relationship between material capabilities and political influence in China's rise as a great power. Fravel is author of *Strong Borders, Secure Nation: Cooperation and Conflict in China's Territorial Disputes* (Princeton, 2008). [Read more and register](#).

Thursday, January 27, 2011

Heather Raffo
The Sounds of Desire
7:30 p.m., Thurber Theater, 1849 Cannon Drive

Heather Raffo, author and actress of the award-winning one woman show *9 Parts of Desire*, teams up with Amir ElSaffar, accomplished jazz trumpeter and Iraqi santoor player, for a dramatic evening of spoken word and melodic solos. Together they present a concert of urban and classical sounds that spring from both their Iraqi and American roots. Heather's *9 Parts of Desire* details the lives of nine ordinary and extraordinary Iraqi women. Both mythical and contemporary, the women's words weave in and out of the ancient quarter tone scales of Amir's classical santoor and the improvisational heart of jazz, resulting in a melody decidedly Iraqi and American. [Read more and register](#).

Thursday, February 3, 2011

Andrew Exum
The War in Afghanistan: What to Expect in 2011
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Andrew Exum is a fellow with the Center for a New American Security. He is a native of East Tennessee and served on active duty in the U.S. Army from 2000 until 2004. He led a platoon of light infantry in Afghanistan in 2002 and a platoon of Army Rangers in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2003 and 2004, respectively. Most recently, Exum served as an advisor on the CENTCOM Assessment Team and as a
civilian advisor to Gen. Stanley McChrystal in Afghanistan. He is the author of This Man’s Army: A Soldier’s Story from the Frontlines of the War on Terror (Gotham, 2004). Exum is a doctoral candidate at King’s College London and founder of the counterinsurgency blog Abu Muqawama. Read more and register

Friday, February 18, 2011

Geoffrey Brennan
Causal Responsibility and Voting
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Geoffrey Brennan is distinguished research professor of philosophy at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill as well as professor of economics at Australian National University and research professor in political science at Duke. Brennan works on issues at the intersection of economics, rationality, and political philosophy. He is editor of the journal Economics and Philosophy and recently co-edited the Collected Works of James Buchanan (Liberty Press, 1999-2000) in 20 volumes. Brennan is author of nine books including Democracy and Decision: The Pure Theory of Electoral Preference (Cambridge, 1993; Oxford, 2002), with Loren Lomasky; Democratic Devices and Desires (Cambridge, 2000), with Alan Hamlin; and The Economy of Esteem (Oxford, 2004), with Philip Pettit. Read more and register

Friday, February 25, 2011

Mary Sarotte
The International Politics of the European Ordering Moment, 1989-91, and Their Legacy Twenty Years Later
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Mary Sarotte is professor of history and international relations at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Her most recent book, 1989 (Princeton, 2009), appeared on the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. In addition to receiving the DAAD Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in German and European Studies, 1989 is also the first book to become the winner of both SHAFR’s Ferrell Prize, awarded to the best book on U.S. foreign policy, and AAASS’ Shulman Prize, awarded to the best book on Communist foreign policy (co-winner). Sarotte has been a White House Fellow as well as postdoctoral fellow at the Mershon Center. She is now a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Read more and register

Other events

Thursday, February 3, 2011

A.K. Nandakumar
Global Health Spending: Learning to do More with Less
Noon, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St.
Council supporters: $25 (free lecture only); General public: $30 ($5 lecture only); students: $15
Sponsored by the Columbus Council on World Affairs

Join us for a discussion on global health efficiencies and spending with A.K. Nandakumar, Professor of the Practice at Brandeis University and director of the Institute for Global Health and Development at the Schneider Institutes for Health
Policy. Nandakumar has over 20 years of experience in health care financing in the United States and developing countries with a focus on long-term care financing, aging and its impact on health systems, national health accounts, and other health care financing issues. His recent research has focused on fungibility of donor assistance, understanding the linkages between health expenditures and maternal and infant mortality, and studying the relationship between growth in a country's income and spending on health. Nandakumar is interested in developing methods to track resource flows to understand the efficiency of health spending. Register HERE or by calling Rhonda Nicholas at 614-229-4599, x401.

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Juan Williams
2011 Stanley Muroff Civil Liberties Forum
Wexner Center Film/Video Theater, 1871 N. High St.
Book Signing: 2:30-3:30 p.m. Lecture: 4-5 p.m.
Sponsored by the John Glenn School of Public Affairs

Juan Williams is a journalist and political commentator for Fox News Channel. Author of several books, including Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965, Williams worked for The Washington Post as an editorial writer, op-ed columnist, White House correspondent and national correspondent. He also has worked for The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and National Public Radio. This event is co-sponsored by the Multicultural Center and Office of Diversity and Inclusion. This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and RSVP required. To register, visit the event web page or call 614.688.3206, ext. 1 by Friday, February 25.

Previous events available for viewing


Lebow analyzes case studies to examine 'Why We Fight'

Watch a streaming video of Richard Ned Lebow, 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,
discussing "Why We Fight? Past and Future Motives for War." Lebow, who is also former director of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, used case studies from 500 years in history to argue against rationalist views that nations go to war after a measured cost-benefit analysis.

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

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. 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. We are also interested in projects related to Ohio State's global gateways in China (2010), India (2011) and Brazil (2012), as well as policy issues in biosecurity and cybersecurity.

For more information, including an application form and instructions, please see http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/grants/grants/grants.htm. The deadline is January 31, 2011.

'Origins' considers historical context of Haitian earthquake

Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective is pleased to announce the publication of its December 2010 issue, featuring "A Pact with the Devil? The United States and the Fate of Modern Haiti," by Leslie Alexander.

January 12, 2011, marked the grim one-year anniversary of the Haitian earthquake. In the past year, as Haitians have tried to rebuild from that disaster, they have suffered a cholera epidemic and flooding from Hurricane Tomas. Thousands remain homeless, buildings in ruins, and violence widespread. The political process offers little hope for relief. Haiti’s recent, much-watched presidential elections, like so many in its past, have been marred with accusations of fraud and corruption.

Haiti is now arguably the most desperate nation in the Western hemisphere and among the most desperate places anywhere in the world. This month, historian Leslie Alexander puts Haiti’s recent crises in a longer perspective and reminds us that historically the United States has often hindered, rather than helped, Haiti deal with its many challenges.

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 student loans, the global food crisis, marriage rights, women in Zimbabwe, the legacy of 1989 in Eastern Europe, and Darwin's American reception. Next month: "Currency Wars, Or Why You Should Care About the Global Struggle Over the Value of Money," by Steven Bryan.
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