



# MERSHON CENTER for International Security Studies

You are here: [Home](#) ▶ [Events](#)

## EVENTS & DEADLINES

- Apr 17** **Mary Habeck**  
04/17/2014, -  
Director's Speaker Series
- May 06** **Interdisciplinary Studies of Political Behavior: From Elections to Protests**  
05/06/2014, -  
Conference
- May 07** **Interdisciplinary Studies of Political Behavior: From Elections to Protests**  
05/07/2014, -  
Conference
- May 14** **Climate Change Threatens our Security**  
05/14/2014, -  
Columbus Metropolitan Club event
- May 19** **Cultural Resilience Reading Group Meeting**  
05/19/2014, -  
Mershon Research Network in Cultural Resilience

## ARCHIVED EVENTS

Academic Year  
  
 Month

## SEARCH

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Director's Speaker Series

### JOHN MUELLER

*"Chasing Ghosts: The FBI and Counter-Terrorism"*

Monday, January 13, 2014, 3:30PM - 5:00PM  
Mershon Center for International Security Studies  
1501 Neil Ave. Columbus, OH 43201

*\*Please note that Mershon Center lecture times have changed\**

[Click here to view the event in Windows Media Player.](#)

[Click here to view the event in RealPlayer.](#)

[Download the podcast on the Mershon subscription page.](#)

John Mueller is Ralph D. Mershon Senior Research Scientist and Woody Hayes Chair of National Security Studies Emeritus at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, and adjunct professor of political science at The Ohio State University. For a full bio, please see his [faculty page](#).

### Abstract

After September 11, 2001, the Federal Bureau of Investigation greatly increased its efforts at, and changed its approach to, counter-terrorism. This talk explores the abrupt rise and continuing persistence of official fears of terrorism. Important in this is the effect of the "threat matrix" that coordinates and drives the quest to follow up 5000 almost entirely fruitless "threats" each day, a process some in the FBI call "ghost-chasing." In the process, an estimate is made about how many terrorist acts would have had to have been committed in the United States but for the intelligence and policing efforts of the Bureau to justify its counter-terrorism expenditures.

Included is an examination of a set of case studies of all the apparent Islamist extremist plots since 9/11 to inflict damage in the United States. Also explored: the potential efficacy of policing efforts using simple, if forceful, warnings to putative terrorists rather than implanting informants among them.



**John Mueller**  
Senior Research Scientist  
Woody Hayes Chair Emeritus of National Security Studies  
The Ohio State University

[Back](#)

JEvents v2.2.3 Copyright © 2006-2012

## MERSHON CENTER

- [About Us](#)
- [Research](#)
- [News](#)

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- [Office of International Affairs](#)
- [Global Gateways](#)
- [International Students](#)

## AREA STUDY CENTERS

- [Center for African Studies](#)
- [Center for Latin American Studies](#)
- [Center for Slavic & East European](#)

## RESOURCES

- [Current Events](#)
- [Print Newsletter](#)
- [Annual Report](#)