Coming up at the Mershon Center

Friday-Saturday, April 3-4, 2009

Empire at End: Global Transformations in the Late Cold War
Organized by Ryan Irwin, Charles Carter, and Alex Poster, Department of History
Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Empire at End: Global Transformations in the Late Cold War brings together junior faculty and advanced Ph.D. candidates to examine the patterns, limits, and agents of global change in late 20th century. Panelists will consider to what extent, and for what reasons, the bipolar balance of power that characterized the Cold War was challenged, particularly from the 1970s on. By examining the interplay of new forces for change with forces resisting change, we hope to better understand the relationships between the global transformations of the late 20th century and pan-European Empire. Did these transformations mark the "end of empire" or merely redefine empire? Students of diplomatic, international, and transnational history, along with economists, political scientists, and specialists in globalization, are encouraged to attend. Read more

Monday, April 6, 2009

James Fearon

"A Simple Political Economy of International Relations Between Democracies and Autocracies"
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.
James Fearon is the Theodore and Frances Geballe Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences and Professor of Political Science at Stanford University. His research focuses on democracy and international disputes, explanations for interstate wars, and, most recently, the causes of civil and especially ethnic violence. He is presently working on a book manuscript with David Laitin on civil war since 1945. Fearon's recent publications include "Iraq's Civil War" (Foreign Affairs, 2007); "Primary Commodity Exports and Civil War" (Journal of Conflict Resolution, 2005); "Why Do Some Civil Wars Last So Much Longer Than Others?" (Journal of Peace Research, 2004); and "Neotrusteeship and the Problem of Weak States" (International Security, 2004). In 2006, Fearon was awarded the Presidential Fund for Innovation in International Studies Award by the Freeman-Spogli Institute of International Studies at Stanford University. In 2002, he was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences.

Monday, April 13, 2009

Francine Hirsch

"The Soviets at Nuremberg"
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.
Co-sponsored by the Departments of History and Slavic Studies

Francine Hirsch is Associate Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her interests include Russian and Soviet history, modern European history, and comparative empires. Hirsch is author of Empire of Nations: Ethnographic Knowledge and the Making of the Soviet Union (Cornell University Press, 2005), which won the Herbert Baxter Adams Book Prize of the American Historical Association (2007), the Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (2006), and was co-winner of the Council for European Studies Book Award (2006). She has a bachelor's degree from Cornell University, and master's and Ph.D. from Princeton.

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Jason Brownlee

"Authoritarianism in the 21st Century: More than Rents, Religion, or Repression"
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Jason Brownlee is Assistant Professor of Government and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas. He teaches undergraduate courses on U.S. foreign policy and Mideast politics, and graduate seminars on democratization and modern Islamic movements. Brownlee is author of Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization (Cambridge University Press, 2007), which examines the historical sources of electoral contestation and regime change during the last 30 years. He is currently dividing his time between two large projects. The first addresses major cases of U.S. occupation abroad, while the second looks comparatively at local challenges to the Egyptian government.
Friday, April 17, 2009

Frank Costigliola

“The Perils of Intimacy: Harry Hopkins as Franklin D. Roosevelt’s National Security Adviser”
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Frank Costigliola is Professor of History at the University of Connecticut specializing in 20th century U.S. history and U.S. foreign relations. His recent publications include “Broken Circle: The Isolation of Franklin D. Roosevelt in World War II” (Diplomatic History, November 2008); “Reading for Meaning: Theory, Language, and Metaphor” in Explaining American Foreign Relations History, 2nd ed., ed. by Michael Hogan and Thomas G. Paterson (Cambridge University Press, 2003); and “I Had Come as a Friend’: Emotion, Culture, and Ambiguity in the Formation of the Cold War” (Cold War History, August 2000). Costigliola is currently writing a book called Lost Alliances: How Personal Politics Helped Win World War II and Form the Cold War, about the impact of emotions and perceived cultural differences in the shaping of U.S., British, and Soviet foreign policy during and immediately after World War II. Read more and register

Other events

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mitchell Bard

“Myths and Facts about the Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy”
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.
Sponsored by the Melton Center for Jewish Studies

Mitchell Bard is a foreign policy analyst who lectures frequently on U.S.-Middle East policy. He is also director of the Jewish Virtual Library, the world’s most comprehensive online encyclopedia of Jewish history and culture, and executive director of American Israel Cooperative Enterprise. Bard has appeared on Fox News, MSNBC, NBC, CBC, al-Jazeera and other local and national television and radio outlets. He is the author of 18 books, and his work has been published in academic journals, magazines and major newspapers. Bard earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from University of California at Los Angeles, and a master’s in Public Policy from University of California at Berkeley. For more information about this event, please contact the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at (614) 292-0967.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Robert McMahon and Carole Fink

History Faculty Seminar Cookies and Conversation Lecture Series
3:30 p.m., 168 Dulles Hall, 230 W. 17th Ave.
Sponsored by the Department of History
Robert McMahon is Ralph D. Mershon Professor of History, and author of Dean Acheson and the Creation of an American World Order (Potomac Books, 2008). Carole Fink is Humanities Distinguished Professor of History and author of Ostpolitik, 1969-1974: European and Global Responses (Cambridge University Press, 2009). To register and receive the suggested readings, please contact Steve Fink (fink.77@osu.edu) by March 31. For more information about the History Faculty Seminars, please contact Judy Wu (wu.287@osu.edu).

Friday, April 3, 2009

**Abdi Roble and Doug Rutledge**

“Human Rights and the Somali Diaspora”

Noon, Hale Black Cultural Center, 153 W. 12th Ave.

Sponsored by the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

Learn more about The Somali Diaspora: A Journey Away (University Of Minnesota Press, 2008) during a brownbag lunch with the book's photographer Abdi Roble and writer Doug Rutledge. Both are with the Somali Documentary Project, and their presentation will focus on their organization's work involving refugees and human rights. Roble, who immigrated to the United States from Somalia in 1989, has collaborated with Rutledge since 2003 to document the lives of Somali immigrants in the United States and Kenya's refugee camps created in the wake of the 1991 civil war in Somalia. Many of his photos were taken in Columbus, home to one of the larger Somali communities in the United States. The duo's new book traces the journey of one family from life in a Kenyan refugee camp with more than 150,000 other Somalis to their new lives in the United States.

Monday, April 6, 2009

**Mark E. Byington**

“A New View on the Origins of the Koguryo State”

4 p.m., 180 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Road

Sponsored by the Korean Studies Initiative at the East Asian Studies Center

Although archaeological discoveries in northeastern China have made available a great deal of data related to the development of the Koguryo state, scholars have tended to retain a view of Koguryo origins based on literary survivals, which emphasizes migration rather than local development. This presentation will offer a new view of Koguryo state origins that places emphasis on the relationship between the pre-state Koguryo society and the Han Chinese outposts on Koguryo's periphery to argue that the development of the Koguryo state was largely motivated by internal social reorganization stimulated by this relationship. Mark E. Byington is founder and director of the Early Korea Project at the Korea Institute, Harvard University. His research interests include the early history and archaeology of Korea and northeastern China, particularly the Koguryo and Puyo states. He conducted field research at Jilin University in northeastern China, focused on the region's early history and archaeology.
Mershon Center seeks study abroad applicants

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies offers the Ralph D. Mershon Study Abroad Scholarship to support undergraduates who wish to enhance their educational experience by studying in a foreign country. Students are encouraged to take foreign language courses, especially those deemed critical for national security, such as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Persian, and others. Priority will be given to students who are preparing for a career related to international security studies. Scholarships of up to $2,000 each will be awarded. For more information, including application forms and instructions, please see the scholarship web page. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 10, 2009.

OIA hosts Fulbright workshop for faculty, professionals

The Office of International Affairs is hosting a Fulbright Workshop for faculty and professionals on Wednesday, April 8, from 3 to 5 p.m. in 155 Jennings Hall. This free workshop will highlight lecturing and research opportunities available in 150 countries for all interested faculty and professionals. Workshop participants will receive information about Fulbright grants that support lecture and research opportunities in a wide variety of fields. For more information and to register for the free workshop, visit http://fulbright.osu.edu.

'Origins' explores historical definitions of marriage

Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective is pleased to announce the publication of its April 2009 issue, featuring "The Real Marriage Revolution" by Stephanie Coontz.

The controversy that still swirls over California's Proposition 8 has kept the issue of same-sex marriage squarely in the national spotlight. For those who oppose gay marriage, allowing same-sex couples the same legal rights as heterosexual couples amounts to nothing less than a revolution in the institution of marriage and the family.

This month, historian Stephanie Coontz puts the desire for same-sex marriage into some intriguing historical perspective. She demonstrates that heterosexual couples instigated the real revolution in marriage -- the idea that two individuals should be able to choose their partners based on love, sexual attraction, and mutual interests. Gays and lesbians have simply followed suit.

Origins is a free, non-commercial publication from the Public History Initiative and eHistory in The 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 analysis, 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 at http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/podcasts.cfm. You can also subscribe to the Origins RSS Feed.
Recent topics include the Kosovo and Darfur conflicts, coalition warfare, North Korea in the nuclear age, the Georgian-Russian conflict, and the mortgage crisis. Next Month: "Requiem: Detroit and the Fate of Urban America" by Kevin Boyle.

About Mershon Memo

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