



Winter 2007

Vol. 1, Issue 2

Mershon Memo

A newsletter of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies

Mershon welcomes another post-doc

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies is pleased to welcome its second post-doctoral fellow, Tarak Barkawi.



Tarak Barkawi

Barkawi is senior lecturer in international security at the Centre of International Studies, University of Cambridge.

While at the Mershon Center, Barkawi will work on a book project, *Orientalism in Times of War: Why 'Small Wars' Have Big Consequences*. Drawing on the history of U.S. and British defeats in "small wars" of the 19th and 20th centuries, the book looks at three interrelated themes:

- The Orientalist dimensions of how Western political and military authorities conceive and conduct "small wars."
- Whether and how Orientalism contributes to failed Western strategies.
- The military, political, and popular reactions to failure.

Barkawi will speak about his project at noon on **Tuesday, March 6, 2007**.

Mueller garners media attention with latest book 'Overblown'

Consider the following:

- International terrorism doesn't do much damage when considered in almost any reasonable context.
- Just about any damage terrorists perpetrate can be absorbed, however grimly.
- The likelihood that any American will be killed in a terrorist event is microscopic.

These are just a few of the propositions that John Mueller says should be – but are not – at the heart of discussions about how to respond to international terrorism.

Mueller, Woody Hayes Chair of National Security Studies at the Mershon Center, sets forth these and other propositions in *Overblown: How Politicians and the Terrorism Industry Inflate National Security Threats, and Why We Believe Them* (Free Press).

Mueller's central argument is that the United States has wildly overreacted to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The odds of being killed in a terrorist attack over a lifetime are 1 in 80,000 – yet nearly half of Americans worry that they or a member of their family will become a victim.

One reason for this over-reaction, Mueller says, is that



John Mueller, Woody Hayes Professor of National Security Studies, discusses his latest book 'Overblown: How Politicians and the Terrorism Industry Inflate National Security Threats, and Why We Believe Them,' with Jon Stewart, host of Comedy Central's 'The Daily Show,' on Oct. 31.

Americans' fears are stoked by the terrorism industry – politicians, experts, the media, academics, the bureaucracy, and risk entrepreneurs whose interests are served by exaggerating the terrorist threat.

Media attention

Not surprisingly, such unconventional wisdom has garnered a great deal of media attention. This notoriety began when Mueller published an earlier version of part of his arguments in the September/October 2006 issue of *Foreign Affairs*.

Among those to take note were *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and John Dean of Watergate fame on FindLaw.com.

Since *Overblown* came out in November, media attention has only grown. Among those featuring Mueller were Fox News' Bill O'Reilly, *Forbes*, and *The American Spectator*.

Perhaps most interesting was Mueller's interview with Jon Stewart on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*.

The five-minute segment not only covered Mueller's book, but also touched on such topics as x-ray machines, Michael Moore, and how asteroids are named.

"I thought it went fine," Mueller said. "It was more like sitting around a fireplace than a canned interview. He basically wings it. You get that sense of spontaneity."

Mershon Center for International Security Studies

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	JANUARY 1	2	3 <i>Winter quarter begins</i>	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 12 p.m., Mershon 120 Darrin Mortenson	11	12	13
14	15	16 12 p.m., Mershon 120 Bruce Weinberg	17	18	19 3:30 p.m., Mershon 120 Daniel Drezner	20
21	22	23	24	25 12 p.m., Mershon 120 Ian Shapiro	26	27
28	29	30 12 p.m., Mershon 120 Grad Student Vets Panel	31	FEBRUARY 1	2 12 p.m., Mershon 120 Steven Davis	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 12 p.m., Mershon 120 Aaron Friedberg	16	17
18	19	20	21 12 p.m., Mershon 120 Jens Meierhenrich	22	23 12 p.m., Mershon 120 Sumit Ganguly	24
25	26 <i>Furniss Book Award, 12 p.m., Mershon 120 Victoria Tin-bor Hui</i>	27	28	MARCH 1	2	3
4	5	6 12 p.m., Mershon 120 Tarak Barkawi	7	8 12 p.m., Mershon 120 Scott Carrell	9 <i>Last day of classes</i>	10

Winter 2007 Calendar of Events



Mortenson

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007

Darrin Mortenson
Journalist in Residence
Mershon Center for International Security Studies
"A 'Small War' That Wasn't: How U.S. Marines Tripped into the First Battle of Fallujah"
12 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120



Friedberg

Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007

Aaron Friedberg
Professor of Politics and International Affairs
Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University
"Is the Unipolar Moment Over?"
12 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120



Weinberg

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2007

Bruce Weinberg
Associate Professor of Economics
The Ohio State University
"Social Interactions with Endogenous Associations."
12 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120



Meierhenrich

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007

Jens Meierhenrich
Assistant Professor of Government and Social Studies, Weatherhead Center, Harvard University
"The Political Economy of Lawfare"
12 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120



Drezner

Friday, Jan. 19, 2007

Daniel Drezner
Associate Professor of International Politics
Tufts University
"The Viscosity of Global Governance"
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120



Ganguly

Friday, Feb. 23, 2007

Sumit Ganguly
Chair of Indian Cultures and Civilizations
Indiana University
"Structure and Contingency in the Transformation of India's Foreign Policy"
12 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120



Shapiro

Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007

Ian Shapiro
Director of the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University
"Containment ... Rebuilding a Strategy Against Global Terror"
12 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120



Hui

Edgar S. Furniss Book Award Winner

Monday, Feb. 26, 2007
Victoria Tin-bor Hui
Assistant Professor of Political Science
University of Notre Dame
"War and State Formation in Ancient China and Early Modern Europe"
12 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120



Hudson

Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2007

Graduate Student Veterans Panel
With Valerie Hudson, Peter Rayls, Thomas Spahr, and Professor John F. Guilmartin
The Ohio State University
"War in the 21st Century: The Graduate Experience"
12 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120



Barkawi

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Tarak Barkawi
Post-Doctoral Fellow
Mershon Center for International Security Studies
"Orientalism in Times of War: Why Small Wars Have Big Consequences"
12 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120



Davis

Friday, Feb. 2, 2007

Steven Davis
William Abbot Professor of International Business and Economics, University of Chicago
"War in Iraq versus Containment"
12 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120



Carrell

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Scott Carrell
Director, Policy Research Shop
Nelson A. Rockefeller Center, Dartmouth College
"Peer and Leadership Effects in Academic and Athletic Performance"
12 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120

For more information and to reserve your spot, please see the Mershon Center website at www.mershoncenter.osu.edu
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Hui wins 2005 Furniss Book Award

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies is pleased to announce that **Victoria Tin-bor Hui** has won its Edgar S. Furniss Book Award.

Hui, an assistant professor of political science at University of Notre Dame, won the award for her 2005 book *War and State Formation in Ancient China and Early Modern Europe*, published by Cambridge University Press.

The book demonstrates that from

656-221 B.C., China's government consisted of a system of sovereign territorial states similar to Europe in the early modern period.



Victoria
Tin-Bor Hui

This finding runs counter to the common belief that the roots of liberal democracy are unique to European civilization and alien to non-Western cultures.

Hui examines why China and Europe shared similar processes but experienced opposite outcomes. The results shed light on efforts to promote

democracy in general, and prospects for Chinese democracy in particular.

Each year, the Mershon Center gives the Furniss Book Award to an author whose first book makes an exceptional contribution to the study of national and international security. The award commemorates the center's founding director, Edgar S. Furniss.

The winning author receives a cash award and is invited to address the Mershon Center. Hui will speak at noon on **Monday, Feb. 26, 2007**.

Mershon supports graduate student research

The Mershon Center is proud to support 13 graduate student research projects in 2006-07.

- **Paul Chamberlin** (History) – "The Rise of Fundamentalist Movements in the United States and the Middle East"
- **Kristin Collins** (History) – "A Clash of Cultures: Gender and Imperial Ideology in Tsarist Russia"
- **Thomas Dolan** (Political Science) – "Fighting 'Real' Wars: The Timing and Content of War-Time Political Decisions"
- **Delia Dumitrescu** (Political Science) – "Political Posters, Campaign Communication and Democratic Integration"
- **Denice Fett** (History) – "Invasion as a First and Last Resort: Europe in the 16th Century"
- **James Kenaghan** (History) – "Ethnic Identities, Ecclesiastical Control and Religious War in Ireland and Lithuania"

- **TongFi Kim** (Political Science) – "The U.S.-Japan Alliance and Alliance Theory"
- **Rohit Negi** (Geography) – "Social Movements in the Democratization of the Sub-Saharan Post-Colonial State"
- **Autumn Lockwood Payton** (Political Science) – "Weak States and the International Criminal Court"
- **Jason VanHorn** (Geography) – "The Geography of Terrorism: Vulnerability and Perceived Threat"
- **Srdjan Vucetic** (Political Science) – "The Importance of Identity in Alliance Formation: The Anglosphere"
- **Adam Walcher** (History) – "U.S. Relations in Latin America: The Case of Argentina"
- **Sarah Wilson** (Political Science) – "Lobbying in Russia: Who Wins and Why?"