The Mershon Center is pleased to welcome four visiting scholars. Holger Nehring, who teaches European History at the University of Sheffield, will arrive in January. His research examines the impact of social movements on symbolic politics in East and West Germany during the Cold War era.

Nehring will work with Bob McMahon on “The Last Battle of the Cold War: Peace Movements, German Politics and the End of the Cold War.” He will speak at the Mershon Center on Wednesday, March 4.

Lieutenant General Mohd Aminul Karim is Commandant at the National Defense College in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This winter, he will study security issues in South Asia, including the roles China and India play in Bangladeshi national security. He will speak on Friday, January 16.

Since autumn, the East Asian Studies Center has sponsored two visitors at Mershon. Elana Chipman was a postdoctoral fellow at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University. Her research investigates the Chinese ritual of burning paper spirit-money, and how modern practitioners attempt to minimize the ecological costs of this custom.

Mulati Heiniyati studies Christians and other religious minority groups in China, including the Islamic Kazakh minority. His work focuses on conflicts between Muslims and Christians in Western China stemming from Christian involvement in minority education.
# Mershon Center for International Security Studies

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Thursday, January 15, 2009

Jonathan Winkler
Assistant Professor of History
Wright State University

“An Emerging Approach in International History: Information Technology, Strategy and Diplomacy”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Winkler

Friday, January 16, 2009

Lt. Gen. Mohd Aminul Karim
Commandant, National Defense College,
Bangladesh

“Security in South Asia After the Mumbai Terror Attacks”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Karim

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Thomas Christensen
Professor of Politics and International Affairs
Princeton University

“Crafting a China Strategy: Some Recent Lessons for the New Administration”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Christensen

Friday, January 30, 2009

Torben Iversen
Harold Hitchings Burbank Professor of Political Economy, Harvard University

“A Political-Institutional Model of Real Exchange Rates, Competitiveness, and Division of Labor”
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120

Iversen

Monday, February 9, 2009

Miles Hewstone
Director, Centre for the Study of Intergroup Conflict, Oxford University

“Living Apart Together: Segregation vs. Mixing as Sources of or Solutions for Intergroup Conflict”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Hewstone

Joseph J. Kruzel Memorial Lecture

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Joseph Nye
Sultan of Oman Professor of International Relations, Harvard University

“The Powers to Lead”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Nye

Monday, February 16, 2009

Daniel Hellinger
Professor of Political Science, Webster University

“How Red is the Pink Tide in Hugo Chávez’s Venezuela?”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Hellinger

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Williamson Murray
Professor of Political Science
University of Massachusetts-Amherst

“A Historian Looks at the Future Environment”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Murray

Friday, February 20, 2009

Thomas Dine and Dalia Mogahed
U.S.-Muslim Engagement Project

“Changing Course: A New Direction for U.S. Relations with the Muslim World”
Noon, Saxbe Auditorium, Moritz College of Law

Mogahed

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Holger Nehring
Visiting Scholar
Mershon Center for International Security Studies

“A Peaceful Europe? European Exceptionalism in the 20th Century”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Nehring

Friday, March 6, 2009

Jeffry Frieden
Professor of International Peace
Harvard University

“The Political Economy of Exchange Rate Regimes in Transition Economies”
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120

Frieden

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Thomas Walker
Director Emeritus of Latin American Studies, Ohio University

“Electoral Observation: A Tool for Democratization and Peace in Latin America”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Walker

Friday, March 13, 2009

Hendrik Spruyt
Norman Dwight Harris Professor of International Relations, Northwestern University

“Contracting States: Incomplete Contracts in International Relations”
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120

Spruyt
Nye to give Kruzel Lecture on ‘Powers to Lead’

Each year the Mershon Center selects one lecture in honor of Joseph J. Kruzel, an Ohio State faculty member in political science who was killed in Bosnia in 1995 while serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Affairs.

This year’s Kruzel Memorial Lecture will be given Wednesday, February 11, by Joseph Nye, Sultan of Oman Professor of International Relations and former Dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

The event is free, but seating is limited and registration is required through the Mershon Center web site.

Nye will speak on his most recent book, The Powers to Lead (Oxford University Press, 2008).

In this book, Nye discusses the nature of leadership and how it has been transformed by the information revolution. He also explores his theory of soft power, a leadership approach that seeks to attract, inspire, and persuade rather than dictate.

Nye has served as Deputy to the Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology; chairman of the National Intelligence Council, which coordinates intelligence estimates for the president; and Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

Past Kruzel lectures have been given by Strobe Talbott, President of the Brookings Institution, and former Secretary of Defense William Perry.

Project seeks to improve U.S.-Muslim relations

How can the United States improve relations with key Muslim nations?

Two years ago, a group of American leaders launched the U.S.-Muslim Engagement Project to answer this question. Members included former state department officials, members of Congress, ambassadors, military officials, and foreign policy experts.

The group is now launching its report “Changing Course: A New Direction for U.S. Relations with the Muslim World,” which examines U.S. relations with Muslim countries, obstacles to improving relations, and how these obstacles can be overcome.

Two members will discuss the report in February at an event sponsored by the Mershon Center.

Thomas Dine is Senior Policy Advisor at the Israel Policy Forum and former Executive Director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Israel’s lobby group in the United States.

Dalia Mogahed is Executive Director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, a nonpartisan research center dedicated to providing data-driven analysis on the views of Muslim populations around the world.

Dine and Mogahed will speak Friday, February 20, at noon at Saxbe Auditorium, Moritz College of Law.

The event is free, but registration is required on the Mershon Center web site.