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Merston Memo

A newsletter of the Merston Center for International Security Studies

Conference to examine Cold War in Third World

The Cold War ushered in the longest sustained period of peace in modern Europe at the same time as Asia, Africa, and the Middle East were convulsed by unprecedented amounts of violence.

On February 26-27, the Merston Center will examine the Cold War in the Third World at a conference organized by Ralph D. Merston Professor of History Robert McMahon.



McMahon

Two related sets of questions will be considered. First, how did the Third World affect the course of the Cold War and the behavior and priorities of the two superpowers? And what impact did the Cold War have on the developing states of Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America?

This conference will bring together leading younger and established scholars from international, diplomatic, and Third World history to produce an integrative, broadly focused approach to this large and complex subject.

Afghanistan Panel



A student poses a question to panelists during "Afghanistan: The Choices," held November 9, 2009, at Saxbe Auditorium in Moritz College of Law. The panel, sponsored by the Merston Center and Humanities Institute, included (left to right) Fred Andrie, former host of WOSU's "Open Line"; Richard Herrmann, director of the Merston Center; Alam Payind, director of the Middle East Studies Center; John Mueller, Woody Hayes Chair of National Security Studies; and Peter Mansoor, Gen. Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair in Military History.

Jenkins, Meyer win NSF grant

Although the Middle East has only 5 percent of the world's population, it holds over a fifth of the earth's oil reserves, experiences over 30 percent of international terrorism, and is a major focus of global diplomacy.

The region contains some of the most autocratic governments, as well as a variety of political movements that use tactics that include delivery of social services, protests, terrorism and transnational advocacy to press for political change.

This year, Merston affiliates J. Craig Jenkins and Katherine

Meyer, both professors of sociology, have won a second three-year grant from the National Science Foundation

to study civil conflict in the Middle East.

They are part of a team that includes Hassan Aly in Economics,

the previous grant left off. In "Dissent-Repression Nexus in the Middle East," researchers examined the

cycle of protest and crackdown in Egypt, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Kuwait, and Turkey from 1990 to the present, treating each state as a single unit with a primary interest in internal order.

However, upon comparing notes, the research team found that several transnational processes posed significant challenges to each state and its regional order.

See **NSF grant** on back page



Jenkins



Meyer

Ola Ahlqvist in Geography, Helen Rizzo of American University in Cairo, and a dozen graduate and undergraduate student assistants at Ohio State.

Their grant for "Deciphering Civil Conflict in the Middle East" picks up where

Mershon Center for International Security Studies

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	JANUARY 4 <i>Winter quarter begins</i>	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 4 p.m., 155 Jennings Panel: Human Trafficking	13	14	15	16
17	18 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</i>	19	20 Noon, Mershon 120 Jeffrey Checkel	21	22 Noon, Mershon 120 Jeffrey Engel	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	FEBRUARY 1 Noon, Mershon 120 George Gavrilis	2	3	4 Noon, Mershon 120 Richard Ned Lebow	5 Time TBA Mershon 120 Tribute to Alex Stephan	6
7	8	9	10	11 Noon, Mershon 120 Amin Tarzi	12 3:30 p.m., Mershon 120 Lisa Martin	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 1 p.m., Mershon 120 Japanese Politics Symposium	20
21	22 Noon, Mershon 120 Jesse Crane-Seeber	23	24 Noon, Mershon 120 Mark Bradley	25 3:30 p.m., Saxbe Auditorium Jonathan Landay	26 Conference The Cold War in the Third World	27 Conference The Cold War in the Third World
28	MARCH 1	2	3	4 Conference Human Rights	5 Conference Human Rights	6
7	8	9 3:30 p.m., Mershon 120 James Holston	10	11	12 <i>Winter quarter ends</i>	13

Winter 2010 Calendar of Events



Lagon

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Trafficking and Civil Society: Denial, Distress, Danger

Panel featuring Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, Executive Director and CEO of the Polaris Project
4 p.m., 155 Jennings Hall



Martin

Friday, February 12, 2010

Lisa Martin

Professor of Political Science
University of Wisconsin-Madison
"International Institutions as Signaling Devices"
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120



Checkel

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Jeffrey Checkel

Simons Chair in International Law and Human Security, Simon Fraser University
"Causal Mechanisms and the (Transnational) Dynamics of Civil War"
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120



Crane-Seeber

Monday, February 22, 2010

Jesse Crane-Seeber

Post-Doctoral Fellow
International Graduate School of Social Sciences
University of Bremen
"Multiple Masculinities in U.S. Military Culture"
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120



Engel

Friday, January 22, 2010

Jeffrey Engel

Evelyn and Ed F. Kruse Faculty Fellow
Bush School of Government and Public Service
Texas A&M University
"1989 and the Key to the Present"
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120



Bradley

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mark Bradley

Professor of History and the College
University of Chicago
"The United States and the Global Human Rights Imagination"
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120



Gavrilis

Monday, February 1, 2010

George Gavrilis

Assistant Professor of Government
University of Texas-Austin
"State Failure and Regional Containment"
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120



Landay

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Jonathan Landay

Senior National Security and Intelligence Correspondent, McClatchy Newspapers
"The United States and Pakistan: An Inconvenient Alliance"
3:30 p.m., Saxbe Auditorium, Moritz College of Law



Lebow

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Richard Ned Lebow

James O. Freedman Presidential Professor of Government, Dartmouth University
"Why Do We Fight? Past and Future Motives for War"
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120



McMahon

Friday-Saturday, February 26-27, 2010

The Cold War in the Third World

Conference organized by Robert McMahon, Ralph D. Mershon Professor of History
Mershon Center Room 120



Tarzi

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Amin Tarzi

Director of Middle East Studies
Marine Corps University
"The Internal and Regional Dimensions of the Afghan Conflict"
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120



Holston

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

James Holston

Professor of Anthropology
University of California, Berkeley
"Right to the City, Right to Rights, and Insurgent Urban Citizenship"
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120

For more information and to reserve your spot, please see the Mershon Center web site at mershoncenter.osu.edu
Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201 (614) 292-1681

NSF grant

Continued from Page 1

Four processes that had the most effect, and which the team will study in the current grant, include:

- The dispersion of certain ethnic groups throughout the region, especially Palestinian and Kurdish refugees, which can be charted using geo-visual representations.
- The changing nature of rentier state economies, historically based on oil, to growth based on foreign aid, humanitarian assistance, international tourism, and more.
- The shift in political mobilization from local groups to transnational movements, facilitated by mass media and social networks.
- The reconfigured international alliances among nations brought about by the 1990-91 Gulf War.

Besides surveying and quantifying these transnational processes, the research team plans to use this information to explain and contextualize the cycles of civil protest and state violence discovered in their previous research. This will help them sort out how such processes were transformative agents of change in the Middle

Jenkins named fellow of AAAS

J. Craig Jenkins, chairman of the Department of Sociology, is one of 17 Ohio State faculty and staff members to be named a fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2009.

Ohio State had the largest contingent of AAAS fellows chosen from any one university this academic year, and consistently ranks among the top one or two in the country.

Jenkins was honored for distinguished contributions to understanding social protest, social movements, and nonprofit political advocacy, and early warning of political crises and humanitarian disasters.

Other Ohio State fellows include a physicist, geologist, neuroscientist, geneticist, mathematician, astronomer, geographer, science writer, and university president E. Gordon Gee.

East during the 1990s.

Anticipated products include:

- Unique data sets for economic measurement, demographic spatial development, and the growth of international communication and advocacy networks.
- Geo-visual presentations of Palestinian and Kurdish migrations and of the expansion of transnational networks during the 1990s.
- Workshops for students and professionals on the use of different methodologies, including the modeling of uncertainty in data.
- A website containing conceptual discussions, data sets and related codebooks, geo-spatial analyses,

maps and working papers.

- Four or five articles on methods and findings for publication in interdisciplinary scholarly journals.
- A monograph-length treatment of the transnational processes that set the context for conflict in the Middle East during the 1990s.

The book, tentatively titled *The Contested Middle East: Transnational Dynamics and Conflict During the 1990s*, will include chapters on methodology, why the Middle East is such a global hot spot, the four transformative processes, persistent conflict in Israel/Palestine and the Persian Gulf, politics in five territories, and the implications of the 1990s Middle East for today.