Office finds undergrads to help with research

While faculty in biology and chemistry hire plenty of undergraduates to work in their research labs, those in the social sciences and humanities can’t offer research opportunities so readily.

That’s where the Undergraduate Research Office comes in. The office can advertise research opportunities for faculty to students, and help match the right kind of student to each project.

About a third of the opportunities advertised are in the social sciences or humanities. Most do not pay, though the student can often get academic credit or present results at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.

Faculty seeking undergraduates to work on their projects can request help from the Undergraduate Research Office by filling out a form on its website. Faculty can specify the type of students they need, with criteria such as year, major, previous research experience, and grade point average.

For more information, see http://ugresearch.adm.ohio-state.edu.

Mershon Center welcomes new post-docs, visiting scholars

Three post-doctoral fellows and two visiting scholars will take up residence at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies this fall, joining two ongoing visitors. Anja Jetschke, Assistant Professor of International Relations at the University of Freiburg, will use her fellowship at the Mershon Center to work on her second book, Explaining Variation and Persistence: Asia’s Cultural Approach to International Cooperation.

The project explores how and why cultural preferences among Asian states appear consistently to lead to a less institutionalized form of international collaboration.

Jetschke argues that previous explanations of the Asian approach to international cooperation don’t take context into account, and she uses comparative case studies to explore areas such as economics, security and human rights.

Jetschke is also author of Arguing for Change: The Power and Effects of Transnational Public Spheres on Human Rights Practices in Indonesia and the Philippines, currently under review at Cornell University Press.

Andrew A.G. Ross, most recently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science and Government at the University of Puget Sound, will spend his time at the Mershon Center working on his book Economics of Affect: Memory, Emotion, and International Politics. The book puts forward a new perspective on passion in international politics, seeing it not as a psychological state but as emotion-laden environments, or “circulations of affect.” See Post-Docs on back page.
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**SEPTEMBER**

- **19**: Fall quarter begins

**OCTOBER**

- **1**: 12 p.m., Mershon 120, Thomas Homer-Dixon
- **2**: 12 p.m., Mershon 120, Strobe Talbott
- **3**: 12 p.m., Mershon 120, Maj. Gen. R. Mike Worden
- **4**: 12 p.m., Mershon 120, Erez Manela
- **5**: 12 p.m., Mershon 120, Andrew Ross
- **6**: 3:30 p.m., Mershon 120, Dennis Thompson
- **7**: 12 p.m., Mershon 120, Derek Penslar
- **8**: 3:30 p.m., Mershon 120, Birgit Brock-Utne
- **9**: 12 p.m., Mershon 120, Women in War Conference
- **10**: 12 p.m., Mershon 120, Women in War Conference
- **11**: 3:30 p.m., Mershon 120, Anja Jetschke
- **12**: 3:30 p.m., Mershon 120, Thanksgiving Break
- **13**: 3:30 p.m., Mershon 120, Thanksgiving Break

For more information and to reserve your spot, please see the Mershon Center website at [http://mershoncenter.osu.edu](http://mershoncenter.osu.edu)

Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201, (614) 292-1681
Fall 2007 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007

**Thomas Homer-Dixon**  
Director, Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Toronto  
“A Theory of Societal Collapse: Convergent Shocks, Thermodynamic Disequilibrium, and Britteness”  
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

**Thomas Homer-Dixon**

Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007

**Maj. Gen. R. Mike Worden**  
Commander, U.S. Air Force Warfare Center, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada  
“Strategy, Military Transformation, and the Role of Air Power”  
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

**Maj. Gen. R. Mike Worden**

Friday, Oct. 5, 2007

**Erez Manela**  
Dunwalke Associate Professor of American History, Harvard University  
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

**Erez Manela**

Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2007

**Strobe Talbott**  
President of the Brookings Institution  
“The Election of the Century: The American Presidency and the World”  
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

**Strobe Talbott**

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 26-27, 2007

**Women in War International Conference**  
Yana Hashamova, The Ohio State University  
Helene Goscilo, University of Pittsburgh  
Mershon Center Room 120  
This two-part conference explores the role of women in war from World War II to the present. It focuses geographically on Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and the Soviet Union, and the Balkans; and historically on World War II, the wars in Afghanistan (1979-1989) and secessionist Chechnya (1994-96, 1999-present), and the Bosnia/Croatia/Serbia war (1992-95). The first part of the conference, held at University of Pittsburgh, dealt mainly with World War II, while the second part, at The Ohio State University, will emphasize more recent military conflicts (Afghanistan, Chechnya, and the Balkans).

**Yana Hashamova**  
**Helene Goscilo**

Friday, Nov. 9, 2007

**Dennis Thompson**  
Alfred North Whitehead Professor of Political Philosophy, Harvard University  
“Deliberative Democracy”  
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120

**Dennis Thompson**

Monday, Nov. 5, 2007

**Derek Penslar**  
Director of the Jewish Studies Program, University of Toronto  
“When May We Kill our Brethren? Jews at War in Europe, 1848-1918”  
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

**Derek Penslar**

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2007

**Birgit Brock-Utne**  
Director of Comparative and International Education, University of Oslo  
“Women Protesting Against War, Writing and Acting for Peace”  
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120

**Birgit Brock-Utne**

For more information and to reserve your spot, please see the Mershon Center website at [http://mershoncenter.osu.edu](http://mershoncenter.osu.edu)

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Post-Docs

Continued from Page 1

Ross explores these circulations of affect in three areas: ethnic conflict and nationalism in Rwanda and Yugoslavia; institutions concerned with justice after a conflict, such as war-crimes trials and truth commissions; and public responses to terrorism after 9/11.

While at the Mershon Center, Zachary Zwald, who just earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley, will work on turning his dissertation into a book. The project, Solving an Imaginary Problem: Why ‘Should’ Determines ‘Can’ on U.S. National Missile Defense, argues that because policymakers lack experience with nuclear conflict, they fall back on one of two belief systems: that nuclear weapons assure mutual vulnerability and should be used only for arms control, or that nuclear weapons create a technological edge and should be used for fighting wars.

Zwald will examine the role of these belief systems in two key debates: first, whether the balance between offensive and defensive weapons affects the likelihood of military attack, and second, whether the nuclear revolution makes the balance between offensive and defensive weapons moot.

He will also explore whether the uncertainty about nuclear conflict leads policymakers in the Middle East, Indian subcontinent, and East Asia to invoke the same arms control and war fighting beliefs as those in the United States. Myon Woo Lee, Senior Research Fellow at the Sejong Institutes in South Korea, is a visiting scholar working on two projects. The first compares the leadership of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun. It uses statistical analysis and newspaper reports to explore why Koizumi enjoyed immense popularity while Roh did not. Lee’s second project examines conservative politicians in Japan such as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who denied that the military forced women into sexual slavery during World War II. Visiting scholar Saiful Mujani is founder of the Lemnaga Survei Indonesia, the premier survey institute in that country, as well as Director of Political Studies of the Freedom Institute, and Associate Professor of Political Studies at the Universitas Islam Negeri, Jakarta.

Mujani has been principal investigator in mass opinion surveys on voting behavior, religion, democracy, and public policy in Indonesia since 1999. While at the Mershon Center, he will work with Professor Bill Liddle on projects about democratic culture and political participation, leadership and party choice, religion and voting behavior, and consolidating Indonesian democracy.

Jetschke, Ross, Zwald, Lee and Mujani join ongoing visitors, CIA Officer in Residence Anita Bucknam, and Peace Studies Coordinator Julie Clemens.