

A high-angle photograph of a modern building lobby. A large, illuminated chandelier made of many thin, vertical rods with small lights hangs from the ceiling. The lobby has a dark carpet and large windows on the right side. There are several black leather armchairs and a coffee table in the seating area. A potted plant is visible near the windows. The overall atmosphere is bright and modern.

# Mershon Center for International Security Studies

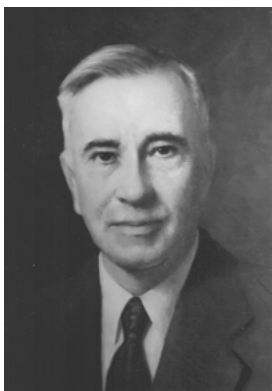
**2014-15  
Annual Report**



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



# About the Center



Ralph D. Mershon

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies is the fulfillment of a bequest by Colonel Ralph D. Mershon to The Ohio State University for the civilian study of national security and principles of good citizenship.

Ralph D. Mershon was a man of action in public life. He organized the American engineers for service in World War I and led a public effort to create legislation that was the forerunner of the Reserve Officer Training Corps in the United States. He was also a contemplative and inventive person who held a number of important patents for his work in electrical engineering. Col. Mershon died February 14, 1952, and is buried in Zanesville, Ohio.

The mission of the Mershon Center is to advance the scholarly study and intellectual understanding of national security in a global context. The center encourages collaborative, interdisciplinary research projects within the university and with other institutions around the world. It also hosts visiting scholars and supports student research.

The Mershon Center also sponsors numerous conferences, symposia, and workshops that bring together scholars, government officials, and business leaders from around the world to discuss the latest research in national and international security affairs. Besides the Mershon endowment, the center is supported by community gifts and grant money.

## By the Numbers

### General

Number of faculty research projects supported:	<b>12</b>
Number of student travel and research grants awarded:	<b>22</b>
Number of study abroad scholarships awarded:	<b>10</b>
Number of departments whose faculty and students were supported:	<b>20</b>

### Events

Number of speaker/panel events held:	<b>53</b>
Number of conferences/workshops sponsored:	<b>8</b>
Total number of attendees:	<b>2,859</b>
Average number of people per event:	<b>47</b>
Number of collaborating colleges, departments and units:	<b>20</b>
Number of colleges, departments and units reached:	<b>48</b>

### Faculty

Number of books published:	<b>28</b>
Number of articles published:	<b>356</b>
Number of journal issues edited:	<b>12</b>
Number of times quoted or cited in the media:	<b>491</b>

### Students

Number of graduate students at events:	<b>658</b>
Number of research assistantships supported (25 percent each):	<b>4</b>
Number of undergraduates at events:	<b>686</b>
Number of undergraduate student employees:	<b>4</b>

### Website

Average number of unique visitors per month:	<b>1,624</b>
Average number of visits per month:	<b>1,794</b>
Average number of page views per month:	<b>2,924</b>
Number of countries in which website was viewed:	<b>132</b>

### Online Archives

Number of streaming video views:	<b>2,256</b>
Number of unique visitors who viewed streaming videos:	<b>277</b>
Number of countries in which streaming videos were viewed:	<b>19</b>
Number of podcasts downloaded:	<b>159,933</b>
Number of people who downloaded podcasts:	<b>360</b>

# Highlights



Alexander Wendt

## Wendt publishes 'Quantum Mind and Social Science'

Alexander Wendt, Ralph D. Mershon Professor of International Security, is best known for his seminal work *Social Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge, 1999). Winner of Best Book of the Decade Award from the International Studies Association, the book brought

the constructivist school of thought into the field of international relations.

Now, more than 15 years later, Wendt has published *Quantum Mind and Social Science: Unifying Physical and Social Ontology* (Cambridge, 2015). In this ground-breaking book, Wendt explores the idea that consciousness and social life grow out of quantum mechanics rather than classical and material physics.

The result is a revolutionary hypothesis that raises fundamental questions about the nature of social life and the work of those who study it.



Randall Schweller

## 'Security Studies' comes to Mershon

*Security Studies*, a top 25 journal in international relations, landed at the Mershon Center in 2014 under the editorship of Randall Schweller, professor of political science.

*Security Studies* publishes innovative scholarly manuscripts

that make a significant contribution to our understanding of international security. Articles develop, test and debate theories of international security while emphasizing the causes and consequences of war or sources and conditions of peace. The journal challenges conventional wisdom in international security studies.

The journal's managing editor is Marina Duque, doctoral student in political science.

## 'Good Fences, Bad Neighbors' wins Furniss Award

Boaz Atzili, associate professor in the School of International Service at American University, won the Mershon Center's Edgar S. Furniss Book Award for *Good Fences, Bad Neighbors: Border Fixity and International Conflict* (Chicago, 2012).

In the book, Atzili argues that external territorial pressures and competition influence the process of state building. Strong states evolve where border fixity is weak, while weak states survive where border fixity is strong, making internal conflict and interstate war more likely.

The Furniss Award commemorates the center's founding director and is given each year to an author whose first book makes an exceptional contribution to the study of national and international security.

## Mershon faculty honors

Mershon Center faculty won a bevy of honors and awards in 2014-15. Among them:

- Sarah Brooks, associate professor of political science, won a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research in South Africa.
- J. Craig Jenkins, past director of the Mershon Center, was a finalist in the Global Resilience Challenge for his project "Climate Change Challenges and Community Adaption in Coastal Bangladesh."
- Hollie Nyseth Brehm, assistant professor of sociology, was named one of the 30 Top Thinkers Under 30 by *Pacific Standard* magazine.
- Geoffrey Parker, Andreas Dorpalen Professor of History, won the British Academy Medal for his book *Global Crisis: War, Climate, and Catastrophe in the 17th Century*.
- Amy Shuman, professor of English, won Ohio State's 2015 Distinguished Scholar Award.
- Daniel Sui, professor of geography, was named a 2015 public policy scholar by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.



Sarah Brooks



Geoffrey Parker

## National security simulation

Peter Mansoor (left), Gen. Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair in Military History, received a briefing while playing the role of president of the United States in the National Security Law and Process Simulation organized by Dakota Rudesill, assistant professor of law.



Boaz Atzili (left), holds the Furniss Book Award with Mershon Center Director Craig Jenkins.

# Faculty Research Projects



Robert Bond



Erik Nisbet

## Democratic Mobilization in an Islamic Democracy: Social Media and the 2015 Turkish Election

**Robert Bond** and **Erik Nisbet**, Communication

In this project, Bond and Nisbet examine how the internet use and social media are associated with socializing citizens into democratic values, providing alternative sources of expression and information, allowing more accurate evaluations of elections and governing regimes, and acting as a resource for mobilization within the emerging Islamic democracy of Turkey.



Rachel Bowen

## Gender-Based Violence and Public Security in Latin America

**Rachel Bowen**, Political Science

Crime rates across Central America have skyrocketed in recent years, especially crimes related to drug trafficking and street gangs. Lost in the policy debate is the victimization of women. In this project, Bowen assesses responses to gender-based violence in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, comparing the levels and types of crime as well as policing strategies.



Christopher Gelpi



John Carlarne

## Training to Talk Peace: An Experimental Analysis of Non-Violent Communication Workshops

**Christopher Gelpi**, Chair of Peace Studies, and **John Carlarne**, Peace Studies Coordinator

In this project, Gelpi and Carlarne are running a series of experiments to examine the effects of non-violence training on identities, cosmopolitan beliefs, and communication techniques. Tests will compare results from Ohio State students and diaspora communities in Columbus.



Richard Gunther



Paul Beck

## Consolidating and Institutionalizing the Comparative National Elections Project

**Richard Gunther** and **Paul Beck**, Political Science

The Comparative National Election Project is a partnership among scholars who have conducted election surveys across the democratic world. Founded in the late 1980s, it now includes 41 surveys from 1990 to 2015 in 24 countries on five continents. This year, Gunther and Beck brought the project website to the Mershon Center, where it hosts datasets and publications.



J. Craig Jenkins

## Climate Change Challenges and Community Adaption in Coastal Bangladesh

**J. Craig Jenkins**, Sociology, and **C.K. Shum**, Earth Sciences

Jenkins and Shum are studying the effects of flooding in coastal Bangladesh, home to 60 million people, a third of whom live in poverty. The area is highly vulnerable to monsoonal flooding, salt water intrusion, drought, severe river erosion, sea level rise, and land subsidence. The team is working with the Belmont Forum's Band-AID project to measure flooding and land subsidence using satellite data. The goal is to establish a local Water Resources Center.



For full research project descriptions, please visit [mershoncenter.osu.edu](http://mershoncenter.osu.edu)



Marcus Kurtz

### **Property Rights, Political Conflict, and Economic Development**

**Marcus Kurtz**, Political Science

Property rights are generally seen as a necessary condition for economic development and domestic security. But what if this assumption is not true? Kurtz tests this by examining the relationship between property rights and political and economic outcomes in Germany, Chile, South Africa, and Argentina. Preliminary evidence indicates that strong property rights may be the result of political stability and economic development, rather than the cause.



Hollie Nyseth Brehm

### **Genocide, Justice, and Rwanda's Gacaca Courts**

**Hollie Nyseth Brehm**, Sociology, and **Christopher Uggen**, University of Minnesota

More than 1 million people were killed in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, with another 1 million implicated as perpetrators. In response, the government of Rwanda created "gacaca" courts, a community-based system of justice modified to address crimes of genocide. In this project, Brehm and Uggen are putting together a database of all 1.96 million gacaca cases, analyzing a sample of 150 case files, and interviewing judges, defendants, and witnesses.



Jennifer Siegel

### **The Diplomacy of the First World War**

**Jennifer Siegel**, History

In this book project, Siegel examines diplomacy during World War I from the perspective of all key combatant and neutral powers. She finds that challenges in working with allies and preventing neutral parties from becoming enemies led to a series of conflicting agreements that influenced the peace agreement and the entire interwar period until World War II.



Kazimierz Slomczynski

### **When and How State Responses to Contention Generate New Waves of Protests**

**Kazimierz Slomczynski**, Sociology

In this project, Slomczynski is integrating a series of cross-national surveys to study the relationship between democracy and political protest using a theoretical model of micro- and country-level determinants. His hypothesis is that participation in protest is a function of the citizen's democratic values, trust in public institutions, and socio-demographics, and the country's economic development, democratic practices, and mobilization resources.



Alexander Thompson

### **The Politics of Climate Finance: Bridging the North-South Divide**

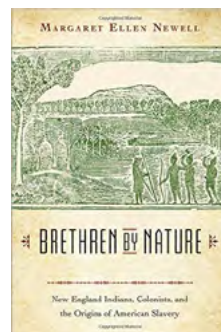
**Alexander Thompson**, Political Science

One of the most contentious issues in the annual United Nations climate conference is costs. Industrialized countries have agreed to provide substantial financing to help developing countries lower emissions, adapt to the effects of climate change, and develop clean energy technology. In this project, Thompson is examining the politics of international cooperation over climate finance, with a goal of diagnosing key obstacles and finding potential solutions.

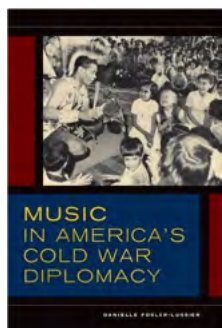
# Featured Books



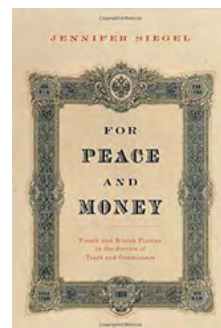
**Thomas Davis**  
Associate Professor of English  
*The Extinct Scene: Late Modernism and Everyday Life*  
(Columbia University Press, 2015)



**Margaret Newell**  
Professor of History  
*Brethren by Nature: New England Indians, Colonists, and the Origins of American Slavery*  
(Cornell University Press, 2015)



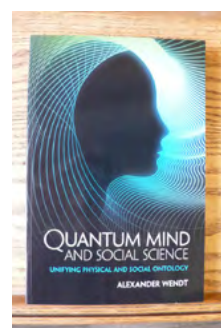
**Danielle Fossler-Lussier**  
Associate Professor of Music  
*Music in America's Cold War Diplomacy*  
(University of California Press, 2015)



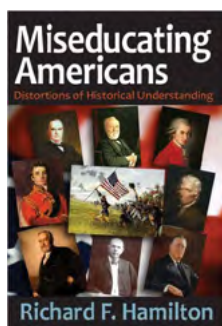
**Jennifer Siegel**  
Associate Professor of History  
*For Peace and Money: French and British Finance in the Service of Tsars and Commissars*  
(Oxford University Press, 2014)



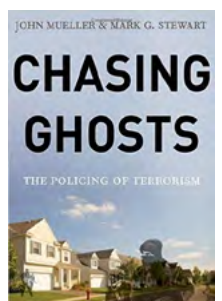
**Richard Gunther**  
Professor Emeritus of Political Science, and **Paul Beck**, Social and Behavioral Sciences Distinguished Professor Emeritus  
*Voting in Old and New Democracies*, edited with **Pedro Magalhães** and **Alejandro Moreno**  
(Routledge, 2015).



**Alexander Wendt**  
Ralph D. Mershon Professor of National Security  
*Quantum Mind and Social Science: Unifying Physical and Social Ontology*  
(Cambridge University Press, 2015)



**Richard Hamilton**  
Professor Emeritus of Sociology  
*Miseducating Americans: Distortions of Historical Understanding*  
(Transaction, 2014)



**John Mueller**  
Senior Research Scientist, and **Mark Stewart**, Visiting Scholar  
*Chasing Ghosts: The Costly Quest to Counter Terrorists in the United States*  
(Oxford University Press, 2015)

## Journals

**Randall Schweller**  
Professor of Political Science  
*Security Studies* (Taylor & Francis)

**Alexander Wendt**  
Ralph D. Mershon Professor of National Security  
*International Theory* (Cambridge)

**Mitchell Lerner**  
Associate Professor of History  
*Passport* (Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations)



# Featured Events



Emma Sky served in Iraq as political advisor to Gen. Ray Odierno from 2007 to 2010, and as governorate coordinator of Kirkuk for the Coalition Provisional Authority from 2003 to 2004.

**September 11, 2014**

**Emma Sky**, Senior Fellow, Jackson Institute for Global Fellows, Yale University

**Peter Mansoor**, Gen. Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair in Military History

**“The Crisis in Iraq: Causes, Consequences, and Options Going Forward”**

**September 18, 2014**

**Eldar Shafir**, William Stewart Tod Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs, Princeton University

**“The Scarcity Mindset and its Consequences”**

**October 16, 2014**

**Climate Change and National Security**

**Rear Admiral Jonathan White**, Oceanographer U.S. Navy

**Michael Breen**, Truman National Security Project

**Ellen Mosley-Thompson**, Byrd Polar Research Center

**Alexander Thompson**, Mershon Center for International Security Studies

Moderator: **Ann Fisher**, WOSU Public Media

**November 14, 2014**

**Mark Lawrence**, Distinguished Scholar, Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law, University of Texas at Austin

**“The Uses of Vietnam War: U.S. Policy and the Vietnam Analogy”**

**January 21, 2015**

**Sara Mitchell**, Professor of Political Science, University of Iowa

**“Cross Border Troubles? Interstate River Conflicts and Intrastate Violence”**

**January 28, 2015**

**Ian Hurd**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Northwestern University

**“The Politics of the International Rule of Law”**



Ian Hurd's book *After Anarchy: Legitimacy and Power in the UN Security Council* (2007) won the Chadwick Alger Award from the International Studies Association.

**February 16, 2016**

**Nils Petter Gleditsch**, Research Professor, Peace Research Institute Oslo

**“Climate Change: A Threat to the Waning of War”**

**March 11, 2015**

**Richard Zeckhauser**, Frank P. Ramsey Professor of Political Economy, Harvard University

**“The Wisdom of Crowds and the Stupidity of Herds”**

**April 2, 2015**

**Michael Hechter**, Professor of Politics and Global Studies, Arizona State University

**“Legitimizing Alien Rule”**

**April 15, 2015**

**Sarah Kreps**, Associate Professor, Cornell University

**“Mechanisms of Morality: Why the U.S. Public Supports Humanitarian Interventions”**

**April 30, 2015**

**Hal Brands**, Assistant Professor, Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University

**“Making the Unipolar Moment: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Rise of the Post-Cold War Order”**

**May 1, 2015**

**Sarah C.M. Paine**, William S. Sims Professor, U.S. Naval War College

**“China Between Continental and Maritime Global Orders”**



Eldar Shafir was a member of President Obama's Advisory Council on Financial Capability. He is co-founder and scientific director at ideas42, a social science R&D lab.



Sara Mitchell is co-director of the Issue Correlates of War Project and co-founder of Journeys in World Politics, a mentoring workshop for women in international relations.



Michael Hechter (left) was the graduate school advisor for William Brustein (right), vice provost for global strategies and international affairs.



Sarah C.M. Paine gave the Sean Judge Memorial Keynote Address at the Mershon Center's biennial graduate student conference, *Military Frontiers*.

The Climate Change and National Security panel was co-sponsored by the Mershon Center and Byrd Polar Research Center at Ohio State.







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