



Mershon Center for International Security Studies

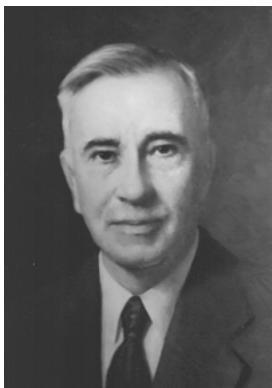
2016-17 Annual Report



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

MERSHON CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY STUDIES

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: **19**

Number of student research grants awarded: **19**

Number of study abroad scholarships awarded: **9**

Number of departments with faculty and students supported: **14**

Events

Number of speaker/panel events sponsored: **33**

Number of conferences/workshops sponsored: **11**

Total number of attendees: **4,065**

Average number of people per event: **92**

Number of collaborating colleges, departments and units: **37**

Number of collaborating outside organizations: **18**

Number of colleges, departments and units reached: **66**

Faculty

Number of books published: **30**

Number of articles published: **449**

Number of journal issues edited: **9**

Number of theatrical performances: **14**

Number of times quoted or cited in the media: **279**

Number of times quoted or cited on social media: **216**

Students

Number of graduate students at events: **894**

Number of undergraduates at events: **1240**

Number of undergraduate student employees: **4**

Website

Number of unique visitors: **18,026**

Number of visits: **27,585**

Number of page views: **71,685**

Number of countries in which website was viewed: **141**



Christopher Gelpi

Gelpi takes leadership of Mershon Center

Christopher Gelpi, professor in the Department of Political Science, has been named director of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies at The Ohio State University effective January 1, 2018, to June 30, 2022.

"I am so pleased and honored to be able to serve as the next director of the Mershon Center," said Gelpi, whose primary research interests include the sources of international military conflict, strategies for conflict resolution and American public opinion on foreign policy issues.

He is currently studying public sentiment surrounding the use of military force and working on experimental methods for the study of war and crisis bargaining.

Gelpi is author of *The Power of Legitimacy: The Role of Norms in Crisis Bargaining* (Princeton, 2002) and co-author of *Choosing Your Battles: American Civil-Military Relations and the Use of Force* (Princeton, 2004) and *Paying the Human Costs of War: American Public Opinion and Casualties in Military Conflicts* (Princeton, 2009).

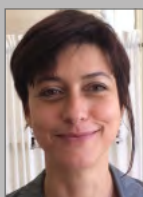
He will also remain as Chair of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution through August 14, 2023.



Craig Jenkins



Kazimierz Slomczynski



Irina Tomescu-Dubrow



Erik Nisbet

Mershon faculty win NSF awards

Craig Jenkins, professor emeritus of sociology, along with **Kazimierz Slomczynski**, professor emeritus of sociology, and **Irina Tomescu-Dubrow**, visiting scholar in sociology, received a four-year, \$1.4 million award from the National Science Foundation for the project, "Survey Data Recycling: New Analytic Framework, Integrated Database and Tools for Cross-National Social, Behavioral and Economic Research," starting September 1, 2017.

The award will support the development of a harmonized database derived from more than 3,000 national surveys administered over five decades to 3.5 million respondents from 150 countries. The project examines how the discrepancy between democratic values of individuals and democratic practices in countries affects protest behavior. Additional researchers include Spyros Blanas and Han-Wei Shen from Computer Science and Engineering.



Paul Beck



Richard Gunther



Anthony Mughan



Efe Tokdemir



Kateřina Vráblíková

The award grew out of a conference held at the Mershon Center in May that examined the relationship between protest and democracy with an emphasis on measurement and methodology.

Comparative elections

Also in 2017, four Mershon faculty affiliates received a \$54,000 grant from the Directorate of Political Science in the National Science Foundation to conduct a post-election survey of the British electorate as part of a study comparing 2016 and 2017 elections in Britain, France, Germany, the United States, and earlier studies of four countries in Southern Europe.

Principal investigators on the project include **Erik Nisbet**, associate professor of communication; **Paul Beck**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Social and Behavioral Sciences; **Richard Gunther**, professor emeritus of political science, and **Anthony Mughan**, director of the International Studies Program.

Drawing from the same questionnaire used for 49 post-election surveys in 27 countries over the past three decades, the study will allow researchers to do a systematic comparative analysis of voting behavior across eight western democracies, at least three of which have undergone substantial party-system realignment in recent years.

Tokdemir, Vráblíková join Mershon as visiting scholars

The Mershon Center welcomed two visiting scholars this year, **Efe Tokdemir**, a postdoctoral fellow with International Studies Association, and **Kateřina Vráblíková**, a research fellow with Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

Tokdemir's research examines how state and non-state actors strategically develop policies in relation to their audience in order to achieve their goals, and how individuals respond to these policies in return. During his time at Mershon, he worked on projects examining causes and consequences of non-violent strategies of both state and non-state actors at the micro-level.

Vráblíková worked on a project called "Protest, Hardship, and Democracy" that deals with the role of socioeconomic hardship for people's participation at protest. It focuses on the interaction among individual-level deprivation, macro-structural socio-economic scarcity and politicization of the crisis that opens political space for mobilization of collective grievances.

Faculty Honors and Awards

Mershon Center faculty continued to receive honors and awards in 2016-17. Among them:

Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Vernal Riffe Professor of Political Science and divisional dean for social and behavioral sciences, and **Geoffrey Parker**, Andreas Dorpalen Professor of History, were elected to the American Academy



Janet Box-Steffensmeier



Geoffrey Parker

of Arts and Sciences.

Peter Hahn, professor of history and divisional dean for the arts and humanities,

was honored by the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations with its

first Distinguished Service Award.

Margaret Newell, professor and vice chair at the Department of History, received two awards for her Mershon-supported book *Brethren By Nature: New*



Peter Hahn



Margaret Newell

2016 James A. Rawley Prize from the Organization of American Historians and the 2016 Peter J. Gomes Memorial Prize from

England Indians, Colonists, and the Origins of American Slavery (Cornell, 2015): the

the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Hollie Nyseth Brehm, assistant professor of sociology, was selected by the International Association of Genocide Scholars for its Emerging Scholar Prize.



Hollie Nyseth Brehm



Larry Diamond, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, gave the Joseph J. Kruzal Memorial Lecture on "The Crisis of Liberal Democracy" on April 10, 2017, at the Mershon Center.

Diamond gives Kruzal Lecture

Larry Diamond, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University, gave last year's Joseph J. Kruzal Memorial Lecture about "The Crisis of Liberal Democracy" on April 10, 2017.

His lecture reviewed trends in freedom and democracy over the last decade, including the rise of right-wing, nativist movements and candidates in Europe and the United States, then explained why liberal democracy is now in danger in the one place it was presumed to be stable: the West.

Diamond directs the Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law at Stanford, is founding co-editor of the *Journal of Democracy*, and serves as senior consultant at the International Forum for Democratic Studies of the National Endowment for Democracy.

Kruzal, an Ohio State faculty member in political science, was killed in Sarajevo, Bosnia, in 1995 while serving as deputy assistant secretary of defense for European and NATO affairs.

Petraeus lectures in New Albany

Gen. David Petraeus visited Central Ohio to speak to area high school students as part of the Jefferson Series, organized by the New Albany Community Foundation.

A four-star general who served more than 37 years in the U.S. Army, Petraeus was commander during the 2007 "surge" in Iraq, where he had previously led the Multi-National Security Transition Command, overseeing efforts to train and equip Iraqi security forces.

Petraeus later served as commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan and director of the Central Intelligence Agency. He was interviewed by **Peter Mansoor**, Gen. Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair of Military History, who served as executive officer to Petraeus during the surge.



Gen. David Petraeus (left) spoke in New Albany, Ohio, with Peter Mansoor on April 26, 2017.



Richard Gunther

Comparative National Elections Project

Richard Gunther, Paul Beck and R. William Liddle, Political Science, and **William "Chip" Eveland and Erik Nisbet**, Communication

Founded in the late 1980s, the Comparative National Election Project is a partnership among scholars who have conducted 52 election surveys in 27 countries. During 2016-17, CNEP held its annual conference at the Mershon Center and conducted eight new surveys in Chile, France, Germany, Great Britain, Iran, Russia, Taiwan, and the United States.



Paul Beck

Markets, Conflict, and Law: Multinational Supermarkets in Indian Food Supply Chains

Amy Cohen, Law



Amy Cohen

Supermarkets wield tremendous control over global food systems, but India was an exception until 2012 when the government liberalized investment laws, allowing multinational supermarkets to enter the food market. Cohen is studying the role of contract farming in the attempt to transform food supply chains from fragmented networks of small farmers and traders that end at the local bazaar, to highly centralized networks that end in the modern supermarket.



Craig Jenkins

Disaster Refugees and Flood Early Warning in Bangladesh

Craig Jenkins, Sociology, C.K. Shum, Earth Sciences, and Joyce Chen, Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics



C.K. Shum

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, with more than 150 million people subject to floods, droughts, and storms. Jenkins, Shum and Chen are piloting a flood and drought early warning system in three regions of the country to help people adapt and plan for extreme weather events so they can stay in place rather than flee the country.



Joyce Chen

The Psychological Effect of Motion on Conflict Resolution

Lisa Libby and Micah Goldfarb, Psychology



Lisa Libby

Through a series of experiments, Libby and Goldfarb found that people who experience motion of the self through the environment (e.g., walking through an airport terminal), as opposed to motion of objects in the environment toward the self (e.g., waiting for luggage at a baggage carousel), perceive themselves as more responsible for interpersonal outcomes. Applied to conflict resolution, individuals may be more likely to accept collective responsibility for their group's negative actions in intergroup conflict, and therefore more open to reconciliation.

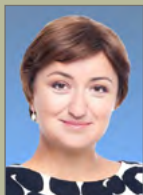


Erik Nisbet

Political Communication Patterns in the 2016 Russian Parliamentary Campaign

Erik Nisbet and Olga Kamenchuk, Communication

Nisbet and Kamenchuk are using a survey of 1,600 households in Russia just after the 2016 parliamentary elections to explore foreign policy preferences of the Russian public, how foreign policy preferences are associated with candidate and party preferences, and the Russian public's views of the United States. Their study focuses on mediated information flows, online behavior and social networks, political identity, democratic values, and Russian nationalist identity.



Olga Kamenchuk

Politicizing Ethnicity: Mechanisms of Ethnic Violence in Malawi

Amanda Robinson, Political Science

Research suggests that ethnic groups are constructed and mobilized in response to political incentives of elites. But how do elite efforts lead to lasting shifts in ethnic identification among ordinary people? Robinson sets out to answer this question through a study of the Lomwe ethnic group in Malawi, including an original survey and interviews with three groups of elite actors.



Amanda Robinson



Dakota Rudesill

The Ohio State University National Security Simulation

Dakota Rudesill, Law

In this two-day immersive national security simulation, students in law, public administration, international studies, and communication stepped into the shoes of lawyers, policymakers, intelligence analysts, and reporters to deal with a series of realistic national security crises ripped from the headlines. Keynote participants included former Sen. Kent Conrad (D-N.D.) and Chief Judge Colleen McMahon, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.



Eric Schoon

Rethinking the Prediction of Rare Events

Eric Schoon and David Melamed, Sociology

Schoon and Melamed are creating a new multimethod approach to analyzing rare events, and applying it to adoption of radiological or nuclear weapons by violent non-state actors. By first ruling out non-state actors that won't acquire nuclear weapons, then examining what those that might have in common, the researchers hope to better predict this rare occurrence.



David Melamed



Amy Shuman

Research on Human Rights

Amy Shuman and Wendy S. Hesford, English

Shuman and Hesford took a team of undergraduates to the Columbia University Human Rights Archives, where they learned how archival materials are collected, processed, and catalogued, and conducted research on migration, political asylum, and human trafficking. Their examination of archival documents focused on the affective, relational, and structuring logics of human trafficking and terrorism by examining news coverage of conflicts in the rise of the Islamic State.



Wendy S. Hesford

The Diplomacy of the First World War

Jennifer Siegel, History

Siegel is examining diplomacy during World War I from the perspective of 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 shaped the peace agreement of 1919, setting up the global framework for the interwar period until World War II.



Jennifer Siegel

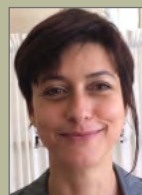


Kazimierz Slomczynski

State Responses to Contention and New Waves of Protest

Kazimierz Slomczynski and Craig Jenkins, Sociology, and **Irina Tomescu-Dubrow**, Cross-National Studies: Interdisciplinary Research and Training Program (CONSIRT)

Slomczynski, Jenkins and Tomescu-Dubrow are leading a project to integrate data from more than 1,700 national surveys that include 2.3 million respondents from 142 countries into one dataset, Surveys on Protest Behavior. Research will focus on how the discrepancy between democratic values of individuals and democratic practices in countries affects protest behavior. The project received a four-year, \$1.4 million award from the National Science Foundation.



Irina Tomescu-Dubrow

Alternative Cosmopolitanisms: Lessons from Cold War Black Anti-Colonial Transnationalism

Inés Valdez, Political Science

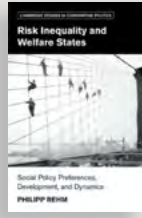
Valdez puts forward a novel notion of cosmopolitanism through a joint reading of Immanuel Kant and W.E.B. Du Bois. First, she argues Kant's framework is compromised by its Eurocentric critique of colonialism. Then, through the writings of Du Bois, she theorizes an alternative internationalism characterized by transnational activity that connected oppressed groups in the West and non-West, putting the fight against racism into the context of anti-colonialism.



Inés Valdez



The Achilles Heel of Democracy: Judicial Autonomy and the Rule of Law in Central America
Rachel Bowen
 Associate Professor of Political Science
 (Cambridge University Press, 2017)



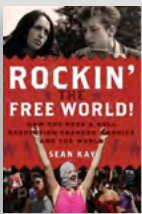
Risk Inequality and Welfare States: Social Policy Preferences, Development, and Dynamics
Philipp Rehm
 Associate Professor of Political Science
 (Cambridge University Press, 2016)



Les Américains dans la Grande Guerre [The Great War and the American Experience]
Bruno Cabanes
 Donald G. and Mary A. Dunn Chair in Modern Military History
 (Éditions Gallimard, 2017)



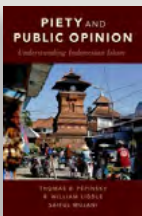
Democratic Values and Protest Behavior: Harmonization of Data from International Survey Projects
Kazimierz M. Slomczynski, Irina Tomescu-Dubrow, and J. Craig Jenkins
 Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Visiting Scholar, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, (IFIS Publishers, 2016)



Rockin' the Free World! How the Rock and Roll Revolution Changed America and the World
Sean Kay
 Mershon Associate
 (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017)



The Power and Politics of Art in Post-Revolutionary Mexico
Stephanie Smith
 Associate Professor of History
 (University of North Carolina Press, 2017)



Piety and Public Opinion: Understanding Islam and Political Behavior
R. William Liddle
 Professor Emeritus of Political Science with Thomas Pepinsky and Saiful Mujani
 (Oxford University Press, 2017)



Museum Rhetoric: Building Civic Identity in National Spaces
Elizabeth Weiser
 Associate Professor of English
 (Penn State University Press, 2017)

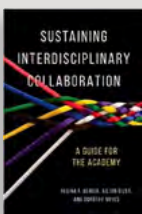


Are We Safe Enough? Measuring and Assessing Aviation Security
Mark Stewart and John Mueller
 Visiting Scholar and Woody Hayes Senior Research Scientist
 (Elsevier, 2017)



Featured Journals

Security Studies
Randall Schweller
 Professor of Political Science
 Editor-in-Chief
 (Taylor & Francis)



Sustaining Interdisciplinary Collaboration: A Guide for the Academy
Dorothy Noyes
 Professor of English and Comparative Studies with Regina Bendix and Kilian Bizer
 (University of Illinois Press, 2017)



International Theory
Alexander Wendt
 Ralph D. Mershon Professor of International Security
 Co-editor
 (Cambridge)

"They Are Among Us: Gezi Martyrs, Affective Incarnation, and Resistance in Contemporary Turkey"
Christiane Gruber, University of Michigan
September 12, 2016

Comparative National Elections Project "Media's Role in Elections: International Perspectives"

Erik Nisbet, School of Communication
Pedro Magalhães, University of Lisbon, Portugal
Alejandro Moreno, Autonomous Technological Institute, Mexico
Robert Mattes, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Olga Kamenchuk, Russian Public Opinion Research Center, Moscow
Thorsten Faas, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany
October 3, 2016



Participants in the Comparative National Elections Project panel discussed the role of news media in elections in several countries.

U.S. National World War I Centennial Symposium
 Organized by **Peter Mansoor**, Gen. Raymond E. Mason Chair in Military History
 Keynote by Sir Hew Strachan, University of St Andrews
October 27, 2016



Sir Hew Strachan, Professor of International Relations at University of St Andrews, gave the keynote address at the World War I Centennial Symposium.

"Ruling the Market: Economic Geography, Electoral Institutions, and Redistribution"
Stephanie Rickard, London School of Economics
November 8, 2016



Stephanie Rickard (left), associate professor at London School of Economics, was invited by Sarah Brooks and Alex Thompson, both associate professors of political science.



“A National Security Conversation”
The Hon. **Eric Fanning**, 22nd Secretary of the Army
January 11, 2017

Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning (right) met with Ohio State University President Dr. Michael V. Drake. (Photo by Kevin Fitzsimons)



Students (left to right) Caleb Naugle, Elizabeth Girvin and Kahla Tisdale were part of the 17-member acting ensemble in *Forbidden Zones: The Great War*. (Photo by Matthew Hazard)

“Prisons of the Forgotten: King on Ghettos and Economic Justice”
Tommie Shelby, Harvard University
January 13, 2017

Tommie Shelby is Caldwell Titcomb Professor of African and African American Studies and Philosophy at Harvard University.



Forbidden Zones: The Great War
Conceived and directed by **Lesley Ferris**, Arts and Humanities Distinguished Professor of Theatre
March 29-April 9, 2017

“What’s Wrong with Inequality?”
Amartya Sen, Harvard University
April 11, 2017



Amartya Sen, Thomas W. Lamont University Professor at Harvard, spoke to about 600 people at at Mershon Auditorium.

“The Geopolitics of Feminism: International Women’s Year, the United Nations, and the Globalization of Social Policy”
Jocelyn Olcott, Duke University
February 2, 2017

Jennifer Siegel, professor of history, invited Jocelyn Olcott to speak at the Mershon Center.



International Conflict Resolution Education Conference
“Tools for Preparing the Change Leaders of the Future”
Keynotes by **Greg Van Kirk** and **Valentina Raman**, Ashoka Start Empathy, and **Achaleke Christian Leke**, Cameroon Youth Ambassador
March 18-19, 2017

Achaleke Christian Leke spoke on “The Role of Youth in Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention” for the conference on conflict resolution.



Former CNN Beijing correspondent Mike Chinoy participated in the conference on War, Media, and Public Opinion. (Photo by Jay LaPrete)

War, Media and Public Opinion
Organized by **Christopher Gelpi**, Chair of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution
April 21-22, 2017



Military Frontiers
A Graduate Student Symposium
Keynote by **Gary Sheffield**, University of Wolverhampton
April 28-29, 2017

Participants in the Military Frontiers graduate symposium at the Mershon Center.

Mershon Center for International Security Studies

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