

INDIANA DEMOCRACY CONSORTIUM

The IDC seeks to connect IU's many talented researchers and students working on questions of contemporary democratic change, and to foster new conversations and research projects linking academic scholarship and the broader world of practitioners and policy-makers. The IDC is focused on the basic preconditions of successful democratic transformation - from the enterprises of vibrant civil society networks, to the structure of formal electoral rules and constitutional design, and to the importance of professionalism in managing the affairs of the formal government and the transactions between governmental and non-governmental organizations. The fundamental question that defines the mission of the IDC is quite straightforward: why is it that some democracies succeed and others fail?

Recent Events

IDC Colloquia: On April 17 the IDC sponsored a screening of "A Minority Report" with visiting fellow Milica Matijevic, a lawyer, activist, and freelance consultant on human rights issues. "A Minority Report" chronicles the experiences of Serbs and other minorities who were displaced from Kosovo following the June 1999 NATO bombing campaign against then-Yugoslavia. In addition to consulting on A Minority Report, she has served as a legal advisor on human rights in a variety of capacities including within the government of Serbia, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the Belgrade Center for Human Rights. She is the 2008 recipient of the McCloskey Fellowship, named for the late U.S. congressman Frank McCloskey, which brings one scholar every year from the Balkans to Indiana University and Washington, D.C. to conduct academic research. The focus of her research is on the legal aspects of minority rights and affirmative action in U.S. higher education.

Human Rights in the Neoliberal Imagination: Mapping the "New Sovereignties": IU Film & Media Studies; the Departments of Communication & Culture, Gender Studies, and Political Science; the Program in Cultural Studies; and the Law School hosted John Nguyet Erni on April 17.

ABSTRACT: "The end of sovereignty": this has been an ominous refrain in the chorus of global political and human rights analyses aimed at reformulating a post-Cold War configuration of world power. In cultural studies, the same pronouncement is more likely made through a mix of theoretical exuberance and ambivalence toward a post-nationalist and cosmopolitan imaginary. This presentation takes as a point of departure the rise of "new sovereignties" - a fractured Westphalianism - as a rubric for understanding the political imagination about the international community today. Speaking from a position of trying to bridge cultural studies with human rights legal discourse, I shall address these questions: To what dimensions of the "new sovereignties" can the human rights legal discourse as we know it today still exert influence,

given the new configurations of globally disaggregated power? With "rights" today reemerging as a bifurcation, how can cultural studies reconcile a theory of "rights" as subaltern claim-making with that of "rights" as an all-encompassing tool in the neoliberal order of world justice? Through a preliminary mapping of the legal, institutional, and teleological forces that shape the new sovereignties, I attempt to illuminate why rights as international recognition politics for the subaltern is inadvertently complicit with the reproduction of rights constitutive of empire.

JOHN NGUYET ERNI, Professor of Cultural Studies at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, and Visiting Scholar at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, researches on Chinese consumption of transnational culture, Asian pop, cultural tourism, sexualities in Asia, critical public health, and human rights politics. He has held a Rockefeller Humanities Research Fellowship at Columbia University's School of Public Health in the Program on Gender, Sexuality, Health, and Human Rights. In 2005, he completed a Master of Laws in Human Rights at the University of Hong Kong. His books include: *Unstable Frontiers: Technomedicine and the Cultural Politics of "Curing" AIDS*; *Internationalizing Cultural Studies*; and *Asian Media Studies: The Politics of Subjectivities*.

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"State Ideology, Senate Roll-Calls, and Heterogeneity in Representation": The Center on American Politics hosted Professor Tom Carsey (an IU alum no less!) on Friday, April 11 from 1:30 to 3:00 in Woodburn Hall 218.

Tom Carsey (Ph.D., Indiana University) is the Thomas J. Pearsall distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. His research interests center on the general process of representation in U.S. national and sub-national politics. More specifically, he studies electoral behavior, campaigns, political parties, and legislatures in the U.S. He is particularly interested in how contextual factors such as campaign information, the racial make-up of a place, or institutions shape political attitudes and behavior.

Why Study Madrassahs? Islamic Seminaries in South Asia: The India Studies Program hosted Ali Riaz, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University on April 11.

Ali Riaz is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University. He has previously taught at universities in South Carolina, England, and Bangladesh. He also worked as a broadcast journalist for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service in London. His most recent publication is *Islamist Militancy in Bangladesh: A Complex Web* (Routledge, 2008). His previous publications include *God Willing: The Politics of Islamism in Bangladesh* (2004); *Unfolding State: The Transformation of Bangladesh* (2005), and *Paradise Lost? State Failure in Nepal* (with Subho Basu; 2007). Dr. Riaz has to his credit more than ten books in Bengali. This presentation is based on his

forthcoming book *Faithful Education: Madrassahs in South Asia* (Rutgers University Press, 2008).

Upcoming Events

Visit by Ambassador Raminder Singh Jassal: The Indiana University India Studies Program and Jewish Studies Program present "India, Israel and the Middle East", a lecture by Ambassador Raminder Singh Jassal.

Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 5:00 pm
Oak Room, Indiana Memorial Union
Free and open to the public

For more information, contact the IU India Studies Program 812-855-5798 / india@indiana.edu / www.indiana.edu/~isp

Ambassador Raminder Singh Jassal joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1976 after graduating from Delhi University. His first assignment was at the Embassy of India in Moscow where he learned and became fluent in Russian. He was First Secretary at Warsaw between 1981-1984 serving for a period as Charge-d'Affaires. Returning to Delhi, he served as Deputy Secretary in the Americas Division in the Ministry of External Affairs between 1985 and 1988. Thereafter he did a three-year assignment as the Political Counsellor at the Embassy of India, Washington. Between 1991 and 1995 he served as Political Counsellor at the Embassy of India, Moscow.

In 1995 he served as Director (West Africa, North Africa) in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi and later as Joint Secretary (Central Asia). Mr. Jassal was then appointed to the post of Joint Secretary (Planning & Coordination) in the Ministry of Defense where he served between 1997 and 1999. Mr. Jassal was named official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs where he served with distinction from 1999-2001. In that capacity he also handled media arrangements for all official foreign visits of the Prime Minister of India and all incoming state and official visits including those of President Clinton to India in March 2000 and Prime Minister Vajpayee to Washington D.C. in September, 2000.

Mr. Jassal served as India's Ambassador to Israel from 2001-2004. During this period relations between India and Israel took rapid strides forward in all areas. He assumed his current post as Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Washington D.C. on January 17, 2005.

Grant Opportunity: The Indiana University European Union Center for Excellence will be responding to the European Commission's announced 2008-2011 grant competition for the European Union Centers of Excellence program. The European Commission plans to award an estimated 11 grants of up to €300,000. For the upcoming competition, we invite your input regarding plans or ideas you may have for EU and EU-US themed activities for future semesters which would be incorporated in the IU EUCE grant proposal. In the past, plans have included conferences, workshops, curriculum development, and visiting speakers. This year, in response to the delegation's call to "think outside the box" to reach a wider audience, we particularly encourage ideas associated with media outlets such as the internet (podcasting), radio, TV, and

other innovative technologies. Any suggestions you provide to us will be discussed for inclusion in the grant proposal for funding. Below are the five objectives stated in the call for proposal which will be helpful to keep in mind:

Objectives:

#1 Develop centers of academic excellence in EU studies with a view to broadening and deepening the base of European Union studies, and increasing awareness of the Union's policies.

#2 Promote greater understanding of the EU and EU-US relations among regional outreach constituencies.

#3 Strengthen "People-to-People Links" between university faculty, students, and their host institutions in the EU and the US.

#4 Consolidate and enhance the effectiveness of the network of EU Centers of excellence.

#5 Attract additional support for Center activities

With the June 16th deadline is approaching, we would appreciate your responses within the next few weeks-- but by May 8 at the latest. We recommend reading the full call for proposal (at <http://www.eurunion.org/infores/2008-11EUCECallforProposalsFinal.doc>) which also details expected outcomes for each objective. If you have any further questions, please contact the IU EUCE at eucenter@indiana.edu

The Immanent Frame: Jonathan VanAntwerpen of the SSRC has visited IU for two IDC functions. As some of you may know, he is currently hosting a blog called "The Immanent Frame." He asked that I alert IDC members to some of the recent work on this blog.

"Few books in Islamic studies," writes Robert W. Hefner today at The Immanent Frame http://www.ssrc.org/blogs/immanent_frame/, "have been as eagerly awaited or intensely debated prior to publication as Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im's *Islam and the Secular State: Negotiating the Future of Shari'a*." Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory University, An-Na'im has for more than twenty years been a tireless proponent of a deeply religious but liberal-modernist reformation of Islamic politics and ethics...."

Read more from Robert Hefner on "Secularism and the paradoxes of Muslim politics" http://www.ssrc.org/blogs/immanent_frame/

Also new at The Immanent Frame:

Omri Elisha, Penny Edgell, and John Schmalzbauer on *The compassion forum*

Saba Mahmood and Stathis Gourgouris on "Is critique secular?"

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William E. Connolly on *Belief, spirituality and time*

Binnaz Toprak, Nilüfer Göle, Jenny White, and Joan Wallach Scott on *The headscarf controversy in Turkey*

Nancy Levene and Pamela Klassen on *Youth Without Youth*