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Simons Series in the Social Dynamics of Peace and Conflict – Fall 2011 Update

Since March 2009, the School for International Studies at Simon Fraser University has been sponsoring a new seminar series that explores the social dynamics of peace and conflict. Generously funded by the Simons Foundation, the series will continue in the coming academic year, again being co-sponsored by the Security and Defence Program at the University of British Columbia. Such co-sponsorship is a win-win situation, allowing us to invite more speakers while also helping to build a broader and deeper community of expertise on key issues in contemporary international studies. In practical terms, this means that the venue for talks will alternate between SFU's Harbour Centre Campus and UBC's Liu Institute for Global Issues.

Each semester, several speakers will visit, giving both a public lecture and a research seminar. The intention is two-fold – to advance public awareness and debate over key issues of peace and conflict, and to promote research excellence. A schedule of speakers for Fall 2011 is provided below; all are most welcome to attend! To be added to the series e-mail distribution list, please send an e-mail to <intst@sfu.ca>.

FALL 2011

Jason Lyall, *Assistant Professor of Political Science, Yale University*

Dates: 19 & 20 September

Topic: Civilian casualties and civilian victimization in the Afghan civil war

Joshua Goldstein, *Professor Emeritus, School of International Service, American University*

Date: 22 September

Topic: The decline of armed conflict worldwide

Roger Petersen, *Sloan Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Dates: 24 & 25 October

Topic: Emotion and civil war, social science and the Iraq insurgency

Previous Talks

Severine Autesserre, *Assistant Professor of Political Science, Barnard College, Columbia University* – **March 2011**

Research Seminar: ‘When the West Meets the Rest - Understanding How International Peacebuilding Operates on the Ground’

Public Lecture: ‘The Trouble with the Congo - Local Violence and the Failure of International Peacebuilding’

Elisabeth Jean Wood, Professor of Political Science, Yale University & Research Professor, Santa Fe Institute – **October 2010**

Research Seminar: ‘Explaining Variation in Wartime Sexual Violence - Evidence from Colombia’

Public Lecture: ‘Sexual Violence During War - Rape Is Not Inevitable’

Christopher Blattman, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Economics & Research Associate, Institute for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University – **October 2009**

Research Seminar: ‘The Industrial Organization of Rebellion - The Logic of Coercion and Child Soldiering’

Public Lecture: ‘Child Soldiering - Myth and Reality’

Kristian Berg Harpviken, Director, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) – **October 2009**

Public Lecture: ‘Afghanistan and its Troublesome Neighbourhood’

Michael Barnett, University Professor, George Washington University – **September 2009**

Research Seminar: ‘International Paternalism - A Qualified Defense’

Public Lecture: ‘Humanitarianism in a World of Hurt’

Hans Peter Schmitz, Associate Professor, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs & Research Associate, Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Syracuse University – **April 2009**

Research Seminar: ‘The Strategic Pursuit of Impact - Advocacy Groups in Global Politics’

Public Lecture: ‘Accountability without Learning - A Look Inside Transnational NGOs’

Beth Simmons, Clarence Dillon Professor of International Affairs & Director, Weatherhead Centre for International Affairs, Harvard University – **March 2009**

Research Seminar: ‘Credible Commitments and the International Criminal Court’

Public Lecture: ‘Mobilizing for Human Rights - International Law in Domestic Politics’