On October 21 and 22, 2005, as one of the major events of its research project on "States of Autonomy," the Center presented

**Art of the State: Sovereignty Past and Present.**

**Douglas Howland** (History and 2004-2005 Center Fellow) and **Luise White** (History, University of Florida) organizers

**Kate Kramer** (Center for 21st Century Studies) conference coordinator

The international conference The Art of the State: Sovereignty Past and Present sought to dispense with the idea that sovereignty accrues naturally to a state. Participants interrogated sovereignty as a set of practices that are historically contingent--a mix of both international and intra-national processes including self-determination, international law, and natural right. Participants examined a number of diverse contexts outside of the normative center of Western Europe in order to explore how states construct themselves and how state forms seek to be sovereign. Rather than try to find one overarching and totalizing definition of sovereignty--one that is ahistorical and transnational--the conference sought to disclose the strategic sovereignties that have informed histories and shaped territories in the modern world. This represents an alternative to recent literature on nationalism, which too often treats nationalism as a precursor to the formation of modern states. The conference took recent debates about nations, national identity, and the political relationships between the two and relocated them in a broader history of sovereignty, territory, and legality. We explored the different ways in which sovereign political forms have been defined and define themselves.

**Conference schedule**
**Art of the State, October 21, 22, 2005**

**Friday, October 21**
**Curtin 175**

*Welcomes*
**Abbas Ourmazd**, Dean of the graduate school and Vice-Chancellor for Research
**Daniel J. Sherman**, Professor of History and Center Director

*Keynote and Questions*
**Siba N. Grovogui** (Political Science, Johns Hopkins University)
"The Multiple and Hidden Lives of Sovereignty"

*States and Laws*
**Eileen Scully** (Social Sciences, Bennington college): "The Second Great Enclosure Movement: Sovereignty, Mobility, and Nationality in the Late Nineteenth Century"
**Douglas Howland** (History, UW-Milwaukee): "The Foreign and the Free: Questions of Extraterritoriality in Nineteenth-century China and Japan"
Moderator: **Terry Nardin** (Political Science, UW-Milwaukee)

*Laws about States*
**Martha Kaplan and John Kelly** (Anthropology, Vassar)
Art of the State

Saturday, October 22
Hefter Center

States and Outlaws

Aida A. Hozic (Political Science, University of Florida):
"Merchants, Crime, and Sovereignty in the Balkans"

Thomas Lamarre (East Asian Studies, Cornell University):
"Media and the Sovereign Police"

Moderator: K.E. Supriya (Journalism and Mass Communication, UW-Milwaukee)

Questions of Territory

Aims McGuinness (History, UW-Milwaukee):
"Sovereignty on the Isthmus: Federalism, Centralism, and U.S. Empire in Panama in the Mid-Nineteenth Century"

Fred Cooper (History, New York University):
"Alternatives to Empire: France and Africa after World War II"

Kevin C. Dunn (Political Science, Hobart & William Smith colleges):

Moderator: Ellen Amster (History, UW-Milwaukee)

Questions of Populations

Leonard Smith (History, Oberlin college):
"Sovereignty and Wilsonian Idealism in the Middle East: The King-Crane Commission of 1919"

David Tucker (History, University of Iowa):
"Colonial Sovereignty in Manchuria and Manchukuo"

Keith Brown (International Studies, Brown University):
"Sovereignty After Socialism at Europe's New Borders"

Moderator: Edward Hinchman (Philosophy, UW-Milwaukee)

Comments

Rob Ricigilano (Institute for World Affairs, UW-Milwaukee)

General Discussion moderated by

Douglan Howland and Luise White

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