

The Ohio State University
Department of Geography
Edward J. Taaffe Colloquium 2012-2013

"Deadly Embrace: War, Distance and Intimacy"

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It has become commonplace to claim that contemporary wars are fought from a distance: the iconic version is the drone missions flown over Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere from the United States. Yet wars have been waged at a distance throughout history, and we need a surer sense of the historical curve through which military violence has shaped (and been shaped by) the friction of distance; this presentation ranges from the Crimean War, the Franco-Prussian War and the two World Wars to Vietnam and the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and beyond. But we also need a sharper calibration of war's geography, including changes in military logistics, weapons systems, and the emergence of new media to convey the theatre of war to distant audiences. Yet for all these changes the 'death of distance' – and the distance of death – in today's liquid world has been greatly exaggerated, and there remains a stark intimacy to many killing spaces that requires careful reflection.

Friday, November 16, 2012

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Mendenhall Room 0100



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