Milton Wolf Seminar 2014
The Third Man Theme Revisited: Foreign Policies of the Internet in a time of Surveillance and Disclosure
Vienna, Austria, March 30 – April 1, 2014

Seminar Overview
Launched in 2001, the Milton Wolf Seminar Series aims to deal with developing issues in diplomacy and journalism – both broadly defined. The 2013 seminar is jointly organized by the Center for Global Communication Studies (CGCS) at the University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg School for Communication, The American Austrian Foundation (AAF), and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna (DA). Guests include those who work for state and multi-lateral organizations, journalists, media development practitioners, academics, and a select group of highly engaged graduate students interested in the seminar themes.

The organizers envision the Milton Wolf Seminar as a meeting place for media practitioners, diplomats, academics, and students to share their perspectives, formulate new ideas, and identify areas where further research is needed. While the seminar will incorporate various speakers and panels, it is designed as a two-day continuing conversation in which all participants are encouraged to openly engage in dialogue and explore potential synergies and future collaborations. In order to encourage an open exchange of ideas, seminar attendance is limited only to invited participants and students. More information about previous Milton Wolf Seminars is available on our website and our Facebook page.

Thematic Overview
Filmed on location in 1948 in the post-World War II rubble of Vienna, the Third Man highlighted the classic Cold War themes of espionage, surveillance and visibility. Vienna also provides the setting for the 2014 Milton Wolf Seminar, which will examine the resurgence of these themes in contemporary international relations and journalism.

The ongoing series of leaks by Edward Snowden provides a stark reminder that new communication technologies also pose new opportunities for surveillance and state power articulation. Conversely, these same technologies also afford old and new media organizations with unprecedented capacities for counter-surveillance and disclosure on a global scale. As states from around the world formulated responses to the American spying program, journalists conveyed these actions to their readers. International condemnation of the US spying program was sharp and swift ranging from calls for UN resolutions on privacy to reform of internet governance institutions. Much to the chagrin of many state actors, press revelations regarding similar surveillance programs by states around the world were equally sharp and swift.
The NSA surveillance regime, while perhaps the most visible, is but one of many examples of state surveillance programs revealed during 2013. More recent leaks have outlined similar domestic and cross border surveillance activities by countries such as France, Germany, Sweden, the UK, and Spain. Folha de São Paulo in The Guardian, Australia published investigations outlining systematic diplomatic espionage activities conducted by Brazil and Australia, two of the most strident critics of the NSA activities.

Embedded in each of these examples is a series of ongoing tensions: between privacy and surveillance; between disclosure and secrecy; and between information sovereignty and global information flows. Rather than looking backward at these events, the 2014 Milton Wolf Seminar will look forward, exploring a range of potential diplomatic and regulatory solutions to evolving issues of surveillance and disclosure, or what we call foreign policies of the Internet. Discussions will focus particularly on how non-Western countries are developing their own Internet foreign policy strategies and how these are shaping the evolving global Internet. Panels will explore the role of diplomats, international organizations, the private sector, civil society and the press in influencing internet governance.

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1 On November 2, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff called for a draft resolution on privacy in the digital age on the floor of the United Nations. Just days later, Folha de São Paulo published an expose documenting the depth and breadth of the Brazilian diplomatic espionage program.
DAY ONE – MARCH 30, 2014

6:00 – 8:00 PM Welcome Reception

DAY TWO: MARCH 31, 2014

9:00 – 10:00 Registration & Introduction
In this opening session, the host institutions will introduce the Milton Wolf themes and the participants. Coffee and tea and light breakfast pastries will be provided.

10:00 – 12:00 Session 1: Surveillance and Disclosure: Cold War Legacies and Future Directions
The series of revelations regarding surveillance activities taking place around the world has crystallized attention on the importance of information sovereignty for international relations. New technologies have transformed global communication flows and offered the promise of a global village, while simultaneously reviving and intensifying many of the major themes of the Cold War: surveillance, and disclosure and information sovereignty and global information flows. This panel will set the stage for the two days of discussion at Milton Wolf. Panelists will discuss the past, present and future, identifying historical precedents and lessons from previous information regimes, outlining the stakes involved regarding the current debates about privacy and surveillance, and pointing toward future directions. Given the realities of current information structures, international relations, and global information flows, what are the possible pathways ahead?

12:00 – 1:30 Welcoming Lunch

1:30 – 3:15 Session 2: Locating Internet Governance in the Diplomatic Machinery
Broader awareness of state surveillance and cross-border espionage using new technology have heightened diplomatic, public, and media attention to the current and future role of internet governance. This panel will feature representatives from and experts on a variety of internet governance institutions from the state to the multi-lateral level. These experts will discuss the current challenges and future directions for internet governance in light of recent events.

3:15 – 3:30 Tea Break
3:30 – 5:30 Session 3: Information Regimes and the Future of the Media
Internet governance, surveillance regimes, and state responses have multiple implications for the media, both old and new. First, state investments in surveillance, espionage, circumvention technologies, and the like impact press freedom and autonomy. Second, journalists have played a critical role in covering revelations about surveillance activities, transmitting state and multilateral responses to the public. Finally, the governance and construction of new technological systems are often opaque and hard to translate to the public. Press coverage, is thus critical to any process of reform or change. Panelists on this session will discuss the role of old and new media and advocacy organizations in each of these areas, outlining current challenges and future directions.

7:00 Dinner at US Embassy

DAY THREE: APRIL 1, 2014

9:00 – 10:30 Session 4: Foreign Policies of the Internet: Key actors and Debates
Featuring academics focusing on national case studies, this panel will provide a critical perspective on how key global powers are deploying foreign policies related to the internet. Panelists will focus specifically on how China, Russia, and the United states are seeking to influence and shape internet governance at home and abroad and the implications of those activities for the global internet.

10:30 – 10:45 Tea Break

10:45 – 12:15 Session 5: Contested Internets: Censorship and Surveillance as Fault Lines
Historically, discussions about internet governance have typically centered on the operations of institutions such as The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). While multi-stakeholderism and technical governance questions remain critical, this panel focuses on key emerging points of contention surrounding global internet governance. In this session, panelists from Asia and Africa will provide their perspectives on issues such as speech, surveillance, and censorship and the present realities and future potential of multi-stakeholder internet governance.

12:15 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 3:30 Session 6: Strategies for Governing Communications: Between the Global and the Local
How are local and global concepts used to govern communications? This session will examine how key players in international debates surrounding information sovereignty and internet governance such as India, Germany and Brazil are employing concepts of a local rather than a global Internet, allowing them to diverge from global norms and in some cases even reshaping global Internet governance.

3.30 – 4.00 Tea Break

4.00 – 5:00 Presentation of Emerging Scholars Research
This is an informal session during which the 2014 Milton Wolf Emerging Scholars will discuss their research and how it relates to the 2014 seminar themes.

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