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Petty Despots: Rethinking Human Rights Discourse After the Cold War

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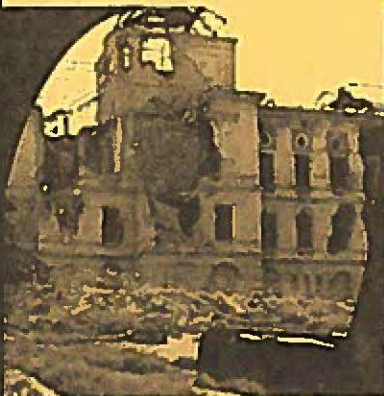
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2008 FALL SCHEDULE – FELLOWSHIP TALKS



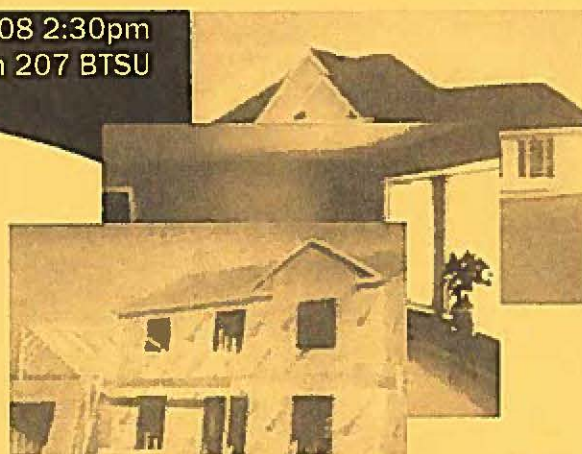
Petty Despots: Rethinking Human Rights Discourse After the Cold War

Neil Englehart – September 15th, 2008 12:30pm
Sky Bank Room 201A BTSU

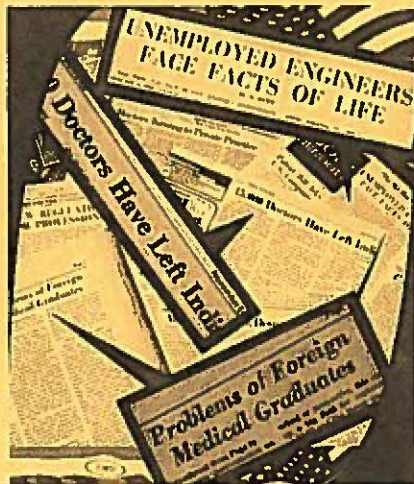
Human rights discourse is built on the assumption that states are the primary abusers of rights, yet human rights law assumes that states are also the primary guarantor of rights. Thus, during the Cold War, human rights discourse and activism was premised on the assumption that states could protect rights if they chose; if abuses occurred, it was because the government lacked the will to intervene or acted out of malice. However, today most human rights abuses occur in places where states are too weak, incompetent and ineffective to protect citizens. The problem in these cases is petty despots: warlords, rogue police or military officers, landlords and strongmen. These local power holders operate free from effective government control, and under the radar of the international community, and are therefore able to commit abuses with impunity.

Charles Kanwischer – October 14th, 2008 2:30pm
Mylander Room 207 BTSU

Who we are, in the deepest sense, and how we have lived, can be explored through considering the spaces we inhabit, particularly the houses we dwell in. Most houses are very much like all other houses, yet over time they become the repositories of the most intimate aspects of our lives. They are a kind of crucible for the formation of our psyches - the location of events and sensations that, for better or worse, condition our sense of well-being. Certainly the notion of a house as a metaphor for shelter and safety is challenged in the post-9/11 age of "Homeland Security." It is the alternating sensation of security and threat, solidity and fragility, permanence and mutability so characteristic of contemporary dwelling that I seek to make palpable in my work.



Real Estate Drawings and Recent Work



AMERICAN DREAMS: GENDER, MIGRATION AND THE WORK EXPERIENCES OF ASIAN INDIAN COMMUNITY IN METROPOLITAN DETROIT

Vibha Bhalla – November 3rd, 2008 2:30pm
Mylander Room 207 BTSU

Since the decade of the 1960s, migrants to the U.S. have included professionals in scientific and technical fields. However, these migrants and their work experiences remain largely unexamined. Using narratives of Asian Indian immigrants in metropolitan Detroit, it is possible to fill this lacuna. Indian immigrants, both men and women, are highly educated professionals who have carved out occupational niches, especially as engineers and physicians. It is important to highlight the work-related issues salient to these immigrant professionals. In particular, emphasizing the work experiences of professional immigrant women makes it possible to analyze the ways in which gender shapes professional workers in a transforming metropolitan economy.