



and



cordially invite you to a

DySoC/NIMBioS Interdisciplinary Seminar

with

Dr. Brandon Prins

on

“Pirate lands: Governance and maritime policy”

Monday, March 19, 2018

3:30-5 p.m.

Reception & refreshments at 3 p.m.

Hallam Auditorium, Room 206

1122 Volunteer Boulevard



Dr. Brandon Prins is Professor of Political Science at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and a Global Security Fellow with the Howard Baker Center for Public Policy. His research and teaching interests revolve around the conditions associated with political violence, including interstate and civil war, terrorism, and maritime piracy. Currently, Dr. Prins is engaged in three research projects. The first addresses the geo-spatial conditions associated with modern maritime piracy. This project was funded by the Office of Naval Research through the Minerva Research Initiative. The second project explores territorial contention among nation-states. The third project investigates the principal drivers of domestic terrorism in democratic states.

Abstract: With piracy in the Greater Gulf of Aden seemingly eradicated, some analysts suggest that attacks against shipping no longer remain a salient global security concern. But recent increases off the coast of Nigeria and around the Straits of Malacca confirm that the threat has not been entirely eliminated. While structural (country-level) indicators of poverty and institutional fragility correlate with piracy, local conditions on land proximate to anchorages and shipping lanes where incidents occur will likely provide additional leverage in explaining where pirates locate and why piracy endures. Existing research also suggests piracy may be connected to armed insurgency. As rebels seek resources to help fund their anti-state or separatist campaigns, piracy, like gemstones, oil, and narcotics, may serve as a means to pay fighters and purchase weapons. Spatially and temporally disaggregated analyses as well as the synthesis of research on civil war and maritime piracy will open up new lines of inquiry into the relationship between lootable resources and armed conflict.