



## SUMMER SYMPOSIUM ON FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2025

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

The Summer Symposium is a hybrid program. This schedule identifies the events we can broadcast on Zoom at. The Zoom link will be provided later. **ALL times are stated in Eastern Standard Time (EST)**, so if you live in another zone, please make the adjustment. All sessions are for one hour. *Missing days and times are site visits that we cannot broadcast.* The bios for the various speakers follow the daily schedule.

### AUGUST 4 (MONDAY)

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|-------------------------|---|
| 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. | Christopher Sands, Director of the Wilson Center's Canada Institute |
| 11:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. | Discussion with SAIS Admissions                                     |
| 6:00 P.M.               | Opening Reception   |

### AUGUST 5 (TUESDAY)

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|-------------------------|---|
| 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. | Nancy Youssef, Journalist for <i>The Atlantic</i> , <i>National Security in this Administration</i>         |
| 11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. | Daryl G. Kimball, Executive Director of the Arms Control Association  |
| 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.   | Jason Moyer, The Atlantic Council, <i>European Security and NATO</i>  |
| 2:15 P.M. – 3:15 P.M.   | Michael O'Hanlon, Foreign Policy Director at Brookings Institution, <i>Current and Possible Future Wars</i> |

## AUGUST 6 (WEDNESDAY)

- 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.** Ambassador (ret.) Cindy Dyer, Chief Program Officer at the McCain Institute at Arizona State University, *Combating Domestic Violence Globally*
- 11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.** Mathew Burrows, Counselor in the Executive Office at the Stimson Center, *Global Trends 2030* **ZOOM**
- 2:00 P.M. – 3:15 P.M.** Caroline Mays, Executive Director at New Story Leadership, *Israel and the Palestinians*
- 3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.** Jacob Heilbrunn, nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center and editor of the *National Interest*, *Varieties of American Conservatism*

## AUGUST 7 (THURSDAY)

- 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.** Trita Parsi, Executive Vice President of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, *Iran, the U.S., and the Middle East*
- 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.** José-Juan López-Portillo, Head of Political Affairs at the Embassy of Mexico in the U.S., *Mexico-U.S. Bilateral Relations* **\*Event will be held at the Embassy of Mexico, 1911 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20006**
- 3:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.** Tour at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) **\*1900 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20431**

## AUGUST 8 (FRIDAY)

- 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.** Shelton Williams, President of the Osgood Center, *Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy*
- 11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.** Jenny Town, Senior Fellow at the Stimson, *The Two Koreas*
- 8:30 P.M.** Extraordinary Cinema: *Walk the Line* **\*Event will be held at the Kennedy Center Reach Lawn**

## AUGUST 9 (SATURDAY)

**11:15 A.M.** Tour at the National Museum of African American History and Culture *\*1400 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20560*

**Afternoon** We suggest a tour at the Library of Congress or a visit to another Smithsonian museum.

### AUGUST 11 (MONDAY)

**10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.** Ambassador of Ukraine to the U.S. Oksana Markarova, *The U.S. and Ukraine*

**11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.** Dave Levinthal, Independent Journalist, *The Trump Effect*

**2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.** Lisa-Marie Geltinger, Professor at the University of Regensburg, *Iran, the West, and the Limits of Diplomacy*, General Discussion

**3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.** Liana Fix, Fellow for Europe at Council on Foreign Relations, *Strategic Triangles; U.S.-China-EU Relations in a Fragmented World*

### AUGUST 12 (TUESDAY)

**10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.** Ambassador (ret.) Reuben Brigety, President of Busara Advisors, *The U.S. and Africa*

**11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.** Ambassador (ret.) Jeffrey DeLaurentis, Distinguished Non-resident Fellow in Multilateral Affairs for the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University, *The U.S. and Latin America*

**2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.** Julian Mueller-Kaler, Director of the Strategic Foresight Hub in the Executive Office at the Stimson Center, *Geopolitics and Economic Statecraft*

### AUGUST 13 (WEDNESDAY)

**10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.** Guillermo S. Christensen, National Security Law Practitioner and former CIA intelligence officer, *Intelligence, AI, and American Foreign Policy*

**2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

Robert Sutter, Professor of Practice of International Affairs  
at the Elliott School of George Washington University,  
*China and its Neighbors*

**3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

Jeremi and Zachary Suri, Hosts of the podcast  
“This is Democracy,” *Religion and Politics in the US and  
Around the World* **ZOOM**

## AUGUST 14 (THURSDAY)

**10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

Gerlinde Groitl, ISS Institute for Security and Strategy  
in Munich, *The U.S., Germany, and Europe* **ZOOM**

**11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

Open Discussion and Certificate Ceremony

## Things to Explore in D.C.

**Free Tours by Foot** <https://freetoursbyfoot.com/top-things-to-do-in-dc-august/>

**Kennedy Center** <https://www.kennedy-center.org/whats-on/explore-by-genre/>

## Biographical Highlights



### SHELTON WILLIAMS

Shelton Williams is the president and founder of the Osgood Center for International Studies. Before the Osgood Center, he spent over 35 years as a professor at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, where he supervised its award-winning Model United Nations team and earned several major teaching awards for his classes in International Relations, American Foreign Policy, and Comparative Politics. In addition, Dr. Williams is an expert on nuclear nonproliferation policy, and has worked in the State Department under Secretary Madeleine Albright and in the Office of International Programs in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

He holds a Ph.D. in international relations from Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.



### CHRISTOPHER SANDS

Christopher Sands, Director of the Wilson Center's Canada Institute, is a specialist on Canada, US-Canadian relations, and North American economic integration. He is the co-host of the Canusa Street podcast and a regular panelist on the Wilson Center's Americas 360 podcast. His most recent book, co-edited with David M. Thomas, is *Canada and the United States: Differences That Count* (2023). Dr. Sands is a board member of the Canada-United States Law Institute, the Institute for Research on Public Policy, the Macdonald Laurier Institute, and the University of California Berkeley Canadian Studies Program. He was a

founding member and officer of the Canadian Politics Section of the American Political Science Association, and he is a member of the editorial board for the Canadian Foreign Policy Journal.

Dr. Sands is a Lecturer at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and directs the Hopkins Center for Canadian Studies. He is a Lecturer and Course Coordinator of the Canada Seminar at the Foreign Service Institute of the US Department of State. Prior to joining the Wilson Center, he taught in the School of Public Affairs at American University and in the College of Business and Economics at Western Washington University. In 1999-2000 he received a Fulbright scholarship to work on his doctoral dissertation at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University, and in 2019 he was named a Senior Fellow of Massey College at the University of Toronto. Although frequently mistaken for a Canadian, he was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan.



## NANCY YOUSSEF

Nancy Youssef is a journalist at *The Atlantic*. Youssef is a national security correspondent whose reporting has focused largely on the U.S. military and the Arab world.

Youssef has a great knowledge of the Middle East. She was based in Baghdad during the Iraq War and later in Cairo, where she covered the broader Muslim world. Her reporting from Iraq focused on the everyday experience of Iraqis and how the U.S.'s military presence reshaped the country's social and political dynamics. Before joining *The Atlantic*, she

was a reporter at *The Wall Street Journal*, BuzzFeed News, *The Daily Beast*, *McClatchy Newspapers*, the *Detroit Free Press*, and the *Baltimore Sun*. A Washington, D.C.-native, she is a graduate of the University of Virginia and Georgetown University.



## DARYL G. KIMBALL

Daryl G. Kimball has been Executive Director of the Arms Control Association (ACA) and publisher and contributor for the organization's monthly journal, *Arms Control Today*, since September 2001.

For more than two decades at ACA, Kimball has led the organization's education, research, and policy advocacy campaigns on a range of issues, including cancellation of new nuclear weapons programs, negotiation and ratification of the 2010 New START agreement, opposition to the controversial U.S.-India nuclear cooperation agreement, the conclusion of the 2015 P5+1 nuclear deal with Iran, efforts to promote entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban

Treaty and strengthen implementation of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the negotiation of the 2014 Arms Trade Treaty, and strengthening the taboo against chemical weapons. He is a frequent expert source for reporters and policymakers, and has written and spoken extensively about nuclear arms control, disarmament, non-proliferation, and the effects of weapons production, testing, and use. In 2004, *National Journal* recognized him as one of the ten key individuals whose ideas will help shape the policy debate on the future of nuclear weapons. In 2011, the MacArthur Foundation recognized ACA as an "exceptional organization that effectively addresses pressing national and international challenges with an impact that is disproportionate to its small size."



## JASON MOYER

Jason Moyer is the Program Associate for the Global Europe Program at The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Previously, he worked at Johns Hopkins SAIS in the Foreign Policy Institute and in the Center for Transatlantic Relations, a think tank within the university. He teaches on the Nordic and Baltic regions for the Foreign Service Institute, the training institution for diplomats in the US government. He is also a Fellow for the Transatlantic Leadership Network and an Associated Researcher for the Latvian Institute of International Affairs. In 2023 he was a participant in the 40th Manfred Wörner Seminar, a transatlantic security seminar organized by the German Bundeswehr.

Jason's current research focuses on the intersection between politics and security, with an emphasis on the European Union as a security actor, the OSCE ahead of the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, Finland and Sweden as new NATO allies, and Baltic Sea security. He has been published in multiple major media outlets, including *The Washington Post*, *The Hill*, and *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. He also offers regular media commentary and has been featured by NPR, *The New York Times*, and *Business Insider*.

Jason graduated from Georgetown University with a Master of Arts in European Studies from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. During his time at Georgetown, he was a teaching assistant to former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright. Before pursuing his Masters, he taught English in South Korea for two years through the Korean Ministry of Education. Jason holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from The George Washington University. Jason speaks French and Italian, as well as some German, Finnish, and Korean.



## MICHAEL O'HANLON

Michael O'Hanlon is a senior fellow and director of research in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution, where he specializes in U.S. defense strategy, the use of military force, and American national security policy. He directs the Strobe Talbott Center on Security, Strategy and Technology, and the Defense Industrial Base working group, and co-directs the Africa Security Initiative. He holds the Philip H. Knight Chair in Defense and Strategy.

He is an adjunct professor at Columbia, Georgetown, and George Washington universities. He is a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. From 2021 to 2025, he served as a member of the Defense Policy Board in the U.S. Department of Defense. He served as a member of the external advisory board at the Central Intelligence Agency from 2011-2012.

O'Hanlon's latest book is *Military History for the Modern Strategist: America's Major Wars Since 1861* (2023). Other works include, *The Art of War in an Age of Peace: U.S. Grand Strategy and Resolute Restraint*, *Defense 101: Understanding the Military of Today and Tomorrow*, and *The Senkaku Paradox: Risking Great Power War over Limited Stakes*. He has authored or co-authored over 30 books and written hundreds of op-eds and articles in major domestic and international newspapers such as *Foreign Affairs*, *The National Interest*, and *International Security*. O'Hanlon has appeared on television or spoken on the radio more than 4,000 times since September 11, 2001.

His doctorate from Princeton is in public and international affairs, where he was awarded a National Science Foundation fellowship. His bachelor's and master's degrees, also from Princeton, are in the physical sciences. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Democratic Republic of Congo from 1982-84, where he taught college and high school physics in French. Earlier, he worked on a dairy farm in Upstate New York, where he grew up, and attempted (unsuccessfully) with a team of Princeton experimental physicists in the "Gravity Group" to disprove Einstein's General Theory of Relativity.





## CINDY DYER

Ambassador Cindy Dyer (ret.) is a human rights expert and lawyer with more than 30 years of experience working at the local, national, and international levels. Ambassador Dyer currently serves as the chief program officer at the McCain Institute for International Leadership at Arizona State University, leading the design and delivery of the Institute's Human Rights & Freedom, Democracy, and Leadership Programs.

From 2023-2025, she served as the ambassador-at-large to monitor and combat trafficking in persons at the U.S. Department of State.

While ambassador, she travelled to and directly engaged with government officials in 20 countries throughout every region of the world and oversaw a budget of over \$300 million. From 2021-2023, she worked in the U.S. Department of Defense serving on the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military (IRC). For 12 years, she was the vice president for Human Rights at Vital Voices Global Partnership, where she worked with local governmental and civil society leaders in more than 25 countries throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Europe to improve and implement laws and policies related to human trafficking and gender-based violence. From 2007 – 2009, she served as the director of the Office on Violence Against Women at the U.S. Department of Justice, where she led policy implementation of the Violence Against Women Act and managed an annual budget of almost \$400 million.

Amb. Dyer began her career at the local level serving as a specialized domestic and sexual violence prosecutor in Dallas, Texas for more than 13 years and also served as a weekly hotline volunteer at a local women's shelter for nine years. She earned her bachelor's degree from Texas A&M in business administration and management and her J.D. from Baylor Law School.



## MATHEW BURROWS

Mathew Burrows serves as Counselor in the Executive Office at the Stimson Center and is the Program Lead of the Center's Strategic Foresight Hub. Prior to joining Stimson, he was the Director of Foresight at the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Strategy Initiative as well as the co-director of the New American Engagement Initiative.

Burrows is one of the leading experts on strategic foresight and global trend analysis. In 2013 he retired from a 28-year-long career in the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the last 10

years of which he spent at the National Intelligence Council (NIC), the premier analytic unit in the US Intelligence Community. In 2007, Burrows was appointed Counselor, the number three position in the NIC, and was the principal drafter for the NIC publication, *Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds*, which received widespread recognition and praise in the international media. In 2005, he was asked to set up and direct the NIC's new Long Range Analysis Unit, which is now known as the Strategic Futures Group. Other positions included assignments as deputy national security advisor to Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill (2001-02), special assistant to the UN Ambassador Richard Holbrooke (1999-2001), and first holder of the intelligence community fellowship at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York (1998-1999). Burrows received a BA in American and European history from Wesleyan University and a PhD in European history from the University of Cambridge. He is the author of numerous books, including his latest work on *World to Come: Trump's Return and the End of the Old Order*.



## CAROLINE MAYS

Caroline Mays has served as the Executive Director of New Story Leadership (NSL) since 2022. Her earlier career was divided between staff experience in offices and committees on Capitol Hill and extensive work in media, non-profit development organizations and civil society institutions in the Middle East, including four years of work in the West Bank. Mays served in both the offices of House members and for the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. Her work in the Middle East included leading communications and external relations for Ma'an Network, a Bethlehem-based NGO and the largest, independent media

organization in the Palestinian Territories. In addition, she held program management roles at the Bethlehem Development Foundation.

A longtime advocate of women's and girls' rights and trained in conflict resolution, Mays joined Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai's official delegation at the 2014 celebration in Oslo, Norway. She holds a Master's degree in Middle Eastern studies from The American University of Paris and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from The George Washington University.



## JACOB HEILBRUNN

Jacob Heilbrunn is a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center and editor of the *National Interest*, a foreign policy magazine that was founded by Irving Kristol in 1985. He began his career as an assistant editor at the magazine, where his first issue was one featuring Francis Fukuyama's "The End of History?" essay. He went on to become a senior editor at the *New Republic* and an editorial writer for the *Los Angeles Times*. He has written on both foreign and domestic issues for numerous publications including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Reuters*, *Washington Monthly*, and the *Weekly Standard*. He has also written for German publications such as *Cicero*, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, and *Der Tagesspiegel*. In 2008, his book *They Knew They Were Right: the Rise of the Neocons* was published by Doubleday. It was named one of the one hundred notable books of the year by the *New York Times*.



## TRITA PARSI

Trita Parsi is the executive vice president of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft. He is an award-winning author and the 2010 recipient of the Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order. He is an expert on US-Iranian relations, Iranian foreign policy, and the geopolitics of the Middle East. He has authored three books on US foreign policy in the Middle East, focusing on Iran and Israel. His latest publication is "[Pax Americana vs. Inclusive Security in the Middle East](#)."

Born in Iran, Parsi moved to Sweden at age four to escape political repression. His father, an outspoken academic, was jailed by the Shah and then by the Ayatollah. Parsi moved to the United States as an adult and studied foreign policy at Johns Hopkins' SAIS where he received his Ph.D. under Francis Fukuyama and Zbigniew Brzezinski.

He is the co-founder and former President of the National Iranian American Council. Parsi has worked on Middle East politics in the field, on Capitol Hill, and at the United Nations. Parsi has worked for the Swedish Permanent Mission to the UN, where he served in the Security Council, and in the General Assembly's Third Committee.

Parsi holds a master's degree in international relations from Uppsala University and a master's degree in economics from the Stockholm School of Economics. He has served as an adjunct professor of International Relations at Johns Hopkins' SAIS, New York University, and George Washington University, as well as an adjunct scholar at the Middle East Institute and as a Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC. He currently teaches at Georgetown University. He is fluent in Persian/Farsi, English, and Swedish. Parsi's articles on Middle East affairs have been published in the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Financial Times*, *Jane's Intelligence Review*, the *Nation*, *The American Conservative*, the *Jerusalem Post*, *The Forward*, and others. He is a frequent guest on CNN, PBS's *Newshour*, NPR, the BBC, and Al Jazeera.



## JOSÉ-JUAN LÓPEZ-PORCILLO

José-Juan López-Portillo is Counselor and Head of Political Affairs at the Embassy of Mexico to the United States. In this role, he leads political engagement and analysis on U.S.–Mexico relations, working closely with U.S. government agencies, Congress, and policy institutions.

From 2019-2022, he served as Counselor for the Innovation and Knowledge Economy Section at the Embassy of Mexico to Norway in Oslo. He was also a tenure-track professor at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) in Mexico City. Before his role at CIDE, López-Portillo was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the

IPLAI's 'Early Modern Conversions' Project from 2013-2015, where he concentrated on the role of 'cultural intermediaries' in making the global interactions that facilitated conversion in the Spanish Empire.

López-Portillo holds a 1st Class Honours B.A. in Ancient and Modern History from the University of Oxford, a Ph.D. In 2012 he was awarded a PhD from Queen Mary, University of London with a dissertation entitled: *'Another Jerusalem': Political Legitimacy and Courtly Government in the Kingdom of New Spain 1535-1568.* José-Juan has teaching experience in the UK, USA, Canada and Mexico and he maintains a long-standing involvement in Global History.



## JENNY TOWN

Jenny Town is a Senior Fellow at the Stimson Center and the Director of Stimson's Korea Program and 38 North. Her areas of expertise include North Korea, US-DPRK relations, US-ROK alliance relations and extended deterrence, and Northeast Asia regional security. She was named one of Worth Magazine's "Groundbreakers 2020: 50 Women Changing the World" and one of Fast Company's Most Creative People in Business in 2019 for her role in co-founding and managing 38 North, which provides policy and technical analysis on North Korea. Ms. Town is also an Associate Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International

Studies (SAIS), a Member of the National Committee on North Korea, and an Associate Member of the Council of Korean Americans. She serves on the Editorial Board for Inkstick, an online foreign policy journal for emerging scholars. She previously served as the Assistant Director of the US-Korea Institute at SAIS (2008-2018) and an expert reviewer for North and South Korea for Freedom House's Freedom in the World Index (2010-2023), where she previously worked on the Human Rights in North Korea Project. Ms. Town holds a BA in East Asian Studies and International Relations from Westmar University and a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs. She is a frequent commentator for a range of print, radio and television news, including Reuters, BBC, CNN, Financial Times, Deutsche Welle, Voice of America, Japan Times, NHK, CGTN, BBC World Radio, and more. And has been featured on a number of podcasts including Asia Matters, The President's Inbox, the Impossible State, Today Explained, The DSR Daily Brief, and more.



## OKSANA MARKAROVA

Oksana Markarova has served as the Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States since February 2021, Permanent Observer of Ukraine to the Organization of American States since May 2021, and Ambassador of Ukraine to Antigua and Barbuda since July 2023.

Before arriving in D.C. in April 2021, she served in Ukraine's Ministry of Finance as First Deputy Minister, Government commissioner on investments, and Minister of Finance. She co-authored Ukraine's macroeconomic revival program, conducted unprecedented fiscal consolidation leading to deficit to GDP of 2% and debt to GDP reduction to below 50%, introduced midterm budgeting and gender-oriented budgeting, and successfully negotiated two IMF programs. She helped create the UkraineInvest agency, Ukrainian Startup Fund, and the eData public finance ecosystem, increasing transparency through portals like [spending.gov.ua](https://spending.gov.ua) and [openbudget.gov.ua](https://openbudget.gov.ua).

Prior to her career in public service, Mrs. Markarova spent 17 years working in private equity and financial advisory, holding leadership roles at ITT Investment Group, Western NIS Enterprise Fund, Chemonics, and the World Bank. In 2020, she founded Archidata, an electronic archive company. Mrs. Markarova serves on the boards of Ukraine House DC Foundation, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, and the Ukrainian Development Foundation, and supports the Ukrainian Catholic University and Ukrainian Press Museum-Archive. She holds BS and MS degrees in Environmental Science from Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Ukraine and an MPA in Public Finance from Indiana University, where she earned academic excellence and best international student awards.



## DAVE LEVINTHAL

Dave Levinthal is an investigative journalist investigating the nexus of politics, policy and power. Based in Washington, D.C., Dave has led Raw Story's newsroom as editor-in-chief and served as deputy editor of Business Insider, where he oversaw the publication's political investigations and enterprise journalism. Dave has also worked as an editor or reporter at the Center for Public Integrity, *Politico*, *OpenSecrets*, *The Dallas Morning News*, and *The Eagle-Tribune*.

His articles have appeared in dozens of publications, including *The Atlantic*, *TIME*, *Politico Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, *Slate*, *Salon*, *The Daily Beast*, *NOTUS*, *The Ankler*, and *Columbia Journalism Review*. Dave's work as an editor and reporter has won numerous honors, including the Goldsmith Prize, Edward R. Murrow Award, National Headliner Award, and many more.

Dave is a frequent guest on television, radio and podcasts, providing analysis on NBC, CBS, ABC, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, NPR, C-SPAN, BBC, CBC and SiriusXM Radio. He is also a contributing news analyst for CenterClip. A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Dave graduated from Syracuse University, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Daily Orange* and graduated with degrees in newspaper journalism and political philosophy.





## LISA-MARIE GELTINGER

Lisa-Marie Geltinger is a researcher and lecturer at the Chair of International Politics and Transatlantic Relations at the University of Regensburg, where she is also completing her Ph.D. Her research examines why the Iranian regime has long relied on proxy forces as a central instrument of regional power projection, and how Western powers have struggled to formulate effective responses across decades of shifting strategies. Her broader interests include U.S., German, and European foreign and security policy, strategic studies, and the application of international relations theory to real-world challenges such as asymmetric warfare, regional instability, and the contestation of U.S. leadership by regional powers. She has taught courses on U.S.

foreign policy, international relations theory, and strategy, and regularly speaks at conferences and public forums. Since 2024, she has served as faculty advisor for University of Regensburg students participating in the Summer School on U.S. Foreign Policy in Washington, D.C. Geltinger is an alumna of the Hanns Seidel Foundation in Munich and Associate Fellow at the Center for Middle East and Global Order (CMEG). She has undertaken academic visits to Jordan and Israel, and will conduct a research stay at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI) in late 2025.



## LIANA FIX

Liana Fix is a fellow for Europe at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). She is a historian and political scientist, with expertise in German and European foreign and security policy, European security, transatlantic relations, Russia, Eastern Europe, and European China policy. Dr. Fix is also the author of *A New German Power? Germany's Role in European Russia Policy* (2021). She is an adjunct faculty member at Georgetown University in the Center for German and European Studies and the Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies.

Prior to joining CFR, Dr. Fix was program director for international affairs at Körber-Stiftung in Berlin. She was also a resident fellow at the German Marshall Fund in Washington, DC, and a DAAD/AICGS fellow at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies. From 2018 to 2019, she was a fellow for global governance futures at the Robert Bosch Foundation Multilateral Dialogues. From 2014 to 2016, Dr. Fix was a doctoral fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs and associate fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations. From 2012 to 2013, Dr. Fix worked as a Mercator fellow for international affairs at the German Federal Foreign Office, the EU Delegation in Tbilisi, and the Carnegie Moscow Center.

Dr. Fix has contributed essays, policy papers, and articles to journals including *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and the *Washington Quarterly*, among others. She is also a frequent contributor to international and German-language media.

Dr. Fix received her MSc in theory and history of international relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science and her PhD in political science from the Justus Liebig University Giessen. She is a member of the Aspen Rising Leaders, the BMW Responsible Leaders Network, and of Women in International Security.



## REUBEN BRIGETY

Ambassador (ret.) Reuben E. Brigety, II is the President of Busara Advisors, Inc., a strategic advisory and commercial diplomacy firm focused exclusively on the African continent. He is a widely recognized expert on African affairs.

From 2022- 2025, he served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, the Continent's most developed and complex economy. He also served as U.S. Representative to the African Union and U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN Economic for Africa from 2013-2015. From 2011-2013, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, with responsibility for Southern Africa and Regional Security Affairs.

Ambassador (ret.) Brigety served as Dean of the Elliott School of International Affairs (ESIA) – America's largest school of international affairs - at The George Washington University from 2015-2020. While serving as Dean, he founded ESIA's Institute for African Studies. From 2015-2022, Ambassador (ret.) Brigety served on the Board of Counselors of McLarty Associates, one of the world's leading strategic advisory firms, where he focused on African commercial issues.

Ambassador (ret.) Brigety is a Distinguished Midshipman Graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he earned a B.S. in political science (with merit) and served as the Brigade Commander. He holds an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Cambridge (cantab) and a Doctor of Humane Letters (honoris causa) from Old Dominion University. He is a Life Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a recipient of the Council's International Affairs Fellowship, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Diplomacy.



## JEFFREY DELAURENTIS

Ambassador (ret.) Jeffrey DeLaurentis is the Distinguished Non-resident Fellow in Multilateral Affairs for the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University. During his 28-year career in the Foreign Service, Ambassador DeLaurentis worked almost exclusively on Western Hemisphere issues and served as a multilateral diplomat at the United Nations. He served as the first Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Havana following the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba. Prior to taking up his Cuba post in August 2014, he was Ambassador/Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. Previously, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, and as Minister Counselor for Political Affairs and Security Council Coordinator at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

Ambassador DeLaurentis began his State Department career in 1991 as a consular officer in Havana, and returned to Cuba as Political-Economic Section Chief in 1999-2002. In Washington, he served as Executive Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, and Director of Inter-American Affairs at the National Security Council. His last assignment in the Foreign Service was at the Harvard Kennedy School as a Senior Diplomatic Fellow with the Belfer Center Future of Diplomacy Project. He is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and Columbia University Graduate School of International and Public Affairs.



## JULIAN MUELLER-KALER

Julian Mueller-Kaler is the Director of the Strategic Foresight Hub in the Executive Office at the Stimson Center and also serves as Chief of Staff to the President and CEO. He coordinates and manages special projects, advises on strategy, and supports institutional advancement. As Director of the Hub, he researches global trends, evaluates the implications of emerging technologies on society and politics, and writes about the rise of populism, US-China relations, and the future of the liberal international order. Before joining Stimson, Mueller-Kaler was a resident senior fellow with the Atlantic Council GeoTech Center and the Scowcroft Strategy Initiative where he worked on the geopolitics of technology and lead the GeoTech Center's AI Connect program – a joint work stream with the U.S. Department of State that encouraged the responsible stewardship of AI technologies in the Global South. He also serves as a non-resident fellow at the American-German Institute (AGI) in Washington D.C., as an associate fellow at German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) in Berlin, and previously consulted in the office of the German Executive Director at the World Bank Group. Mueller-Kaler graduated as a Fulbright-Schuman scholar (M.A.) from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and holds a degree in International Relations (B.A.) from Zeppelin University in southern Germany.





## **GUILLERMO S. CHRISTENSEN**

Guillermo Christensen is a partner at K&L Gates and a former CIA intelligence officer and diplomat with the Department of State. He is a national security law practitioner, focusing on cybersecurity, export controls and sanctions and national security reviews of mergers, acquisitions, and investments. Prior to joining K&L Gates, Guillermo was the office managing partner in Washington, D.C., for another national law firm.

Before becoming a lawyer, Guillermo served as an intelligence officer with the CIA for 15 years in international and US assignments. His experience included inter-agency roles with the Departments of Defense and State, the FBI and several national intelligence fusion centers. In 2001, Guillermo was selected by then CIA Director Tenet to serve as the National Intelligence Fellow to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, a position designated for an officer on the cusp of senior leadership within the US intelligence community. He was subsequently accepted as a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Guillermo's national security work has been recognized by the State Department (Meritorious Award for Contributions to the Balkan Peace Process) and the CIA (multiple awards).

Guillermo is an adjunct law professor at Georgetown University Law Center, teaching students a course of "AI Skills for Lawyers" and has lectured at universities in Qatar, Mexico City, Kuwait, and in the United States. He is also an instructor on legal issues around incident response at the FBI's CISO Academy in Quantico Virginia.

He is a founding member of the DC Metro Chapter of the Private Directors Association, a founder and board member of the National AI and Cybersecurity Information Sharing Association (NAIC-ISA), and a board member of the Association of US Cyber Forces (AUSCF). Guillermo is active with the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) and the Latino Executive Network (LEN). An immigrant from Argentina, Guillermo has lived and worked in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.



## ROBERT SUTTER

Robert Sutter is Professor of Practice of International Affairs at the Elliott School of George Washington University (2011-Present). He also served as Director of the School's main undergraduate program involving over 2,000 students from 2013-2019. He has served as Special Adviser to the Dean on Strategic Outreach (2021-present). His earlier full-time position was Visiting Professor of Asian Studies at Georgetown University (2001-2011).

A Ph.D. graduate in History and East Asian Languages from Harvard University, Sutter has published 23 books (four with multiple editions), over 300 articles and several hundred government reports dealing with contemporary East Asian and Pacific countries and their relations with the United States. His most recent books are *Chinese Foreign Relations: Power and Policy of an Emerging Global Force*, Fifth Edition (Rowman & Littlefield, 2021), *US-China Relations: Perilous Past, Uncertain Present*, Fourth Edition (Rowman & Littlefield 2022), and *Congress and China Policy: Past Episodic, Recent Enduring Influence* (Lexington Books, 2024)

Sutter's government career (1968-2001) saw service as senior specialist and director of the Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division of the Congressional Research Service, the National Intelligence Officer for East Asia and the Pacific at the US Government's National Intelligence Council, the China division director at the Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research and professional staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



## JEREMI SURI

Jeremi Suri holds the Mack Brown Distinguished Chair for Leadership in Global Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a professor in the University's Department of History and the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Professor Suri is the author and editor of eleven books on politics and foreign policy, most recently: *Civil War By Other Means: America's Long and Unfinished Fight for Democracy*. His other books include: *The Impossible Presidency: The Rise and Fall of America's Highest Office*; *Liberty's Surest Guardian: American Nation-Building from the Founders to Obama*; *Henry Kissinger and the American*

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## ZACHARY SURI

Zachary Suri is the co-host, co-producer, and poet-in-residence for This is Democracy. Zachary is an undergraduate at Yale University, where he studies languages, history, and literature. He writes regularly for the Yale Daily News. Zachary's poetry has been published by numerous publications, including CNN.com and Urbanitus.com. He was the 2022-2023 Austin Youth Poet Laureate and a recipient of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Silver Key and AISD Trustees' Scholar Award. You can hear him discuss his poetry on public radio.



## GERLINDE GROITL

Dr. Gerlinde Groitl conducts research at the ISS Institute for Security and Strategy in Munich. She teaches at the University of Regensburg, where she previously served as Associate Professor of International Politics and Transatlantic Relations. Her research focuses on U.S., German, and European foreign and security policy, European-American (security) relations as well as the great power competition between Russia, China, and the West in a changing global order.

She publishes widely on these themes. The most recent of her to date three monographs exposes earlier hopes to turn Moscow and Beijing into stakeholders of a US-led global system as illusionary and calls for a determined policy of neo-containment toward both (Russia, China and the Revisionist Assault on the Western Liberal International Order, Palgrave Macmillan, 2023). Groitl is committed to policy-relevant scholarship as well as international, interdisciplinary, and cross-professional cooperation. She has held, among others, multiple visiting fellowships in Washington, DC, London, and Budapest, and is an alumna of the "Young Leaders in Security Policy" program of the German Federal Academy for Security Policy in Berlin.