

Recent Annual Speakers Programs

2025-2026 Annual Speakers Schedule

September	Gideon Rose, Columbia University and Council on Foreign Relations Nuclear proliferation
October	Jennifer Bing, American Friends Service Committee On the Ground in Gaza: Supporting Displaced Palestinians
November	Jack Goldstone, George Mason University Global Population and Migration in the 21st Century
December	Tamirace Fakhoury, Tufts University Fletcher School United Nations and resolving conflicts throughout the world
January	Chipso Dendere, Wellesley College When Voters Exit, Authoritarianism Survives
February	Mihaela Papa, MIT Center for International Studies BRICS, the US, and the Contest Over Global Leadership
March	Daniel S. Markey, Stimson Center Pakistan
April	Ethan Zuckerman, University of Massachusetts Amherst Mistrust
May	Dorota Markiewicz-Zemke, Embassy of Poland, Washington DC Poland



2024-2025 Annual Speakers Schedule

- September Eric Budd, Fitchburg State University
Indonesia and the Philippines: Navigating a Dangerous Neighborhood
- October M. Sawkat Anwer, Tufts University
Are We Ready for Artificial Intelligence in Global Health Management?
- November Jennifer Nuzzo, Brown University School of Public Health
Pandemic Readiness
- December Anna Ohanyan, Stonehill College
Contemporary Regional (Dis)Orders & Fractures in Eurasia: The Case of the South Caucasus
- January Steven A. Cook, Council on Foreign Relations
US & Israel
- February Ernest Scheyder, Reuters Correspondent
The War Below: Lithium, Copper, and the Global Battle to Power our Lives
- March Michael J. Butler, Clark University
From Humanitarian Intervention to Human Security
- April Frank Langfitt, NPR Global Democracy Correspondent
How journalists cover global events since the beginning of the 21st century
- May Meeting rescheduled

2023-2024 Annual Speakers Schedule

- September Mariana Budjeryn, Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center
Revisiting Ukraine's Nuclear Disarmament after the Russian Invasion:
Consequences for the Global Nuclear Order
- October Susan Colbourn, Duke University
The Future of NATO & the Alliance's Open Door
- November Karen Jacobsen, Tufts University
Understanding Climate-Related Migration
- December Gregory B. Poling, Center for Strategic and International Studies
The New Alliance Network in Asia
- January Laura Thornton, German Marshall Fund
Democratic Decline, Autocratic Rise: Solutions/Innovations in Europe
- February Shihoko Goto, The Wilson Center
Taiwan in the Middle: Why Taiwan Matters as Strategic Competition
Heats Up
- March Jennifer Cafarella, The Institute for the Study of War
The Changing Face of War: Lessons from Ukraine
- April Helena Arose, Arts & Antiquities Coalition
International communities working together to fight cultural racketeering
- May Josephine Wolff, Tufts University
Cyber risk and insurance: How do we manage private sector cyber risks
and why is it so hard?



2022-2023 Annual Speakers Schedule

- September Maj. Gen. (Ret) William E. Rapp, Thayer Leadership West Point
Civil-Military Relations in the US & Other Countries
- October Scot Marciel, Stanford University
Crisis and Opportunity in Myanmar
- November Katharine Petrich, Middlebury Institute of International Studies Monterey
Al-Shabaab's Criminal Activities in the Horn of Africa
- December Frederic Wehrey, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Religion and politics in the Middle East
- January Anatol Lieven, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft
Ukraine
- February Christopher M. Faulkner, U.S. Naval War College
The Role of Russian Private Military Companies in Africa, Ukraine, and
Beyond
- March John Feffer, Institute for Policy Studies
Latin America's Changing Political Climate
- April Mona Yacoubian, U.S. Institute of Peace
How to Prevent State Collapse of Lebanon
- May Trita Parsi, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft
Current Events in Iran
- June Molly Anderson, Middlebury College
Averting Hunger and Famine

2021-2022 Annual Speakers Schedule (Remote)

September	Bill McKibben, Middlebury College Current status of the environment, challenges, and impacts
October	David Kramer, Florida International University The Kremlin's Threat to Democracy
November	Ronak Desai, Paul Hastings LLP Future of the US-India Strategic Partnership
December	Andrew Weber, Council on Strategic Risks Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction
January	Peter Martin, Bloomberg News The Making of Wolf Warrior Diplomacy
February	Marc Grossman, Cohen Group, and Marcie Ries, Belfer Center A U.S. Diplomatic Service for the 21st Century
March	Alex Newhouse, Middlebury Institute of International Studies Online Radicalization of the Vulnerable & the Power of Social Media
April	Adam Weinstein, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft The US Experience in Afghanistan: What Does It Mean for Future Interventions and Nation-Building?
May	Rushan Abbas, Campaign for Uyghurs Global Implications of the Uyghur Genocide

2020-2021 Annual Speakers Schedule (Remote)

September	Lisel Hintz, Johns Hopkins University Turkey-U.S. Relationship Status in the Trump Era: It's Complicated
October	Laura M. Delgado López, NASA Science Mission Directorate Space, Exploration, International Cooperation, Security and Policy
November	Kelly Sims Gallagher, The Fletcher School, Tufts University US and China Climate Policy
December	Angela Stent, Georgetown University Putin's World: Russia Against the West and with the Rest
January	Eitan Peled, UNICEF USA Child Migration & Protection Child Migration Policy in the Biden Administration
February	Paul Fagan, McCain Institute, Arizona State University Reset on Africa – Human Rights and other issues
March	Farah Pandith, Future of Diplomacy Project, Harvard Belfer Center Radicalization and Extremism
April	Mark Leonard, European Council on Foreign Relations The Crisis of America Power: How Europe Views the Biden Administration
May	Trita Parsi, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft How to End Endless Wars in the Middle East
June	Paul A Berkman, Science Diplomacy Harvard-MIT Public Disputes Program Great Powers and the Melting Arctic



2019-2020 Annual Speakers Schedule

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| September | Peter Dutton, US Naval War College
China and South China Seas |
| October | Joseph Cirincione, Ploughshares Fund
Nuclear Disarmament and North Korea |
| November | Torrey Taussig, Harvard Kennedy School
Trans-Atlantic Relations in the Age of Trump |
| December | Eric Farnsworth, Council of the Americas
US Relations with Latin America: From Where We Are to Where We Want to Go |
| January | Daniel Maxwell, Tufts University
Famine and Conflicts Around the World |
| February | Miko Peled, Writer and Activist
A New Paradigm - The Keys to Peace in Israel/Palestine |
| March | Michael Butler, Clark University
New Decade, New Dilemmas? Contemporary Challenges for U.S. National Security |
| April-June | Events cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic |

2018-2019 Annual Speakers Schedule

- September Mary Beth Leonard, Ambassador to the African Union
The African Union as Partner in Peace and Security
- October Behnam Talebu, Foundation for the Defense of Democracy
Iran: Challenge or Change?
- November Robert Blake, Jr., McLarty Associates
How is Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority democracy,
handling threats of Radical Islam?
- December John Carey, Dartmouth College
Democracy in the Americas: Adversity and Resilience
- January Célia Belin, Brookings Institute
French-American Relations in an Age of Trump: Balancing Interests and
Principles
- February Elizabeth Reynolds, MIT Industrial Performance Center
Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work
- March David M. Shribman, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
A Short History of Truth
- April Scott Moore, The Penn Water Center
The Future of Water Conflict
- May Dipayan Ghosh, Shorenstein Center, Harvard University
A New Digital Social Contract: Regulating Tech to Promote Consumer
Interests
- June Miryeya Solis, Brookings Institute
Japan and the Geopolitics of Trade

2017-2018 Annual Speakers Schedule

September	Paul R. Pillar, Center Security Studies, Georgetown University Israel and the Palestinians, The Enduring Conflict
October	Evans J. R. Revere, Brookings Institution War or Peace on the Korean Peninsula
November	Constanze Stelzenmüller, Brookings Institute Europe: America's Problem or America's Partner
December	Chas W. Freeman, Jr., Watson Institute, Brown University The Middle East in the New World Disorder
January	Graham Allison, Harvard University Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides' Trap?
February	Susan Landau, Tufts University Listening In: Cybersecurity in an Insecure Age
March	Amir Idris, Fordham University Rethinking South Sudan's Civil War: History, Identity and Citizenship
April	Phillippe Le Corre, Belfer Center, Harvard University China's Eurasian Geo-economics Plan: Can it Extend the Country's Political Influence?
May	Ronak Desai, Belfer Center, Harvard University Rising India: US Partner or US Ally?
June	William Alan Rensch, Center for Strategic and International Studies Trade: Trans-Pacific Partnership and NAFTA

2016-2017 Annual Speakers Schedule

- September Richard Nephew, Columbia University
The Iran Deal: What's Next for America?
- October Imam Mohammad Musri, Islamic Society of Central Florida
Islam in America
- November Steven Radelet, Georgetown University
Is Globalism a Threat to American Prosperity?
- December Kemal Kirişci, Brookings Institute
The Future of Turkey, at Home and Abroad
- January Congressman Jim McGovern
US-Cuban relations: Where we have been and where we are going?
- February Martín Burt, Fundación Paraguaya
Social Entrepreneurship to Eliminate Poverty
- March Jeremy Haft, SafeSource Trading and Georgetown University
Trading Places: America, China and the Fight for Middle-Class Jobs
- April Javier Corrales, Amherst College
How did Venezuela become a populist authoritarian regime and could the same thing happen in the United States?
- May Asima Silva, EnjoinGood.org
What it means to be an American Muslim
- June Edward Alden, Council on Foreign Relations
The Struggle over Immigration: Making sense of the backlash in the United States and in Europe

2015-2016 Annual Speakers Schedule

- September John Esposito, Georgetown University
 What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam
- October Francesca Spidalieri, Salve Regina University
 Sony, Target & OPM – Cyber Security at the National and Individual Level
- November Roselyn Hsueh, Temple University
 A Rapidly Rising China in the Age of Globalization
- December Stephen M. Walt, Harvard University
 Does Europe Have a Future?
- January Ellen B. Laipson, Henry L. Stimson Center
- February Harold Trinkunas, Brookings Institute
 Brazil – Its Rise and Stall
- March Sung-Yoon Lee, Tufts University
 Five Myths about North Korea
- April Ribal al-Assad, Democracy in Syria Movement
 Syria, the Mideast and the New Cold War: How three tiers of conflict
 created an Apocalypse
- May Steven Lee Myers, Moscow Bureau Chief, The New York Times
 The New Tsar: Rise and Reign of Vladimir Putin
- June Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, Kurdistan Regional Government
 Representative to the United States



2014-2015 Annual Speakers Schedule

- September Ronald E Neumann, American Academy of Diplomacy
Afghanistan: What Now?
- October Paula Dobrianski, World Affairs Councils of America
U.S. Foreign Policy: Where are we headed?
- November Robert M Hathaway, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
Afghanistan, America's Longest War: How Did We Get Here? What's Ahead?
- December Andrew J. Bacevich, Boston University
Lessons from America's War for the Greater Middle East
- January Haroon K. Ullah, Policy Planning Staff at U.S. Department of State
- February Susie Kitchens, British Consul General, Boston
- March Richard Lobban, Naval War College
Islamic Extremism from AQIM to ISIS: the Cases of Libya and the Levantine-Iraqi Caliphate
- April Jonathan Howe, Arthur Vining Davis Foundations
The Future Role of the US in the World
- May Claudia Fritsche, Ambassador of the Principality of Liechtenstein to U.S.
Navigating Europe – Perspectives from a non-EU country
- June Matthew Levitt, Washington Institute for Near East Policy



About us

The mission of the [Worcester World Affairs Council](#) is to educate, inspire, and engage its members in international affairs. The Council's monthly meetings provide a convivial setting for members and invited speakers to discuss the critical global issues of our time.

The Worcester Council is one of more than 90 similar councils across the United States. The Worcester World Affairs Council (WWAC) is a Massachusetts-chartered nonprofit corporation formed in 1958 under the auspices of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, and now affiliated with the [World Affairs Councils of America](#) (WACA). Neither the WWAC nor the WACA have any political affiliation and they do not take positions on matters of policy.