



## 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	Chipo 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



## 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<br>China and South China Seas  |
| October    | Joseph Cirincione, Ploughshares Fund<br>Nuclear Disarmament and North Korea   |
| November   | Torrey Taussig, Harvard Kennedy School<br>Trans-Atlantic Relations in the Age of Trump                                |
| December   | Eric Farnsworth, Council of the Americas<br>US Relations with Latin America: From Where We Are to Where We Want to Go |
| January    | Daniel Maxwell, Tufts University<br>Famine and Conflicts Around the World   |
| February   | Miko Peled, Writer and Activist<br>A New Paradigm - The Keys to Peace in Israel/Palestine                             |
| March      | Michael Butler, Clark University<br>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.