Recent Annual Speakers Programs

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

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**

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Lisel Hintz, Johns Hopkins University</td>
<td>Turkey-U.S. Relationship Status in the Trump Era: It’s Complicated</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Laura M. Delgado López, NASA Science Mission</td>
<td>Space, Exploration, International Cooperation, Security and Policy</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Kelly Sims Gallagher, The Fletcher School,</td>
<td>US and China Climate Policy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tufts University</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Angela Stent, Georgetown University</td>
<td>Putin’s World: Russia Against the West and with the Rest</td>
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<td>January</td>
<td>Eitan Peled, UNICEF USA Child Migration &amp;</td>
<td>Child Migration Policy in the Biden Administration</td>
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<td>Protection</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>Paul Fagan, McCain Institute, Arizona State</td>
<td>Reset on Africa – Human Rights and other issues</td>
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<td>University</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Farah Pandith, Future of Diplomacy Project,</td>
<td>Radicalization and Extremism</td>
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<td>Harvard Belfer Center</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Mark Leonard, European Council on Foreign</td>
<td>The Crisis of America Power: How Europe Views the Biden Administration</td>
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<td>Relations</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Trita Parsi, Quincy Institute for Responsible</td>
<td>How to End Endless Wars in the Middle East</td>
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<td>Statecraft</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Paul A Berkman, Science Diplomacy Harvard-MI</td>
<td>Great Powers and the Melting Arctic with Professor</td>
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<td>MIT Public Disputes Program</td>
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2019-2020 Annual Speakers Schedule

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

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