Recent Annual Speakers Programs

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, the 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Scot Marciel, Stanford University</td>
<td>Crisis and Opportunity in Myanmar</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Katharine Petrich, Middlebury Institute of International Studies Monterey</td>
<td>Al-Shabaab's Criminal Activities in the Horn of Africa</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Frederic Wehrey, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace</td>
<td>Religion and politics in the Middle East</td>
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<td>January</td>
<td>Anatol Lieven, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>Christopher M. Faulkner, U.S. Naval War College</td>
<td>The Role of Russian Private Military Companies in Africa, Ukraine, and Beyond</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>John Feffer, Institute for Policy Studies</td>
<td>Latin America’s Changing Political Climate</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Mona Yacoubian, U.S. Institute of Peace</td>
<td>How to Prevent State Collapse of Lebanon</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Trita Parsi, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft</td>
<td>Current events in Iran</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Molly Anderson, Middlebury College</td>
<td>Averting Hunger and Famine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Month</td>
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<td>Topic</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Bill McKibben, Middlebury College</td>
<td>Current status of the environment, challenges, and impacts</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>David Kramer, Florida International University</td>
<td>The Kremlin's Threat to Democracy</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Ronak Desai, Paul Hastings LLP</td>
<td>Future of the US-India Strategic Partnership</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Andrew Weber, Council on Strategic Risks</td>
<td>Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Peter Martin, Bloomberg News</td>
<td>The Making of Wolf Warrior Diplomacy</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>Marc Grossman, Cohen Group, and Marcie Ries, Belfer Center</td>
<td>A U.S. Diplomatic Service for the 21st Century</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Alex Newhouse, Middlebury Institute of International Studies</td>
<td>Online Radicalization of the Vulnerable &amp; the Power of Social Media</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Adam Weinstein, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft</td>
<td>The US Experience in Afghanistan: What Does It Mean for Future Interventions and Nation-Building?</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Rushan Abbas, Campaign for Uyghurs</td>
<td>Global Implications of the Uyghur Genocide</td>
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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 with Professor
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

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  Miryea 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.