

Recent Annual Speakers Programs

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 Contact: 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	Renak 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.