

## Recent Annual Speakers Programs

### 2019-2020 Annual Speakers Schedule

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 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 rescheduled due to coronavirus pandemic  |

## 2018-2019 Annual Speakers Schedule

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

## 2017-2018 Annual Speakers Schedule

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

## 2016-2017 Annual Speakers Schedule

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| September | Richard Nephew, Columbia University<br>The Iran Deal: What's Next for America?   |
| October   | Imam Mohammad Musri, Islamic Society of Central Florida<br>Islam in America  |
| November  | Steven Radelet, Georgetown University<br>Is Globalism a Threat to American Prosperity?   |
| December  | Kemal Kirişci, Brookings Institute<br>The Future of Turkey, at Home and Abroad   |
| January   | Congressman Jim McGovern<br>US-Cuban relations: Where we have been and where we are going?   |
| February  | Martín Burt, Fundación Paraguaya<br>Social Entrepreneurship to Eliminate Poverty   |
| March     | Jeremy Haft, SafeSource Trading and Georgetown University<br>Trading Places: America, China and the Fight for Middle-Class Jobs                    |
| April     | Javier Corrales, Amherst College<br>How did Venezuela become a populist authoritarian regime and could the same thing happen in the United States? |
| May       | Asima Silva, EnjoinGood.org<br>What it means to be an American Muslim  |
| June      | Edward Alden, Council on Foreign Relations<br>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<br>What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam   |
| October   | Francesca Spidalieri, Salve Regina University<br>Sony, Target & OPM – Cyber Security at the National and Individual Level                 |
| November  | Roselyn Hsueh, Temple University<br>A Rapidly Rising China in the Age of Globalization  |
| December  | Stephen M. Walt, Harvard University<br>Does Europe Have a Future?   |
| January   | Ellen B. Laipson, Henry L. Stimson Center   |
| February  | Harold Trinkunas, Brookings Institute<br>Brazil – Its Rise and Stall  |
| March     | Sung-Yoon Lee, Tufts University<br>Five Myths about North Korea   |
| April     | Ribal al-Assad, Democracy in Syria Movement<br>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<br>The New Tsar: Rise and Reign of Vladimir Putin                               |
| June      | Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, Kurdistan Regional Government<br>Representative to the United States   |

## 2014-2015 Annual Speakers Schedule

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| September | Ronald E Neumann, American Academy of Diplomacy<br>Afghanistan: What Now?   |
| October   | Paula Dobrianski, World Affairs Councils of America<br>U.S. Foreign Policy: Where are we headed?  |
| November  | Robert M Hathaway, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars<br>Afghanistan, America's Longest War: How Did We Get Here? What's Ahead? |
| December  | Andrew J. Bacevich, Boston University<br>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<br>Islamic Extremism from AQIM to ISIS: the Cases of Libya and the<br>Levantine-Iraqi Caliphate             |
| April     | Jonathan Howe, Arthur Vining Davis Foundations<br>The Future Role of the US in the World  |
| May       | Claudia Fritsche, Ambassador of the Principality of Liechtenstein to U.S.<br>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.