CLIMATE CHANGE and CONFLICT: Assessing the Risks

Professor Emily Meierding
Naval Postgraduate School
Monday, September 18, 2017
11:30 am registration ~ noon luncheon ~ 1:00-2:00 program
Rancho Canada, Carmel Valley Road

There is widespread concern that in the future global climate change will trigger serious physical and social changes. Sea level rise, shifting climate zones, and frequent and severe weather events may lead to food and water scarcity, disease, and migration. Poor developing countries and those with weaker governments are most likely to suffer. Many speculate this could lead to greater regional instability and conflict. Climate change is regularly identified as a “threat multiplier” and already has been blamed for a number of contemporary conflicts, including the Syrian civil war and contention in Darfur. The U.S. Department of Defense has designated climate change as a contributing factor to consider in future national security planning.

Can climate change affect international peace and security? Professor Emily Meierding will examine the connection between climate change and conflict, identifying the real risks, but also challenging more hyperbolic climate-conflict claims. She will also discuss efforts to address potential threats.

Dr. Meierding is an Assistant Professor of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS). Her research and teaching focus on international and intra-state conflict and cooperation over energy resources and climate change. She received her PhD and MA in political science from the University of Chicago. She earned her BA in history from the University of California Santa Cruz. Prior to joining NPS Dr. Meierding taught at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland, and was a Predoctoral Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University.

(Please see page 3 for reservation details.)

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Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 7</td>
<td>Board meets in Conference Room, McCone building, MIIS. Open to members. 4:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, September 11</td>
<td>Discussion Group on Afghanistan/Pakistan: What’s next in America’s longest war? Meets in Room 101, Social Science Building, MPC. 4-5:30 pm</td>
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<td>Mondays, September 11 &amp; 25</td>
<td>Great Decisions Discussion Groups meet at CSUMB Ryan Ranch. 4-5:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 13</td>
<td>WAC Book Club meets at Monterey Public Library, Community Room reviewing Democracy: Stories from the Long Road to Freedom by Condoleezza Rice. 5-6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, September 18</td>
<td>Luncheon and presentation of Climate Change and Conflict by Professor Emily Meierding at Rancho Canada, Carmel Valley Road. 11:30-2pm</td>
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The Global Rise of Populist Nationalism?

At our July luncheon, the World Affairs Council had the great privilege of hosting one of America’s leading public intellectuals, Francis Fukuyama, now at Stanford University. Fukuyama spoke on the rise of populism around the globe and its generally destructive elements, including populism’s weakening of the rule of law and the corrupting of the institutions of a modern state.

Fukuyama began his talk by noting the broad expansion of democracy around the world over the past 50 years. About 115 countries in the world are now democracies, or nearly two-thirds. This is a fact that should be celebrated. However, populism is now the biggest threat to democracy, mostly through a process of internal decay. This decay, often called Putinism today, consists of authoritarian populism but with a democratic façade. Populist leaders are often elected, legitimately so, but then erode democracy from within.

The single most predictive variable to identify populist voters, from Brexit to Trump, is population density; that is, cities versus rural areas. Brexit, Trump, Putin, Erdogan and other populist issues and candidates are far more popular in rural areas than in major cities. Fukuyama added that the “most dangerous people politically” are folks who think of themselves as middle class but then start to fall behind. This new economic reality emerges as a form of identity as well, with immigrants often seen as the primary source of their economic slippage. These voters are the principal supporters of populist movements.

But Fukuyama’s message was generally optimistic, that the pessimism usually expressed about global populism is overdone. There has been significant pushback against populism in many countries, including recently in France and the Netherlands, and even US institutions are holding up well in the face of populist challenge.

Glenn Robinson

IF THE SHOE FITS........

The World Affairs Council Discussion Group, led by moderator Larry Johnson, will meet in room 101 of the Social Science building at MPC on September 11 at 4 pm. This month, expect a lively review of Afghanistan/Pakistan: What’s next in America’s longest war? Johnson regularly supports selected discussion topics by issuing suggested reading materials. (Be sure to give us your email address.) Participants are encouraged to pursue independent study as well. The meeting is open to the public free of charge. Everyone’s welcome! Please come!

At the same time and on the same day, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) of California State University Monterey Bay, in conjunction with the WAC, will open its Fall program of the Great Decisions Discussion Group at Ryan Ranch. The OLLI program, under the leadership of Fred Lawson, meets twice monthly (September 11 & 25) to explore timely topics selected by the group. The September 11 topic is International Populism. Participants here are also encouraged to pursue independent study and to share their knowledge and opinions. The OLLI group is open to the public and free of charge, but registration with CSUMB is requested. Call 831-520-5500 or go to csumb.edu.olli.

The WAC Book Club continues to gather readers on the second Wednesday of each month, 5-6:30 pm at the Monterey Public Library. September’s selection is Democracy: Stories from the Long Road to Freedom by Condoleezza Rice. In Democracy, Rice explains what these epochal events teach us about democracy; how no two transitions to democracy are the same, and, in the absence of perfect circumstances, how to move forward under difficult ones. Free and open to the public. Contact wacmbbookclub@gmail.com for more information.

This program is not sponsored or endorsed by the
**RESERVATION FORM**
Reservations due September 13, 2017 for September 18, 2017 presentation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration 11:30 am</th>
<th>Mail form &amp; check or credit information to:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WAC-P.O. Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luncheon at noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program 1 pm</td>
<td>or Fax reservation form to (831) 643-1846.</td>
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**Members @ $25 ea. ———**

| Guests @ $35 ea. ——— |
| Credit card charge $2 ea. ——— |
| Total ————|

**Climate Change and Conflict**

| Name/s —— | Card Holder’s Name ———— |
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Vegetarian? (72 hours notice) ——— Signature ———

Questions? Call the office at 831-643-1855

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**Student Ambassadors**

September 15 is the deadline for applications for the Student Ambassador Program sponsored by WAC of Northern California. The program starts in October and meets twice monthly in San Francisco. Check out https://www.worldaffairs.org/about-us/what-we-do/education for the many benefits of the WAC Education Program.

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**LUNCHEON MENU**

**Baby Spinach Salad**

**With**

**Salmon Teriyaki Glaze**

**Rice & Vegetables**

**Chef’s Choice Dessert**

(Vegetarian)

**Vegetable Stir Fry**

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**Welcome!**

Bruce Lindsey
Xavier Maruyama
Joyce Moffatt
George Riley
Janet and Jeff Wallace
David Warner
Geraldine Whitaker
World Affairs Council
P.O. Box 83
Monterey, CA 93942
wacmb@redshift.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Corporate and institutional support for the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is provided by:
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WAC office, 479 Pacific St., 5A, Monterey 93940
Mail to: P.O. Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942
831-643-1855  FAX 831-643-1846
e-mail: wacmb@redshift.com
Website: www.wacmb.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Contributing………………$150
Sustaining…………………$75
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Student…………………….$15

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Phone ————————e-mail—————————

Student memberships are limited to full-time students matriculating at an accredited college or graduate school. This includes special military membership for enlisted personnel. Grades E-1 to E-4 only.