

Winter Lecture Series of Lincoln, Nebraska

Topics for the first 16 years; venue Vine Congregational Church:

1985	Central America	1990	Mexico	1995	Cuba
1986	The Middle East	1991	Eastern Europe	1996	India
1987	South Africa	1992	Japan	1997	South America
1988	The Soviet Union	1993	The Global Bond	1998	Canada
1989	China	1994	Africa	1999	Southeast Asia
				2000	Revisiting the World

Topics, descriptions, and speakers for subsequent years Lincoln Unitarian Church:

2001 **Human Rights and Migration – A Global Perspective**

The interplay of values and the interactions and conflicts between cultures frequently leads to violations of human rights and to the eventual movements of people across borders. Dealing with the historical and cultural origins of such problems and movements and with the responses of governments (and associated issues of jurisprudence) places the topic of this WLS squarely within the definition of humanities as defined by the Nebraska Humanities Council guidelines.

Topics and Speakers:

Introduction to Human Rights and Human Diversity – David Forsythe, Charles J. Mach
Distinguished Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL)

Refugees and the Roles of Non-Governmental Organizations – Robert Hitchcock,
professor at UNL

Afghan Refugees in South Asia and Afghan Women's Rights – Catherine Daly,
Professor University of Minnesota

Human Rights and Refugees in Africa – Lucia Ann McSpadden, African specialist with
the Life and Peace Research Institute, Sweden

Amnesty International, Human Rights and Non-Governmental Organizations – Carole
Nagengast, professor at University of New Mexico

Refugees in Europe, with Focus on the Former Yugoslavia – Patrice McMahon,
professor at UNL

Refugees in the Western Hemisphere: Central and South America – Miguel
Carranza, professor at UNL

Dinner and Panel Discussion

2002 **Our Children's Inheritance: Global Environmental Issues of the 21st Century.**

Description: Global ecological issues impact the quality of the lives of peoples and the forms of cultural institutions that develop and survive. In turn, cultural institutions influence how people respond to ecological issues. As a striking modern example that may be touched on by the programs on water and on food, the plight of Afghanistan as a politically failed nation has been exacerbated by the half-decade long drought that has occurred there. Dealing with the historical and cultural origins of ecological problems (e.g., species eradication, human

population growth, limited food availability) will be an important focus on the program.

Topics and Speakers:

Human Population Growth – Werner Fornos, President of the Population Institute, past member of the U.S. Congress, & past professor George Washington University

Climate and Ecological Impacts on Arctic Peoples – Peter Collings, professor at University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL)

Africa's Disappearing Water – Robert Hitchcock, professor at UNL

A World-wise Perspective on Water – Don Wilhite. Director of the National Drought Mitigation Center and International Drought Information Center, UNL

Food for the World – Kenneth G. Cassman, professor at UNL

Indigenous Peoples, Species Preservation and Biodiversity – Naida M. Loskutoff, physiologist at the Center for Conservation and Research at the Henry Doorly Zoo, Research Coordinator in the South African Center for Conservation and Research, and adjunct professor in eight universities in the USA and South Africa

Afghan Dinner and Program: “Introduction of ARYA and Afghan Youth Investment

Project; “Afghan History” by Dr. Karim Gharzai; and panel discussion by Farida Ebrahim, Samira Mahboub, Asad Obaidi, and Dr. Karim Gharzai

2003 Global Food: Poverty and Equity

Description: In wealthy nations, people spent approximately 20% of their resources on food. In developing nations, that percentage is typically over 50. Thus food is of paramount importance for people for all cultures, and cultures are often defined by the ways in which food is produced (e.g., hunters and gatherers; agrarian; nomadic herders, etc.). Thus food production, quality, and availability determine culture, and those variables are in turn affected by cultural traditions. Increasingly in the modern world, international policies and multinational corporations impact local production and consumption, and hence local culture, often to the detriment of those cultures. Speakers will focus on the interaction of food availability and of poverty with traditions, laws, and cultures.

Topics and Speakers:

Overcoming Hunger and Poverty: Finding the Political Will – Don Reeves, Interim General Secretary of American Friends Service Committee and former Economic Policy Analyst for Bread for the World

Indigenous Peoples' Land Rights and Challenges of Global Treaties – James Riddell, former Chief, Land Tenure Service, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome

Local Paths to Sustainable Futures: Stories from Southern Africa – Lorna Michael Butler, Henry A. Wallace for Sustainable Agriculture, Chair, Iowa State University

The Role of Trade in Food Security and Poverty Reduction – E. Wesley Peterson, professor at UNL

Local Farmer Knowledge and External Development Forces – Juan Paulo

Ramirez, researcher with the National Institute of Agricultural Research in Chile.

Poverty and Opportunity in Rural Nebraska – Chuck Hassebrook, Co-Director of the Center for Rural Affairs and member of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents

Food Insecurity and Policy in the Global Rural/Urban Landscape – David Iaquina, professor at Nebraska Wesleyan University and consultant for United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

Dinner and Panel Discussion by Sentino Akot, Saeede Amoun, Dubouny Bukjiok, David Chand, Keck Chol, Albert Maribaga, Duol Rut, Khuleng Stephen, Nypiat Stephen, David Taw, Mr. Thot, with moderator Robert Hitchcock

2004: National Identity and Global Citizenship: The Benefits and Negative Results of Globalization and International Cooperation

Description: We are citizens of the USA, but we are also members of the human race.

Our rights and responsibilities as citizens of a sovereign nation and as part of the world of humanity sometime present conflicting allegiances. In this series, we seek to understand the political, jurisdictional, and economic forces that affect us and which, in turn, we have the potential to influence.

Topics and Speakers:

Trends in Development and Philanthropy in a Globalized World – Natalie Hahn, advisor to United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

International Politics and International Courts – David Forsythe, Charles J. Mach Distinguished Professor, UNL

U.S. Politics and Multi-lateral Solutions to Global Problems: Pollution, Terrorism, Crime, and Disease – David Rapkin, professor at UNL

Enhancing Global Connections: The Role of Education in Developing Countries – Joan Sullivan Owomoyela, consultant for NGOs in South Asia and Africa

A Legal and Historical Analysis of Sovereignty and Rights of Native Americans – Walter Echohawk, legal counsel for Native American Rights Fund

Mediating Ethnic Conflicts in Eastern Europe: The Role of Transnational Networks – Patrice McMahon, professor at UNL

Dinner and Panel Discussion on the Issues of the Series

2005: Palestine & Israel: Religions, Homelands, and Cultures

Description: To understand the ecological, cultural, political and religious forces that have given such longevity to the conflicts in Southwest Asia (i.e., “the Middle East”), this Winter Lecture Series presents speakers who discuss the religious, cultural, and political history of the region from ancient times to the present.

Topics and Speakers:

Role of Water and Ecology in Palestine and Israel – Sandy Kaplan, professor of Geosciences at UNL

Ancient History of People, Cultures, and Religions of Palestine and Israel – Steve Burnet, professor at UNL

Impact of Two Centuries of Colonialism on Islam in the Middle East – Simon Wood, professor of Classics at UNL

Politics, Nationalism, and Conflicts in the Middle East Region since 1918 – Jeff Spinner-Halley, professor at UNL

Conflicts in Israel and the Middle East since 1948 – Moshe Gershovich, professor of History at University of Nebraska at Omaha
How Christian and Islamic Scripture is Used to Justify Extremism – Bill Draper-Finlaw, professor at UNL
Dinner and Panel Discussion by Sandy Kaplan, Simon Wood, and Moshe Gershovich

2006: **China: From Early Dynasties to the Present**

Description: To understand the historical, cultural, political and economic forces that have stimulated the almost continuously news coverage of China by Western news media in the last few years, the Winter Lecture Series will present speakers who will discuss the culture, health, politics, and economy of China from ancient times to the present.

Topics and Speakers:

Traditional Chinese Culture: Its Dimensions and World-wide Impact – Janet Lu, professor at Nebraska Wesleyan University
The WWII Era in China: The Second Sino-Japanese War and the Nanjing Massacre – Suping Lu, professor at UNL
Taiwan and China: Nationalism, Identity and Development – Megan Greene, professor at University of Kansas
Public Health Issues of China in the Context of Social, Political and Economic Change – Ian Newman, professor at UNL and consultant for the World Health Organization
Mutual Impacts of Political Change and Economic Reform in the Last Four Decades – Andy Wedeman, professor at UNL
The Emergence of the China Market: Economic Issues – Stephan Wang, professor at Doane College
Dinner and Program by children from the Lincoln Chinese Cultural Association, directed by Lily Di; “Summarizing the Series” by Robert Stoddard; and “Some Thoughts About the Future of Sino-American Relations” by Suping Lu and Stephan Wang, moderated by Robert Stoddard

2007: **Climate Change: Causes and Responses**

Description: We hope to inform our audience of many aspects of interaction between individuals, cultures, governments, and the environment. Through a lecture series featuring authorities on climate change, public policy, governmental bureaucracies, and the impacts of religious beliefs on environmentalism, we will provide Nebraska residents with a forum to learn about the causes and consequences of the earth’s changing climate from prehistoric times to the present. Our initial speakers will first examine the climatic history of the earth to modern times. Subsequent speakers will deal with how and why governments and peoples have ignored or addressed the ongoing global climatic changes.

Topics and Speakers:

The Climate Detective: Unraveling the Evidence for Global Warming – Kenneth Dewey, professor at UNL
Basic Warming Science and a Discussion of the Brokaw Film – Clinton Rowe, professor at UNL
The ANDRILL Project: Determining 20 Million Years of Climate Conditions –

professor at UNL
Public Policy and the Impediments to Concern and Action – Charles Harper,
professor at Creighton University
Christian Environmental Worldviews and the Implications for Climate Change
Policy – Janel Curry, dean and professor at Calvin College, Grand Rapids,
MI
Tackling Climate Change: The U.S. Potential for Renewable Energy and Energy
Efficiency to 2030 – Charles Kutscher – research scientist at National
Renewable Energy Lab, Golden, CO
Dinner and Panel Discussion on Climate Change by Mayor-elect Chri Beutler,
John Hansen, and JoEllen Polzien, with moderator David Iaquina

2008: **Africa: Challenge and Hope**

Description: Through a lecture series featuring authorities on various aspects of modern sub-Saharan Africa, we will provide Nebraska residents with a forum to learn about many aspects of the cultures, the human rights, and economic issues in that region of the world. In contrast to much of the negative news coverage on Africa, our speakers will emphasize, where appropriate, successful projects and solutions to African issues.

Topics and Speakers:

Emerging Africa, Development, Democracy, and Environmental Change – Robert Hitchcock, professor at Michigan State
Africa on Six Wheels: A Semester on Safari – Betty Levitov, professor at Doane College
Prospects for Economic Growth and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa – Wesley Peterson, professor at UNL, with six graduate students from African countries
Revitalizing African Relationships in Education: A RARE Opportunity – Janet Poley, president of American Distance Education Consortium
Food Sustainability and Natural Resource Management: A Matter of Survival – Andres Manu, professor at Iowa State University
Dinner and Panel Discussion on African issues by Charles Wood, Harriet McLeod, and John Yohe with moderator David Iaquina

2009: **Cuba: From Slavery to Sanctions and Beyond**

Description: To understand the historical, cultural, political, and economic forces that have shaped Cuba and US-Cuban relationships, this lecture series will present speakers who will discuss the culture, health, politics, and economy of Cuba from an historical perspective to the present.

Topics and Speakers:

History of Cuba through the Bacardi family – Tom Gjelten, NPS Correspondent
The United States and Cuba from Marti to Castro – Charles Stansifer, professor of history at University of Kansas
Cuban Culture Observed by Journalism project – Joe Starita, professor of Journalism at University of Nebraska, and former students of that project
Cuban Health Care and AIDS Policies – Byron Barksdale, physician in North Platte
Food and Agriculture of Cuba – Stan Garbacz, Nebr. Dept. of Agriculture

U.S.-Cuba Relations through the Years – Ricardo Zuniga, US State Department
Dinner and Panel Discussion on the Issues of the Series by Suzy Prenger, Odalys
Duque, Maria Teresa Gaston, and Fred Figueroa with moderator David
Iaquinta

2010: **Pakistan and Afghanistan**

Description: The obvious focus for a lecture series on Pakistan and Afghanistan is to present in depth those topics that preoccupy news about that region—the current political and military situations, particularly as those situations involve official US activities. While not ignoring those topics, we seek as well to provide an understanding of the history, religious institutions, educational system, and culture of that region.

Topics and Speakers:

History of Tribal and Religious Interactions in Pakistan – Sabahat Rafiq, international investment banking consultant
Natural Resources of the Region – Jack Shroder, Asst. Dean of International Studies & Prof. of Geography, Univ. of Nebr., Omaha
How Changing Social, Political, Religious, and Military forces Shape Education in Afghanistan – Tom Gouttierre, Dean of International Studies & Director of Afghanistan Studies, Univ. of Nebr., Omaha
Interrelationships of Pakistan’s Army, Bureaucracy, and Ethnic Groups – Sabahat Rafiq, international investment banking consultant
History of Military Conflicts in the Region – Roger Lemke, Director of Military Affairs for Sen. Mike Johanns & former Adjutant General of Nebraska
History of India-Pakistan Relations – Shahid Kamal, Mayor’s Committee for International Friendship and former citizen of Pakistan
Dinner and Program on “US Policies and the Realities of Afghan Reconstruction”
By Michael C. Keays, long-time officer in the US. Dept. of State and now leader of the Counterinsurgency and Political-Military Team at the Afghanistan Desk

2011: **Russia and the Post-Soviet States**

Description: Through a lecture series and follow-up web site availability of those lectures, we will feature authorities on various aspects of historical Soviet Union, modern Russia, and the new nations that have emerged from the Former Republics. The Soviet domination of the former Republics and of the nations of Eastern Europe has had major continuing impacts on those regions, and yet the new states are essentially unknown to Americans. Relationships with Russia today are in transition, still somewhat mysterious, but extraordinarily important.

Topics and Speakers:

Some Geographical Relationships of Resources and Population Among Russia and the 14 Other Post-Soviet States – Robert H. Stoddard, Professor Emeritus of Geography, UNL
History of the Soviet Union and Russia – James C. McClelland, Assoc. Prof. of History, UNL
Russia and the Post-Soviet States, Focusing Especially on Russian-Ukrainian

Relations – Bill Gleason, Coordinator of Eurasian Studies at the U.S.
Dept. of State
Russian Relationships with the United States – Kyle Scott, Office of Russian Affairs, US
Dept. of State
Soviet-bloc Nations of Eastern Europe and Their Relationships with Russia –
Bruce M. Garver, Professor of History, Univ. of Nebr.-Omaha
The Former Soviet Republics in Asia and Their Relationships with Russia –
Michele Commercio, Asst. Prof. of Political Science, Univ. of Vermont
Dinner & Panel Discussion by Joyce Gleason, Bachtiyer Kholmatov, and Brian
Ridenour, with moderator David Iaquinta

2012: **Northern Africa from Morocco to Egypt**

Description: Through a lecture series and followup web site availability of those lectures, we will feature authorities on the region of North Africa known as the Maghreb (from Morocco through Libia), but also including Egypt. At a time when those countries are experiencing major transitions, the involvement of the US with those nations literally preoccupies the attention of our citizens and dominates the media.

Topics and Speakers:

The Invention of the Maghreb – Majid Hannoum, Associate Professor of African and African-American Studies and Anthropology Univ. of Kansas
Historical and Current Tunisia – Nejib Ayachi, Director of the Maghreb Center in Washington D.C.
The Arab Spring, Islam, and Islamism in Egypt – Simon Wood, Asst. Prof. of Religious Studies, UNL
Family Life in Libya – Mohammed Dahab, Professor of Civil Engineering, UNL & former citizen of Libya
Colonial and Current Algeria – James LeSeuer, Assoc. Prof. of History, UNL
Northern Africa and US Policy – Raymond Maxwell, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs
Dinner & Program “The New Moroccan Constitution: The Second Revolution of the King and the People” by Samira Sayeh, Assoc. Prof. of Francophone Studies, Univ. of Kansas

2013: **Understanding Iran**

Description: Through a lecture series and follow-up web site availability of those lectures, we will feature authorities on Iran from its ancient Persian origins to today. The obvious focus for a lecture series is to present in depth those topics that preoccupy news about that region—the current standoff over nuclear development and Iranian involvement in the conflicts of the region. While not dismissing or ignoring the importance of those topics, we seek to provide a deeper cultural and historical basis for understanding those current topics and others such as the tension between the emergence of a modern nation and the conservative impacts of clerical control.

Topics and Speakers:

Magi and Kings: The Iranians in World History –Touraj Daryaee, Howard C. Baskerville Professor in the History of Iran and the Persianate World Univ. of California, Irvine
Evolving Iran: The Theocracy Deals with the 21st Century – Barbara Flanagan,

Associate Professor of Political Science, Central Washington University,
Ellensburg

Iranian Literature and Culture by Franklin Lewis – Associate Professor of Persian
Language and Literature Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of
Chicago

Iran Before and After the Arab Spring –Mahmood Monshipouri, Professor of
International Relations at San Francisco State University

Religion and Politics in Iran and Turkey: A Comparative Perspective –Ramazan
Kilinc, Assistant Professor of Political Science University of Nebraska at
Omaha

Dinner & Panel Discussion by Setareh Negahban, Brian Lepard, James Clark with
moderator David Iaquinta

2014: **Climate Change: Local, National, and International Responses**

Description: The climate is changing and, willing or not, people, cultures, and nations must respond. The 30th Winter Lecture Series (WLS) is about those human responses – coping that is often political but that always includes costs that are economic, social, and physical, and that vary depending upon the manifestations of climate change in each part of the world.

Topics and Speakers:

Climate Change: The Latest Findings and What We Must Do – Chuck Kutscher,
Principal Engineer/Group Manager, National Renewable Energy
Laboratory (NREL), Golden, Colorado

Responding to a Changing Climate: Challenges and Opportunities in Pacific
Islands – Eileen Shea, Chief of the Climate Services Division of the
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Asheville,
North Carolina

Climate Change Adaptation in Action: Making World Bank Water Projects
Climate Resilient – Marcus Wijnen, Senior Water Resources Management
Specialist and Task Team Leader, World Bank, Water Unit, Washington,
DC

China's Water-Energy-Climate Conundrum – Jennifer Turner, Director, China
Environmental Forum, Woodrow Wilson International Center for
Scholars, Washington, DC

Implications of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) on the
Economic, Social, and Political Landscape in Sub-Saharan Africa –
Melchiade Bukuru, Chief of UNCCD Liaison Office, United Nations
Headquarters, New York

Effects of Climate Change in Our Region – Panel. Don Moderator: Don Wilhite,
Professor, Applied Climate Science, SNR, UNL; Clint Row, Professor,
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, UNL; Mace Hack, Adjunct Associate
Professor, SNR,

UNL; Mike Hayes, Director, National Drought Mitigation Center, UNL

Public Policy Issues of Climate Change in Our Region – Panel, David Iaquinta,
Professor, Nebraska Wesleyan University; Ken Haar, Nebraska State
Senator, District 21; Ann Bleed, Natural Resource Scientist, SNR, UNL;
Milo Mumguard, Senior Policy Aide for Sustainability at Mayor's Office,
City of Lincoln, NE.

2015: **National Borders and Refugees: Social and Political Consequences**

Description: Many of the world's peoples are on the move, sometimes pulled by the promise of better lives elsewhere, but more often pushed by the threats of or the existence of wars, violent crime, shortages of food or water, or by governments that are unstable, corrupt, or autocratic. Lacking a sense that they can live satisfying or even sustainable lives, they become refugees who must adjust to new physical and cultural environments. This Lecture Series is about those issues.

Topics and Speakers:

People on the Move: Cultures in Flux, Migrants, Refugees and Movers – David David Iaquina, Professor, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE
The UN and Refugees: Political Solutions for Humanitarian Problems – David Forsythe, Professor and Charles J. Mach Distinguished Professor of Political Science, UNL
The Obligation of the U.S. Refugees and Immigrants under International and Domestic Law – Anna Shavers, Cline Williams Professor of Citizenship Law, UNL
Immigration from Central America and Mexico – Sergio Wals, UNL, Assistant Professor of Political Science, UNL
Conflict and Refugees in Africa – Bob Hitchcock, Professor of Anthropology, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO
Lincoln: A Refugee Friendly City – Marvin Almy, Community Volunteer with Refugees, Lincoln, NE

2016: **National Identity and the Politics of Nationalism**

Description: We face international issues of poverty, water shortages, food security, climate change, wars, terrorism, refugees, and nuclear proliferation, but people create and confront those problems in nation states that do not always claim their identity and loyalty. Instead, identities may be based more strongly on affiliations that are tribal, cultural, racial, regional, religious, or even international. This lecture series examines the complex subject of how national (and other) identities and loyalties are manipulated and constructed, and the role they play in world affairs.

Topics and Speakers:

2/14/16. Introduction and Overview. Professor David Forsythe, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
2/21/16. Europe. Professor Mark Orsag, Doane College.
2/28/16. South Asia. Professor Robert Oberst, Nebraska Wesleyan University.
3/6/16. Middle East. Professor Mahood Monshipouri, San Francisco State University.
3/13/16. Africa. Professor Dane Kennedy, George Washington University.
3/20/16. Panel discussion: Panel discussion. Reactions and summary.

2017: **Inequality of Income and Wealth: Causes, Consequences, & Resolutions**

Description: Of the many factors that define and divide people, inequalities of income and wealth loom as one of the most important. Not only does this dimension define societies and nations as “developed,” “third world,” “developing” etc., but within those societies and nations income disparities are often stark. Those disparities

define us as rich or poor, impoverished or middle class, and they account for differences in nutrition, longevity, and wellbeing.

This lecture series will take a closer look at the complex subject of inequality of income and wealth. It will examine the conditions that lead to inequality within and between nations, the impacts that inequalities have on well being and on the institutions of society and government, and how income inequality is addressed currently and potentially in the future.

Topics and Speakers:

2/12/2017: Inequality: An Overview of the Main Issues

Wes Peterson, Professor, Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2/19 2017: Inequality in Nebraska

Eric Thompson, W.W. Marshall Associate Professor of Economics, and Director, Bureau of Business Research, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2/16/ 2017: Making Sense of the 2016 Elections: Was it Economic Inequality?

Dona-Gene Barton, Associate Professor, Political Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

3/5/ 2017: The Consequences of Racism and Discrimination for Minority Health

Bridget Goosby, Happold Associate Professor & Graduate Chair Sociology, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

3/12/ 2017: Reversing Extreme Inequality: Changing the Story and Fixing the Future Chuck Collins, Senior Scholar, Institute for Policy Studies, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

3/19/2017: Panel Discussion with James Goddard (Nebraska Appleseed), Scott Young (Food Bank of Lincoln), and Anita Seth (UNITE/HERE, New Haven)

2018: **Imagining a Just World Order**

Description: There has been much gloom and doom talk lately, stimulated by such facts (real news, not fake news !) as continuing terrorism, resurgence of narrow nationalism, continuing economic inequalities, evident racism, proof of global warming, and much displacement and migration from conflicts and inadequate economic progress. At the same time we tend to overlook some countervailing patterns such as decline of war among great powers, increasing attempts to manage other forms of violence, greater tolerance for minority religions and other minority behaviors (at least in parts of the world), greater scientific cooperation in a variety of fields, less global poverty and hunger and child mortality, etc. So perhaps we have over-emphasized the negatives and disregarded some positives. In that spirit, we address what a just world order would look like and the steps that might be taken to achieve it. Within the limits of our time frame, we selected the following leading issues that need to be addressed to obtain a just world order, paying special attention to progressive steps in each.

Topics and Speakers:

2/18/2018. Patrice McMahon Political Science, UNL. Global Governance or International Regimes to Manage Problems.

2/25/2018. State Department Bureau of Population, Migration, and Refugees. Coping with Population, Migration, and Refugees.

3/4/2018. Jordan Kuck, History, West Virginia Wesleyan College. Controlling Violence.

- 3/11/2018. Gus Hurwitz: UNL College of Law. Managing Cyber Sensitivities.
3/18/2018. Don Wilhite: UNL IANR. Sustainable development, environmental stressors and resilience.
3/25/2018. Concluding Panel.

2019: **The Korean Peninsula: Past, Present, and Future**

Topics and Speakers:

- 2/10/2019. Parks Coble, History, UNL, Early history of the Koreas through around 1945.
2/17/2019. Thomas Berg, History, UNL, International agreements and disagreements following WWII that led to the Korean war and the political and economic fallout from that Korean war.
2/24/2019. In the 1990's Ambassador Christopher Hill, An insider's perspective.
3/3/2019. Nan Kim, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, National division and other Korean War legacies, with a focus on the issue of separated families.
3/10/2019. Steven Wills, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Japanese-Korean relationships.
3/17/2019. Bruce Cumings, University of Chicago How economic and military alliances affect current and future relationships with the Koreas and their Asian neighbors.

2020: **The US and Latin America: Problems and Prospects**

Description:

We focus on six specific countries and regions in Central and South America. Our six scholars describe the overarching historical, cultural, political, and economic factors that have shaped them and that contributed to the current issues that each face. We selected those Latin American countries or regions, either because they face problems that are important at this time or they have become the focus of important US federal policies. Occasionally in the past American foreign policies have contributed to problems in those neighboring countries. Insofar as citizens of the US wish to assist with solutions, rather than ignoring the problems, we need to cultivate a deeper understanding of our neighbors.

Topics and Speakers:

- 2/9/2020. Tim Borstelmann, History, UNL, US Diplomatic History in the Western Hemisphere: From the Monroe Doctrine to our time.
2/16/2020. Jonathan Hiskey, Political Science, Vanderbilt University, Central America and the Decision to Emigrate: Root Causes and Elusive Solutions.
2/23/2020. Sergio Wals, Political Science, UNL, Mexico Yesterday and Today: Democratic Change and Transnational Challenges.
3/1/2020. Kelly Bauer, Political Science, Nebraska Wesleyan, South American Indigenous Peoples: Challenges and Opportunities.
3/8/2020. Courtney Hillebrecht, Political Science, UNL, Why States turn Right: The Case of Brazil.
3/15/2020. William Aviles, Chair, Political Science, UNK, Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution and the Persistence of Authoritarianism.

2021: **Pandemics: Old and New**

Description: We focus on how waves of disease have influenced the cultures of the world, both past and present. Known diseases that have spread internationally and killed millions of people date from the Antoine plague that discriminated the Roman army. Others like the Black Death (Bubonic Plague) of the 14th century, re-shaped the various cultures that they infected, sometimes with impacts still affecting our 21st century world. (For example, the 70 to 200 million deaths estimated from the Black Death occurred in the context of a world population estimated at only 250 million. All of the major institutions of Europe from the church through the political structures were substantially modified by those losses.) Our four scholars will describe the impacts of important pandemics of past, up to and including our current Covid-19.

Topics and Speakers:

2/14/2021. Professor Carol Symes of the Department of History at the University of Illinois will discuss “Historical Perspectives of Pandemics.”

2/21/2021. Professor Ali S. Khan, Dean, College of Public Health and Professor of Epidemiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center will discuss “Threats to Global Health and the Role of the World Health Organization.”

2/28/2021. Professor Peter C. Angeletti of the Nebraska Center for Virology in the School of Biological Sciences, UN-L will present “Zoonosis of Sars-CoV,” explaining the origins of the virus and its transmission.

3/7/2021. Professor Sharon R Stoolman specializes in pediatrics in the Division of Hospital Medicine at UN-Med and practices as a pediatrician at Children’s Hospital and Medical Center. She will discuss “Sorting Through Racial Disparities in COVID-19.”

2022: **Mass Atrocities and the Responsibility to Protect**

Description: The UN General Assembly adopted wording in 2005 now referred to as R2P, the responsibility to protect. The language adopted reflects several ideas: that states through their government have a duty to exercise responsible sovereignty by, at a minimum, not allowing mass atrocities; that outside states have a duty to help other states be responsible by acting early through diplomacy to head off trends toward mass atrocity; and that as a last resort the UN Security Council can authorize use of force to stop mass atrocity. Absent this authorization, humanitarian intervention remains illegal. Notably, claiming self-defense for intervention is separate from R2P.

Most observers see the logic of R2P in positive terms. Most observers agree that R2P has not worked well in practice. Our 2022 lecture series examines the evolution of what is called R2P, the reasons for its disappointing impact on world affairs, and whether we can realistically hope for improvements in the future.

Topics and Speakers:

2/20/22. Professor Thomas G Weiss, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, will present a Zoom lecture on *the history of the Responsibility to Protect* (written R2P) as it was developed by the United Nations and as it was subsequently applied, misapplied, and not applied to various conflicts.

2/27/22. Professor Joshua Landis, University of Oklahoma, will pay further attention to the *applicability of the R2P in the current conflicts in Syria and Yemen*.

3/6/22. Professor Robert Hitchcock, University of New Mexico, will address *R2P in Darfur and some other African cases*.

3/13/22. Professor Parks Coble, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will discuss *R2P in relation to the ongoing conflicts in East Asia including Myanmar and China*.

2023: **Polarization in America: Is Foreign Policy Different**

Description: It has been often noted that in recent decades America has become a deeply polarized society, a condition translated into its political system. Yet on some current issues like views toward Russia and China, two important states, there seems to be considerable bipartisan consensus in Washington—at least for now. The old question thus arises again: does partisanship stop at the water's edge? Should it? Does it really do so now? This Winter Lecture Series program will explore some perspectives on this subject. It starts with an overview of bipartisanship in American diplomatic history, moves to views toward China regarding Taiwan and other issues, then takes up the topic of views toward Russia regarding Ukraine and NATO. The program closes with a deeper look at polarization in American society and politics.

Topics and Speakers:

2/19/23. Professor Thomas "Tim" Borstelmann, Thompson Professor of Modern World History, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will present a Zoom lecture on *An Overview of Bipartisanship in American Diplomatic History*.

2/26/23. Professor J. Megan Greene, Department of History, University of Kansas, will present a Zoom lecture on *China, Taiwan, and American Politics*.

3/5/23. Professor James M. Scott, *Herman Brown Chair and Professor, Texas Christian University*, will present a Zoom lecture on *Polarization in America and Foreign Policy: the Case of US Policy toward Russia*.

3/12/23. Professor Kevin Smith, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will present a Zoom lecture on *Political Polarization in the United States and What It Means*.

2024: **Can Democracy Be Saved? The Global Trend Toward Strongman Rule**

Description: Across the globe we see many countries displaying some version of liberal democracy but then gradually yielding to strongman rule. We ask how and why this can occur in genuine democracies. We want to know about any successful recovery. We look at four countries that can be discussed within this framework: Brazil, Hungary, India, and Turkey.

Topics and Speakers:

2/18/ 2024. Zoltan Barany, Erwin Centennial Professor of Government, University of Texas-Austin, on *Orban in Hungary*.

2/ 25/2024. Wendy Hunter, Professor of Government, University of Texas-Austin on *Bolsonaro in Brazil*.

3/3/2024. Zehra Arat, Professor of Political Science, University of Connecticut-Storrs on *Erdogan in Turkey*.

3/10/2024. Ashutosh Varshney, Goldman Professor of International Studies, Watson Institute, Brown University on *Modi in India*.