

## Fall 2021 Past Lectures

*"Russia Upside Down: An Exit Strategy for the Second Cold War"*

**Joseph "Joe" Weisberg**, Author, Screenwriter-Producer, and Intelligence Veteran

**Monday, December 6, 4:00-5:00 PM in Weigley Room 914, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Gladfelter Hall**

Joe Weisberg grew up in Chicago. He worked in the CIA's Directorate of Operations in the early 1990s. After leaving the agency, he worked as a novelist and teacher. Weisberg created FX Network's critically-acclaimed and Emmy-winning drama series *The Americans*, on which he served as Co-Showrunner.

A former CIA officer and the creator of the hit TV series *The Americans* makes the case that America's policy towards Russia is failing—and we'll never fix it until we rethink our relationship. Coming of age in America in the 1970s and 80s, Joe Weisberg was a Cold Warrior. After briefly studying Russian in Leningrad, he joined the CIA in 1990—just in time to watch the Soviet Union collapse. But less than a decade after the first Cold War ended, a new one broke out. Russia changed in many of the ways that America hoped it might—more capitalist, more religious, more open to Western ideas. But US sanctions have crippled Russia's economy; and Russia's interventions have exacerbated political problems in America. The old paradigm—America, the free capitalist good guys, fighting Russia, the repressive communist bad guys—simply doesn't apply anymore. But we've continued to act as if it does. In this bold and controversial book, Joe Weisberg interrogates these assumptions, asking hard questions about American policy and attempting to understand what Russia truly wants. *Russia Upside Down* makes the case against the new Cold War. It suggests that we are fighting an enemy with whom we have few if any serious conflicts of interest. It argues that we are fighting with ineffective and dangerous tools. And most of all, it aims to demonstrate that our approach is not working. With our own political system in peril and continually buffeted by Russian attacks, we need a new framework, urgently. *Russia Upside Down* shows the stakes and begins to lay out that new plan, at a time when it is badly needed.

- [Video of Joe Weisberg's Lecture](#)

*"Global Jihad and Movements of Rage"*

**Glenn E. Robinson**, Professor of Defense Analysis, Naval Postgraduate School

**Thursday, November 4, 4:00-5:00 PM in Weigley Room 914, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Gladfelter Hall**

Glenn E. Robinson is a Professor of Defense Analysis at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and is affiliated with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Robinson is the author of several publications, including journal articles and encyclopedia chapters, alongside reports and research monographs for the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the RAND Corporation. He has also advised the US Department of Defense (DoD) and US Central Command (USCENTCOM) on various aspects of Middle Eastern, African, and Central Asian policy. His lecture is based on his recently-published book *Global Jihad: A Brief History* (Stanford University Press, 2021). Robinson argues that there have been four distinct waves of global jihad in the past four decades,

including the current “personal jihad” iteration which relies predominately on modern information technologies to create a wiki-narrative of global jihad. Robinson then situates global jihad in the universe of both Islamist and non-Islamist violent political movements over the past century to argue for the concept of “movements of rage.”

- [Video of Dr. Glenn E Robinson's Lecture](#)

*"Reconsidering the American Way of War from the Revolution to Afghanistan"*

**Antulio J. Echevarria II, Professor of Strategy, US Army War College**

**Thursday, September 9, 4:30-5:30 PM in Weigley Room 914, 9th Floor, Gladfelter Hall**

Dr. Antulio J. Echevarria II earned his Bachelor of Science degree at the US Military Academy at West Point in May 1981, before proceeding to attain a Master of Arts degree from Princeton University in June 1991 and ultimately a PhD in Modern European History (once again from Princeton University) in June 1994. Additionally, he has a Master of Social Sciences degree from the US Army War College from July 2002.

Dr. Echevarria is the current editor of the US Army War College's quarterly research journal *Parameters*, alongside serving on the editorial advisory panel of the *Infinity Journal* and the editorial board of the *Journal of Strategic Studies*. Alongside being a professor at the US Army War College as mentioned, he is also an adjunct professor at Norwich University in Vermont.

He has contributed over eighty different research articles, chapters, and monographs to an assortment of journals, collections, and volumes. Likewise, he is the author of a number of books including *After Clausewitz: German Military Thinkers Before the Great War* (University Press of Kansas, 2000), which won both the national history honors society's Phi Alpha Theta Award and the US Army War College's Best Book Award); *Imagining Future War: The West's Technological Revolution and Visions of*

*Wars to Come 1880-1914* (Praeger, 2007), and *Clausewitz and Contemporary War* (Oxford University Press, 2007), both of which won further book awards from the US Army War College; and, most germane to this lecture, *Reconsidering the American Way of War: US Military Practice from the Revolution to Afghanistan* (Georgetown University Press, 2014). Most recently, he also published *War's Logic: Strategic Thought and the American Way of War* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

What is the American way of war and how has fared since the end of the Cold War? What were the principal types of military strategies it applied and how effective have they been against the challenges of the 21st century? Dr. Echevarria addresses these and other questions in this lecture.

- [Video of Dr. Echevarria's Lecture](#)

*"Slogging to Richmond: Environmental Influences on the Union Failed Peninsula Campaign, 1862"*

**Judkin Browning, Professor of History, Appalachian State University**  
**Wednesday, October 6, 4:00-5:00 PM in Weigley Room 914, 9th Floor, Gladfelter Hall**

Judkin Browning is Professor of Military History and Director of the History Graduate Program at Appalachian State University, in Boone, N.C. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Florida State University in 1996, then completed a Master of Arts degree in Public History at North Carolina State University in 1999, and achieved a PhD in History at the University of Georgia, in 2006.

Dr. Browning is co-author (with Dr. Timothy Silver) of *An Environmental History of the Civil War* (University of North Carolina Press, 2020), and author of *The Seven Days' Battles: The War Begins Anew* (ABC-CLIO, 2012); *Shifting Loyalties: The Union Occupation of Eastern North Carolina* (University of North Carolina Press, 2011); *The Southern Mind Under Union Rule: The Diary of James Rumley, Beaufort, North Carolina, 1862-65* (University Press of Florida, 2009); and *Letters from a North Carolina Unionist: The Civil War Letters of John A. Hedrick, 1862-65* (University of North Carolina Press, 2001). Beyond books, Dr. Browning's reviews and articles have appeared in the *Journal of Military History*, *Reviews in American History*, the *Journal of Southern History*, *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, and many others. He is also currently the series editor, alongside Dr. Susanna Lee, for the "New Perspectives on the Civil War Era" series being published by the University of Georgia Press. Additionally, Dr. Browning serves as a member of the *Journal of Military History's* editorial board, and an advisory editorial committee member for the *North Carolina Historical Review* as well. His research has earned fellowships from several prestigious groups, including the US Army Center for Military History and the American Council of Learned Societies. He has also received awards as an advisor and faculty member at Appalachian State.

Scholars have long tried to explain why Union general George McClellan's campaign to capture Richmond, Virginia, in the summer of 1862 failed. With the exception of some limited attention to weather and terrain, Civil War historians have essentially ignored the complex natural world in which McClellan made his critical decisions. Looking at the campaign through an environmental lens provides new insights into the actions of both Union and Confederate armies. Weather, geology, disease, and nutrition all played significant roles. The environment McClellan encountered brought out the worst in the general, magnifying the personal traits and quirks that led to some of his most baffling command decisions. Simultaneously, Confederate forces used nature to their advantage, employing strategies that allowed their armies to stave off a potentially devastating conquest of Richmond. Understanding the role that the environment plays in this campaign helps illuminate the many ways that natural forces shaped the larger war.

- [Video of Dr. Judkin Browning's Lecture](#)

*"Calamitous Encounters: U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance in the 'American Century'"*

**Julia Irwin**, Associate Professor of History, University of South Florida

**Wednesday, October 20, 4:00-5:00 PM in Weigley Room 914, 9th Floor, Gladfelter Hall**

Julia Irwin is an Associate Professor and Associate Chair of History at the University of South Florida in Tampa. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in History from Oberlin College in 2004 with highest honors, before subsequently pursuing a Master of Arts in History (attained in 2006) and a Master of Philosophy in History (attained in 2007) from Yale University. Thereafter, she received her PhD in History from Yale University in 2009, with a concentration in the History of Medicine and Science. Her dissertation “Humanitarian Occupations: Foreign Relief and Assistance in the Formation of American International Identities, 1898-1928” won both the Betty M. Unterberger Dissertation Prize from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) and the Edwin W. Small Prize from Yale University.

Her first book, *Making the World Safe: The American Red Cross and a Nation's Humanitarian Awakening* (Oxford University Press, 2013) is based on her award-winning dissertation, being a history of US foreign relief efforts in the early twentieth century, particularly during the First World War and its aftermath. She is now completing her second book, *Catastrophic Diplomacy: A History of U.S. Responses to Global Natural Disaster*. This book examines how the US government, the US military, and the American voluntary sector responded to sudden disasters in other countries during the twentieth century, with a focus on humanitarian emergencies caused by tropical storms, earthquakes, floods, and other natural hazards. She has published articles in such journals as the *Journal of American History*, *Diplomatic History*, and the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, as well as in edited volumes published by Oxford and Cambridge University Presses. She was also the recipient of the 2020 Stuart L. Bernath Lecture Prize from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, which recognizes excellence in teaching and research in US foreign relations by younger scholars, as well as other prizes such as the Roger D. Bridges Distinguished Service Award, and an Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award from the University of South Florida.

This lecture traces the history of US responses to international catastrophes across the first two-thirds of the 20th century, charting the origins of the contemporary system of US foreign disaster assistance. It discusses the ways that the US government, military, and private voluntary organizations have historically responded to major disasters in other nations and empires, and analyzes their varied motivations for doing so. It also examines several illustrative case studies, evaluating the successes, the shortcomings, and the complex politics of these humanitarian operations. Finally, it explores how and why international disaster aid became an instrument of 20th century US foreign policy and the diplomatic and political implications of this development.

- [Video of Dr. Julia Irwin's Lecture](#)