



## 2025 Fall CENFAD Speaker Series Schedule

- Wednesday, September 3: **Frank Lavin**, former U.S. Ambassador and Reagan and Bush official, “U.S. Foreign Policy in the *Post Post-Cold War Period*”

Lecture recording: <https://temple.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=ab6b6e69-893f-489c-a180-b34d016816db>

Foreign policy during the Cold War served as a model for the US for decades after the collapse of the Soviet Union, but recent years have shown increased dissatisfaction with U.S. international leadership and alliance management—whether you look at Obama's reduction in U.S. commitment to NATO, Biden's withdrawal from Afghanistan, or Trump's sharp breaks with NATO and challenges to international trade. Is international leadership no longer central to U.S. security and prosperity? Or do the costs of leadership simply exceed the benefits? Does the U.S. need to reduce its international role and commitments, or is this reduced international footprint a mistake? Lavin draws on his new book, *Inside the Reagan White House* as a starting point for a broader discussion.

Frank Lavin is active in U.S.-Asia policy, U.S. domestic politics, and trade policy matters. He serves as a Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution as well as a Trustee of the Asia Foundation and as a Director of the Asia Society of Northern California. Lavin served as Under Secretary for International Trade at the U.S. Department of Commerce in the Bush (43) Administration. In that capacity, Lavin served as lead trade negotiator for both China and India and was responsible for commercial policy, export promotion, and trade negotiations across the globe. Lavin was previously U.S. Ambassador to Singapore, where he helped negotiate the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. In the private sector, Lavin served in senior finance and management positions in Hong Kong and Singapore with Bank of America and Citibank. Lavin also served in the Bush (41) and Reagan Administrations, working in the Department of Commerce, Department of State, National Security Council, and White House. In the Reagan Administration, Lavin served as White House Political Director.

Lavin earned a B.S. from the School of Foreign Service and an M.S. in Chinese Language and History (both Georgetown); an M.A. in International Relations and International Economics from SAIS (Johns Hopkins); and an M.B.A. in Finance from Wharton (Pennsylvania). He is a columnist for Forbes.com and has been published in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, and elsewhere.

Lavin is the author of *Inside the Reagan White House* (Post Hill Press 2025), *The Smart Business Guide to China E-Commerce* (Penguin), co-author of *Export Now* (Wiley), and author of *Home Front to Battlefield* (Ohio University Press), a World War II history book.

Lavin also is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and on the Advisory Board of ECIPE, a Brussels think-tank. Lavin has participated in two humanitarian missions to Ukraine. He formerly served as a Lt Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserves.

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• Tuesday, September 30: **Asa McKercher**, St. Francis Xavier University, “Elbows Up in the MAGA Era: Managing Canada-US Relations in the Second Trump Term”

Lecture recording: <https://temple.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=5ed10cd0-b104-4ff4-b338-b36801524145>

In December 2024 press reports emerged that then president-elect Donald Trump had mused about annexing Canada. With Trump then repeating his annexationist threats and launching a trade war, Canadian-American relations have been upended. Eight decades of intergovernmental cooperation – and a century and a half of continental harmony – are in doubt. From consumer and tourist boycotts to efforts to seek out new trade and security partners, Canadian have responded to the second Trump administration with a flurry of nationalism characterized by the slogan “elbows up”, an aggressive style of play in hockey. Yet given American power and the fact of geography, how much room is there for Canada to maneuver? And what will the clash between MAGA and Elbows Up mean for Canadian foreign, defence, and economic policy?

Asa McKercher (PhD, Cambridge) is Steven K. Hudson Research Chair in Canada-US Relations and Associate Professor at the Mulroney Institute of Government, St. Francis Xavier University, and a senior fellow at the Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History. His books include *Building a Special Relationship: Canada-US Relations in the Eisenhower Era, 1953-1961* (2024), *Canada and the World since 1867* (2019) and *Camelot and Canada: Canadian-American Relations in the Kennedy Era* (2016), as well as the edited collections *North of America: Canadians and the American Century, 1945-61* (2023) and *Undiplomatic History: Rethinking Canada in the World* (2019). He is Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal*, Canada's journal of global policy analysis.

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• Monday, October 13: **Mike Neagle**, Nichols College, “Bandits, Savages, and Terrorists: The Rhetoric of America’s Long War on Terror”

In calling for a global war on terror following the attacks of September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush said the conflict “will be a different type of war than we’re used to ... this is a different type of enemy than we’re used to.” But during the age of overseas American empire, the United States has engaged in such wars and pursued such enemies many times. In the past, U.S. politicians and the press often couched the danger in the language of the “bandit” or “savage.” In the present, the term most often used is “terrorist.” These terms all suggest criminality, incivility, and illegitimacy of cause and means. Moreover, these pejorative descriptions have served to rally political support at home and to justify incursions abroad in

places of strategic interest. Drawing from examples in the forthcoming book, *Chasing Bandits: America's Long War on Terror* (University of North Carolina Press), Neagle argues that the contemporary war on terror is not a unique phenomenon in U.S. history.

Michael E. Neagle is Professor of History, Director of History & Political Science, and Co-Chair of the Terrorism Studies and Media Studies programs at Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts. He is the author of *Chasing Bandits: America's Long War on Terror* (University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming) and *America's Forgotten Colony: Cuba's Isle of Pines* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), as well as articles in *Terrorism and Political Violence* and *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*. Neagle earned his Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Connecticut, and his bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross.

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- Wednesday, October 29: **Renata Keller**, University of Nevada, Reno, author of *The Fate of the Americas: The Cuban Missile Crisis and the Hemispheric Cold War*
- Friday, November 14, **Gretchen Heefner**, Northeastern University, author of *Sand, Snow, and Stardust: How US Military Engineers Conquered Extreme Environments*
- Wednesday, December 3: **Jochen Hellbeck**, Rutgers University, author of *World Enemy No. 1: Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia, and the Fate of the Jews*