Dream Hoarders: The Dangerous Separation of the American Upper Middle Class

A combination of economics, philosophy and policy analysis reveals the growing gap between the upper middle class (broadly the top 20%) and the majority of Americans. This gap exists in terms of dollars, but also education and skills, social capital, health, lifestyle and leisure attitude, and zip code. This lecture explores the changes necessary to ensure that the American Dream is not hoarded, but shared.

Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

RICHARD REEVES

The New 100 Years War?: Causes of Regional Instability and the Rise of the Islamic State

Underlying causal factors have created widespread radicalization, and the rise of extremist elements and groups like Al Qaeda and the so-called Islamic State. The lecture will explore short, mid, and long-term approaches to deal with the security challenges of extremism and extremist groups, and the ways and means of countering violent extremism over time to prevent the region’s continued decline into chaos.

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

JOHN ALLEN

Changing the Focus of Urban Transport from Congestion to Access

With the growth of cities worldwide and the ever-present challenge of congestion, transport and urban planners have started to focus on the concept of access as the ultimate goal. This lecture explores how we can ensure and enhance access to jobs, education, commerce, and other services by all segments of the population, acknowledging the opportunities it poses, and the challenges in adapting and adopting solutions.

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

JEFFREY GUTMAN

Cuba and the United States: Does Engaging Our Adversaries Work?

After fifty years of hostilities, the U.S. is normalizing relations with a Cuba that is slowly changing toward a hybrid model of gradual economic liberalization and restricted political life. Thousands of Cubans, however, continue to leave the island in search of a better life in places like Nevada and Florida. This lecture examines the pros and cons of the Obama Administration’s strategy from the perspective of U.S. national interests in a more open, stable, and prosperous Cuba.

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

THEODORE PICCONE

Narco Noir: Mexico’s Cartels, Cops, and Corruption

Based on Felbab-Brown’s forthcoming book of the same name, the lecture will review the evolution of organized crime in Mexico, the escalation of criminal violence there during the 2000s, and the security policies adopted by the administrations of Presidents Felipe Calderón and Enrique Peña Nieto. The lecture includes vignettes from extensive fieldwork in Mexico, including some of its most violent areas dominated by drug cartels, such as Ciudad Juárez and Michoacán.

Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

VANDA FELBAB-BROWN