



Upcoming Talks October – November 2009

Friday, 23 October, 1-2pm, War Studies Meeting Room

Winning the Long War

Speaker: Ilan Berman, Vice President for Policy, American Foreign Policy Council, Washington DC.

Ilan Berman is an expert on regional security in the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Russian Federation.

In his new book, *Winning the Long War* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009), Berman outlines a new direction for US counter-insurgency strategy. He shows that the challenge from 'radical Islam' cannot be overcome by military methods alone. Rather, America needs a smarter, broader, and more diverse approach to addressing this global insurgency.

Wednesday, 28 October, 5-6.30pm (followed by reception), Safra Lecture Theatre

Human Rights Policy – The Power of Principle

Speaker: Dr Friedbert Pflüger, Visiting Professor, Department of War Studies, King's College London

Dr. Friedbert Pflüger is a former German State Secretary for Defence, who also served as foreign policy advisor to Chancellor Angela Merkel. Until 2006, he was a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees of the German Bundestag. Currently, he is a member of the National Executive of the Christian Democratic Party, as well as a member of the Berlin State Assembly.

In the 1980s, Dr. Pflüger was official spokesman of the German Federal President, Richard von Weizsäcker. Prior to entering politics, he studied political science, public and constitutional law and economics in Göttingen, Bonn and Harvard.

Tuesday, 3 November, 1-2pm, War Studies Meeting Room

Hamas and the Arab Peace Initiative

Speaker: Dr Alon Ben-Meir, New York University's School of Global Affairs

Dr. Ben-Meir will speak on the prospects of reconciliation between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority. Hamas has shown an unwillingness to cooperate with demands from the international community, but it seems that with new US efforts to push reconciliation, Hamas has a unique opportunity to join the political process as a recognized party.

Dr. Alon Ben-Meir is an expert on Middle East politics and affairs, specializing in peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab states. For the past twenty five years, Dr. Ben-Meir has been directly involved in various negotiations and has operated as a liaison between top Arab and Israeli officials.

Wednesday, 4 November, 1.30-2.30pm, K2.31

Jihadists and WMD

Speaker: Gary Ackerman, University of Maryland

Ackerman's book *Jihadists and WMD* is an authoritative work addressing the threat of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of jihadists, both historically and looking toward the future threat environment.

Gary Ackerman is Research Director of the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), a Department of Homeland Security National Center of Excellence based at the University of Maryland.

If you want to attend any of these talks, please RSVP to Katie Rothman, katie.rothman@icsr.info.