



## A New World? China and Russia in the Americas

Thursday, December 7, 2017

### SPEAKERS

#### China Panel



##### **Juan Pablo Cardenal**

Independent Researcher, Center for the Opening and Development of Latin America's Advisory Council

Over the last eight years, Mr. Cardenal has conducted on-the-ground research in over 40 countries on the topic of China's global reach, including more than 1,300 interviews. He has co-authored three books which have been published in eleven languages. He is the author of a chapter on China in the book, *Democracy under Threat* (OUP, 2017), and of the Latin America, Argentina and Peru chapters in National Endowment for Democracy's report *Sharp Power: Rising Authoritarian Influence* (2017). He was the China correspondent for the Spanish dailies *El Mundo* and *El Economista* for a decade and is now a contributor to several international media outlets. He has also been a speaker and panelist at numerous international institutions and forums. Mr. Cardenal holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and an Executive Masters in International Relations from the Geneva School of Diplomacy.



##### **Jorge Guajardo**

Former Ambassador of Mexico to China; Senior Director, McLarty Associates

Ambassador Guajardo has had an active career in government and significant experience in the private sector. He most recently served for six years in Beijing as the Mexican Ambassador to the People's Republic of China. Prior to this, he was Consul General of Mexico to the United States in Austin, Texas, and a Mexican congressional candidate in 2003. He previously served as Director of Communications for the Governor of Nuevo León, Mexico from 1997 to 2000.

He also has substantial experience in the private sector, having worked in the Washington, DC offices of public relations firms Hill and Knowlton and later Burson-Marsteller.

Ambassador Guajardo holds a BS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government



##### **Shanthi Kalathil**

Director, International Forum for Democratic Studies, National Endowment for Democracy

Ms. Kalathil's work has focused primarily on issues related to democratization, development, and the impact of information and communication technology. She has served as a senior Democracy Fellow at the U.S. Agency for International Development, an associate with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a non-resident associate with the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University, and as a consultant for the World Bank, the Aspen Institute and other international affairs organizations. She has appeared on media including NPR, BBC, VOA, RFA, C-SPAN and others, and has authored or edited numerous policy and scholarly publications. She is a former Hong Kong-based staff reporter for *The Wall Street Journal Asia*, she lectures on international relations in the information age at Georgetown University. Ms. Kalathil holds degrees from UC Berkeley and the London School of Economics and Political Science.



### **Eric Farnsworth**

Vice President, Americas Society and Council of the Americas

In addition to US relations with the Western Hemisphere, Mr. Farnsworth's primary areas of focus include economic development, trade, and energy; Asia-Latin American relations and broader BRICS and global governance issues; security cooperation; and democracy development. He is a frequent media commentator and sought-after conference speaker. He has authored numerous articles on hemispheric relations, and frequently provides expert testimony to Congress. Prior to joining AS/COA, Mr. Farnsworth was managing director of Manatt Jones Global Strategies LLC (since renamed Monarch Global Strategies). From 1995-98, he oversaw policy and messaging for the White House Office of the Special Envoy for the Americas. He served at the U.S. Department of State beginning in 1990 and also at USTR as part of the NAFTA negotiation team. Mr. Farnsworth holds an MPA (International Relations) from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School. He is a Truman Scholar. In 2016, he was decorated by the King and Ambassador of Spain.

## Russia Panel



### **Stephen Biegun**

Vice President, International Governmental Affairs, Ford Motor Company

Prior to joining Ford, Mr. Biegun served as national security advisor to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. Before joining the Senator's staff, he worked in the White House from 2001-2003 as Executive Secretary of the National Security Council. Prior to that, he served for 14 years as a foreign policy advisor to members of both the House and the Senate. During this time, he was also Chief of Staff of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and was the Committee's senior staff member for European affairs. From 1992-1994 he served as Resident Director of the International Republican Institutes democracy assistance program in Moscow, Russia. He is a third generation Ford Motor Company employee. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Aspen Strategy Group, and is a member of the boards of the US-Russia Foundation for Economic Development and the Rule of Law, the Moscow School of Politics, Freedom House, the US-Russia Business Council, the US-ASEAN Business Council and FordSollers, Ford Motor Company's joint venture operating in the Russia Federation. Mr. Biegun graduated from the University of Michigan where he studied Political Science and Russian Language.



### **Evan Ellis**

Research Professor, US Army War College Strategic Studies Institute

Dr. Ellis' focus is on the region's relationships with Russia, China and other non-Western Hemisphere actors, as well as transnational organized crime and populism. He has published three books and over 190 works, including "Characteristics and Assessment of Russian Engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean," and the 2016 monograph "The New Russian Engagement With Latin America: Strategic Engagement, Commerce, and Dreams of the Past." He has presented his work in a broad range of business and government forums in 26 countries four continents. He has given testimony on Latin America security issues to the US Congress on various occasions, has discussed his work regarding Russia and other external actors in Latin America on a broad range of radio and television programs, and is cited regularly in the print media in both the US and Latin America for his work in this area. Dr. Ellis holds a PhD in political science with a specialization in comparative politics.



### **Edward Verona**

Former president of U.S.-Russia Business Council; Senior Advisor, McLarty Associates

Mr. Verona served for five years as President of the US-Russia Business Council (USRBC), where he led the Council's efforts to provide government relations services to American and Russian companies and facilitate American entry into the Russian market. Before joining USRBC, he spent many years in the energy sector and in the US Foreign Service, posted in Eurasia and in Latin America. He served as Vice President of ExxonMobil Russia, with responsibility for government and public affairs. Previously, at Texaco, he held positions including Country Manager in Russia and Kazakhstan, and as International Government Affairs Advisor in Washington, DC. He spent two years as Chevron Texaco's Vice President for Government and Public Affairs in Latin America, based in Venezuela. Prior to joining Texaco, Mr. Verona served for seven years in the US Foreign Service as Economic Officer in Mexico City, Brasilia, and Moscow. In 1980, he joined equipment manufacturer Ingersoll-Rand as Special Representative posted in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Miami.



### **Christopher Walker**

Vice President, Studies and Analysis, National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

Mr. Walker oversees the department that is responsible for NED's multifaceted analytical work, which includes the International Forum for Democratic Studies, a leading center for the analysis and discussion of democratic development. The International Forum pursues its goals through several interrelated initiatives: publishing the Journal of Democracy, the world's leading publication on the theory and practice of democracy; hosting fellowship programs for international democracy activists, journalists, and scholars; coordinating the Network of Democracy Research Institutes, a global think tank network; and organizing a diverse range of analytical initiatives to explore critical themes relating to democratic development. Prior to joining the NED, he was Vice President for Strategy and Analysis at Freedom House. He has testified before congressional committees and appeared regularly in the media. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor of International Affairs at New York University. His articles have appeared in numerous publications. Mr. Walker holds a B.A. degree from Binghamton University and an M.A. from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.