

Upcoming Conversations

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Wednesday, 11 March
18:30–19:30

US Foreign Policy: What Does Barack Obama Believe?

James Traub

Journalist

US President Barack Obama's foreign policy has mystified, and frustrated, those who seek to place this policy in such familiar categories as "realist" or "idealist", with some now even calling him an "isolationist". But what are the mechanisms and truths behind the Obama administration's policy goals versus outcomes?

Mr. James Traub will join UNU Rector David M. Malone for a conversation exploring the essence and evolution of Obama's foreign policy. The conversation will examine Obama's early ambitions of transforming America's image in order to achieve breakthroughs on global issues like climate change, nuclear non-proliferation and helping fragile states, and the adversity to these initiatives both at home and abroad, raising the question of whether subsequent policy has been a reaction — possibly an overreaction — to that adversity.

Tuesday, 17 March
18:30–19:30

The Relevance of History for Indian Foreign Policy

Dr. Ramachandra Guha

Historian and Biographer

Dr. Guha's book *India After Gandhi* (2007) is widely considered the most impressive survey of India's history after independence in 1947. His recent book *Gandhi Before India* (2013), universally praised, looks at an earlier period during which the Mahatma developed into the political and social leader who foremost swept India to independence.

India is the world's largest and perhaps most unlikely democracy, influenced by a long tradition of political thinkers who addressed issues confronting Indian society as it pushed towards modernization and connections with the outside world. India's state foreign policy was largely built upon the same intellectual legacy, but how does that legacy continue to guide India's modern global relations?

Dr. Guha will join UNU Rector David M. Malone for a conversation on the past and present of India's foreign policy. The conversation will consider the twenty-first century relevance of Jawaharlal Nehru's non-alignment policy, and examine how India fits into the US's 'pivot to Asia'. The conversation will explore the role of the growing and wealthy Indian diaspora in shaping India's foreign policy as well as the roots of India's enduring conflicts with Pakistan and China, and how these conflicts might be overcome.

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