

## The New Geopolitics of Afghanistan

September 28, 2021 at 4:00-5:30pm Hawaii

### Speaker Biographies

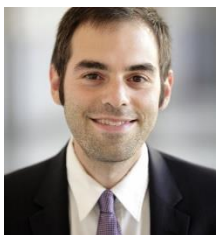
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#### **Husain HAQQANI**

Former Pakistan Ambassador to the U.S. and Senior Fellow & Director, South and Central Asia, Hudson Institute, Washington, DC, USA [@husainhaqqani](#)

Husain Haqqani served as Pakistan's ambassador to the United States from 2008-2011 and is widely credited with managing a difficult partnership during a critical phase in the global war on terrorism. Considered an expert on radical Islamist movements, he is currently director for South and Central Asia at the Hudson Institute in Washington DC. He also co-edits the journal *Current Trends in Islamist ideology*. Amb. Haqqani has been a journalist, academic, and diplomat, in addition to serving as advisor to four Pakistani Prime Ministers, including the late Benazir Bhutto. He received Hilal-e-Imtiaz, one of Pakistan's highest civilian honors for public service and has written for the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *Washington Post*, and *The Telegraph*, among others. Amb. Haqqani's books include *Pakistan Between Mosque and Military*; *Magnificent Delusions: US, Pakistan and an Epic History of Misunderstanding*; *India v Pakistan: Why can't we just be friends?* and *Reimagining Pakistan: Transforming a Dysfunctional Nuclear State*.



#### **Michael KUGELMAN**

Deputy Director and Senior Associate for South Asia, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, DC, USA [@MichaelKugelman](#)

Michael Kugelman is Asia Program deputy director and senior associate for South Asia at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC. He is also a columnist with *Foreign Policy* magazine and writes its weekly South Asia Brief newsletter. At the Wilson Center, he manages research, publications, and programming on South Asia, with a particular emphasis on Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan. His recent projects focus on South Asia regional reactions to the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, and on the foreign relations of Afghanistan.



#### **Harsh V. PANT**

Director, Studies & Head of the Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi, India [@orfonline](#)

Harsh V. Pant is director of studies and head of the Strategic Studies Program at Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi and a professor of international relations at King's College in London. He is also director (honorary) of the Delhi School of Transnational Affairs at Delhi University. His most recent publications include *New Directions in India's Foreign Policy: Theory and Praxis* (Cambridge University Press), *India's Nuclear Policy* (Oxford University Press), *The US Pivot and Indian Foreign Policy* (Palgrave Macmillan), *Handbook of Indian Defence Policy* (Routledge), and *India's Afghan Muddle* (HarperCollins).



**Murat SOMER**

Professor, Political Science & International Relations, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey (Turkey expert) [@murat\\_somer](#)

Murat Somer is a professor of political science and international relations at Koç University specializing in comparative politics and political economy. He teaches courses in comparative politics, political economy, religion and secularism, and authoritarianism and democracy in the 21st Century. His research addresses questions of democratization and autocratization, social and political polarization, ethnic conflicts and nationalism, and religious and secular politics, with emphasis on political Islam and secularity, the Turkish and Kurdish question, and the politics of Turkey, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. His writings have appeared in books and journals such as *Comparative Political Studies*, *Democratization*, and the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. Dr. Somer has been a frequent contributor for domestic and international media including CNN Turk, Euronews, and Medyacoop. His op-eds and comments have appeared in *Foreign Policy*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, the Freeman Spogli Institute, and T24. A former Mellon post-doctoral fellow on modern ethnic conflicts at the University of Washington in Seattle, Dr. Somer holds a PhD in political economy and public policy from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, an MA in economics, and a BA in economics from Boğaziçi University, Istanbul.



**Niva YAU TSZ YAN**

Fellow, Eurasia Program, Foreign Policy Research Institute and Researcher, OSCE Academy, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan [@nivayautszyan](#)

Niva Yau Tsz Yan is a fellow in the Eurasia Program at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia and a researcher at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Her work focuses on China's foreign policy and trade and security for its western neighbors, including Central Asia and Afghanistan. She has conducted a number of commissioned research projects and briefed officials on China's affairs in Central Asia that concern security engagement, private security companies, the Belt and Road Initiative, governance exports, influence campaigns, and renewable investments in Central Asia. Ms. Yau Tsz Yan has been quoted by the BBC, *The Independent*, Nikkei Asia, *The Economist*, VICE, *Le Monde*, Deutsche Welle, Al Jazeera and others. She was awarded the Albert Otto Hirschman prize for best political economy writing in 2020 by *The Washington Post* for her work on the latest developments of Chinese policy banks in Central Asia. Originally from Hong Kong, Ms. Yau Tsz Yan has been based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan since 2018.

**Moderator:**



**Nirmal GHOSH**

U.S. Bureau Chief, *The Straits Times*, Washington, DC, USA [@karmanomad](#)

Nirmal Ghosh is US Bureau Chief for *The Straits Times*, Singapore's and South East Asia's top English daily newspaper. He is also an author and documentary filmmaker. Mr. Ghosh has been a foreign correspondent since 1994, in Manila, New Delhi and Bangkok, covering politics, elections, conflict and coups d'etat, natural disasters, social and environmental issues, and geopolitics across Asia. His journalism has won PANPA and SOPA awards. Mr. Ghosh was an East-West Center Jefferson Fellow in 2015 and he participated in the U.S. Presidential Election Reporting Seminar in 2016. He is a former two-term president of both the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines and the Foreign Correspondents' Association of Thailand. He is on the board of the Vienna-based Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime, and a trustee of The Corbett Foundation, a non-profit which works with local communities and authorities in wildlife conservation in India.