Presidents' Breakfast at Middle East Institute (MEI)
(Invitation Required)

Program Chair

Paul SALEM
President
Middle East Institute (MEI)

Paul Salem is president of The Middle East Institute. He focuses on issues of political change, transition, and conflict as well as the regional and international relations of the Middle East. Salem is the author and editor of a number of books and reports including *Escaping the Conflict Trap: Toward Ending Civil Wars in the Middle East* (ed. with Ross Harrison, MEI 2019); *Winning the Battle, Losing the War: Addressing the Conditions that Fuel Armed Non State Actors* (ed. with Charles Lister, MEI 2019); *From Chaos to Cooperation: Toward Regional Order in the Middle East* (ed. with Ross Harrison, MEI 2017), *Broken Orders: The Causes and Consequences of the Arab Uprisings* (In Arabic, 2013), "Thinking Arab Futures: Drivers, scenarios, and strategic choices for the Arab World", The Cairo Review Spring 2019; “The Recurring Rise and Fall of Political Islam” (CSIS, 2015), *Bitter Legacy: Ideology and Politics in the Arab World* (1994), and *Conflict Resolution in the Arab World* (ed., 1997).

Prior to joining MEI, Salem was the founding director of the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, Lebanon between 2006 and 2013. From 1999 to 2006, he was director of the Fares Foundation and in 1989-1999 founded and directed the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, Lebanon's leading public policy think tank.

Brief Introduction

James G. MCGANN
Director
Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

James G. McGann is a Senior Lecturer of International Studies at the Lauder Institute, the director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program and senior fellow, Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to assuming his current
post, James was Assistant Director of the International Relations Program at the University of Pennsylvania. He has also served as the Senior Vice President for the Executive Council on Foreign Diplomats, the Assistant Director of the Institute of Politics, Kennedy School of Government, and the Public Policy Program Officer for The Pew Charitable Trusts. James earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a National Fellow at Stanford University while writing his doctoral thesis, which examined the nature and evolution of public-policy research organizations in the United States such as Brookings Institution, Heritage Foundation, Urban Institute, and others.

**Moderator**

**Elsie LABOTT**
*Journalist-in-Residence*
*Georgetown University*

Elise Labott is a Journalist-in-Residence at the Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. She is currently a contributor to Politico, provides commentary for MSNBC, NPR, BBC and several other broadcast outlets and is a sought-after interviewer and moderator.

Elise is a leading journalist covering foreign US foreign policy and international issues, most recently as CNN’s Global Affairs Correspondent. She has covered every major global story for the past two decades, reporting from more than 80 countries. She has traveled the world with seven secretaries of state and has interviewed many world leaders. Prior to joining CNN, she covered the United Nations for ABC News and foreign policy issues for Agence France-Presse and other publications.

Elise serves as a global ambassador for Vital Voices, an organization that empowers female entrepreneurs around the world and is on the advisory committee of Global Kids DC, a program which introduces high school students in underserved communities to international affairs. Elise is a
member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and earned a master's degree from the New School for Social Research.

Panelists (5-minute forecasts on the Future of Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the US)

**Ellen LAIPSON**
*Director, International Security Program*
*Schar School of Policy and Government*
*George Mason University*

Ellen Laipson is the Director of the Master's in International Security degree program and the Center for Security Policy Studies at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. Professor Laipson joins George Mason University after a distinguished 25 year career in government and as President and CEO of the Stimson Center (2002-2015).

Ellen Laipson serves on a number of academic and other non-governmental boards related to international security and diplomacy, and is a columnist for worldpoliticsreview.com. Her last post in government was Vice Chair of the National Intelligence Council (1997-2002). Laipson also served on the State Department's policy planning staff, the National Security Council staff, and the Congressional Research Service. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, she serves on the Advisory Councils of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy. She served on the board of the Asia Foundation (2003-2015) and the Council of the International Institute of Strategic Studies (2009-2019). She was a member of the CIA External Advisory Panel from 2006-2009, President Obama's Intelligence Advisory Board from 2009-2013, and on the Secretary of State's Foreign Affairs Policy Board 2011-2014. Laipson has an M.A. from the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University and an AB from Cornell University.
William Burns  
*President*  
*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

Bill Burns is president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the oldest international affairs think tank in the United States. Ambassador Burns retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in 2014 after a thirty-three-year diplomatic career. He holds the highest rank in the Foreign Service, career ambassador, and is only the second serving career diplomat in history to become deputy secretary of state.

Prior to his tenure as deputy secretary, Ambassador Burns served from 2008 to 2011 as under secretary for political affairs. He was ambassador to Russia from 2005 to 2008, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs from 2001 to 2005, and ambassador to Jordan from 1998 to 2001. His other posts in the Foreign Service include: executive secretary of the State Department and special assistant to former secretaries of state Warren Christopher and Madeleine Albright; minister-counselor for political affairs at the U.S. embassy in Moscow; acting director and principal deputy director of the State Department’s policy planning staff; and special assistant to the president and senior director for Near East and South Asian affairs at the National Security Council.

Ambassador Burns speaks Russian, Arabic, and French, and he has been the recipient of three Presidential Distinguished Service Awards and a number of Department of State awards, including three Secretary’s Distinguished Service Awards, two Distinguished Honor Awards, the 2006 Charles E. Cobb, Jr. Ambassadorial Award for Initiative and Success in Trade Development, the 2005 Robert C. Frasure Memorial Award for Conflict Resolution and Peacemaking, and the James Clement Dunn Award for exemplary performance at the mid-career level. He has also received the highest civilian honors from the Department of Defense and the U.S. intelligence community. In 2013, Foreign Policy named him “Diplomat of the Year”. Ambassador Burns earned a bachelor’s in history from LaSalle University and master’s and doctoral degrees in international relations from Oxford University, where he studied as a Marshall Scholar. He is a recipient of four honorary doctoral degrees and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Ambassador Burns is the author of Economic Aid and American Policy Toward Egypt, 1955-1981 (State University of New York Press, 1985). In 1994, he was named to Time magazine’s list of the “50 Most Promising American Leaders Under
Age 40” and to its list of “100 Young Global Leaders.” Ambassador Burns and his wife, Lisa Carty, have two daughters.

**Erik R. PETERSON**  
*Partner & Managing Director*  
*A.T. Kearney’s Global Business Policy Council*

Peterson stands at the intersection of business and policy.“We’re in the midst of simultaneous and systemic change at a number of levels—geopolitical, social, economic, technology—all of which are critical to the future of business,” Erik says. “Especially now, we’re all in a race to a highly uncertain and tumultuous future filled with profound opportunities and threats.”

Erik came to A.T. Kearney in 2010 from the Center for Strategic and International Studies, where he was senior vice president and held the CSIS William Schreyer Chair in Global Analysis. While at CSIS he also established and led the Global Strategy Institute, a unit at CSIS focusing on strategic foresight issues. Before joining CSIS, Erik was director of research at Kissinger Associates.

It's no surprise, then, that Erik has been championing a range of strategic foresight functions at A.T. Kearney. As managing director of the Council, he has been steering it to provide three benefits to A.T. Kearney and its clients: First, to design, develop and carry out world-class meetings to offer clients the most timely, far-reaching, and comprehensive insight possible Second, to generate insight informed by the Council's remarkable global network of subject matter experts and third, to contribute to client engagements by offering the unique emphasis the Council provides.

Erik is a sought-after analyst and speaker on global foresight and trends. He has lectured widely—in 50+ countries and before groups as diverse as the World Economic Forum to TED—on shifts in the global business operating environment. In addition, he is the author of numerous publications. Under Erik’s leadership, for the past five years running, the Council has been recognized as one of the “Best For-Profit Think Tanks” in the world. “We’re blessed with a highly capable team working at a high RPM,” Erik says.
Daniel M. ROTHSCCHILD
Executive Director
Mercatus Institute, George Mason University

Daniel M. Rothschild is the Executive Director of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. He leads strategy and oversees all programs and operations for the organization. Prior to serving in this role at Mercatus, Mr. Rothschild was director of state projects and a senior fellow with the R Street Institute. He joined R Street in October 2013 after two years as the first-ever director of external affairs and coalitions at the American Enterprise Institute. Previously, he spent six years in a variety of policy, communications, and project management positions at the Mercatus Center. He has worked extensively with think tanks throughout the country.

His popular writing and articles and reviews have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Reason, Weekly Standard, Roll Call, The Hill, Chicago Policy Review, Economic Affairs, and many other popular and policy publications. He was a 2012-13 National Review Institute Washington fellow. Dan has testified before the U.S. Congress and several state legislatures on tax and fiscal policy, government reform, and disaster recovery policy. Rothschild has a bachelor’s degree from Grinnell College, a master’s degree from the University of Manchester, and a master’s degree in public policy from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

Sara Rosen WARTELL
President
Urban Institute

In 2012, Sarah Rosen Wartell became the third president of the Urban Institute since it was founded in 1968. Urban is an economic and social science research and policy organization whose more than 450 researchers, experts, and other staff believe in the power of evidence to improve lives and strengthen communities. During her tenure, Urban has articulated its strategy to “elevate the debate” by bringing more of its insights from research to federal, state, and local government and practice; becoming a leader in research communications and data visualization; and undertaking
an ambitious program of business systems and technology modernization.

Previously, Wartell was deputy assistant to the president for economic policy and deputy director of the National Economic Council. At the US Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1993 to 1998, she advised the federal housing commissioner on housing finance, mortgage markets, and consumer protection. Later, she was a consultant to the bipartisan Millennial Housing Commission. After government service, Wartell was the founding chief operating officer and then executive vice president of the Center for American Progress. Before her tenure in government, she practiced law with the Washington, DC, firm Arnold & Porter.

Wartell serves on the board of the Center for Law and Social Policy and on Bank of America’s National Community Advisory Council. She previously served on the boards of the Low Income Investment Fund, the Center for Urban Science and Progress at New York University, and the Corporation for Enterprise Development. Her areas of expertise include community development, consumer finance, asset building, and housing finance. Wartell has an AB degree with honors in urban affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. She has a JD degree from Yale Law School.
Public Forum at CSIS
Washington D.C. Why Think Tanks Matter Forum Program - "Why Think Tanks and Policy Advice Will Still Matter in 2040"

John  J. HAMRE
President and CEO
Center for Strategic and International Studies

John Hamre was elected president and CEO of CSIS in January 2000. Before joining CSIS, he served as the 26th U.S. deputy secretary of defense. Prior to holding that post, he was the under secretary of defense (comptroller) from 1993 to 1997. As comptroller, Dr. Hamre was the principal assistant to the secretary of defense for the preparation, presentation, and execution of the defense budget and management improvement programs. In 2007, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates appointed Dr. Hamre to serve as chairman of the Defense Policy Board, and he served in that capacity for four secretaries of defense.

Before serving in the Department of Defense, Dr. Hamre worked for 10 years as a professional staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. During that time, he was primarily responsible for the oversight and evaluation of procurement, research, and development programs, defense budget issues, and relations with the Senate Appropriations Committee. From 1978 to 1984, Dr. Hamre served in the Congressional Budget Office, where he became its deputy assistant director for national security and international affairs. In that position, he oversaw analysis and other support for committees in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Dr. Hamre received his Ph.D., with distinction, in 1978 from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C., where his studies focused on international politics and economics and U.S. foreign policy. In 1972, he received his B.A., with high distinction, from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, emphasizing political science and economics. The following year he studied as a Rockefeller fellow at the Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
Introduction

James G. McGann
Director
Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute,
University of Pennsylvania

James G. McGann is a Senior Lecturer of International Studies at the Lauder Institute, the director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program and senior fellow, Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to assuming his current post, James was Assistant Director of the International Relations Program at the University of Pennsylvania. He has also served as the Senior Vice President for the Executive Council on Foreign Diplomats, the Assistant Director of the Institute of Politics, Kennedy School of Government, and the Public Policy Program Officer for The Pew Charitable Trusts. James earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a National Fellow at Stanford University while writing his doctoral thesis, which examined the nature and evolution of public-policy research organizations in the United States such as Brookings Institution, Heritage Foundation, Urban Institute, and others.

Panel Chair & Moderator:

Daniel Lippman
White House Reporter
POLITICO

Daniel Lippman is a reporter covering the White House and Washington for POLITICO. He was previously a co-author of POLITICO's Playbook and still writes Playbook's "Great Weekend Reads" section on Saturdays and Sundays and the "Social Data" section of POLITICO New York Playbook.

Before joining POLITICO, he was a fellow covering environmental news for E&E Publishing and a reporter for The Wall Street Journal in New York. He has also interned for McClatchy Newspapers and Reuters. During a stint freelancing in 2013, he traveled to the Turkish-Syrian border to cover the impact of the Syrian civil war for The Huffington Post and CNN.com.
He graduated from The Hotchkiss School in 2008 and from The George Washington University in 2012. Daniel hails from the Berkshires in western Massachusetts and enjoys playing tennis, seeing movies and trying out new restaurants in his free time.

Panelists:

**Rob FLOYD**  
*Director and Senior Advisor*  
*African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)*

Rob is an international development executive with broad experience in strategy design and implementation, program management, and partnerships. Before joining the African Center for Economic Transformation, he worked for more than 20 years at the World Bank Group across multiple regions, sectors and in institutional leadership positions. At ACET, Rob contributes to a range of strategic initiatives including raising the profile of ACET outside of Africa, fundraising, partnerships and the forward-looking business model.

Rob has an extensive understanding of international development challenges across sectors and regions. He is a skilled strategist who transforms ideas into effective results; and is a proven decision maker and consensus builder. Rob has strong interpersonal skills with effective partnership and fundraising experience, and he is an innovative problem solver and recognized top ranked manager.

**Brian FINLAY**  
*President and CEO*  
*Henry L. Stimson Center (Confirmed)*

Brian Finlay is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Stimson Center. Under his tenure since 2016, Stimson has transformed its business model, launched pioneering new engagements across Asia, and industry-defining programming on environmental security, renewable energy, and technology. As a result, the Center has tripled in size and continues to dramatically outperform similarly-sized institutions in global rankings. Notably,
Stimson today boasts the most diverse and inclusive workforce of any major Washington think tank.

Brian previously served as Vice President, Managing Director, and Senior Fellow at Stimson. Prior to joining the Center, he served as executive director of a Washington-based lobbying initiative focused on counterterrorism issues, as a researcher at the Brookings Institution, and as a program officer at the Century Foundation. Prior to emigrating to the United States from his native Canada, Brian served with the Public Health Agency and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. He Chairs the Board of Directors of iMMAP, an information management and data analytics organization focused on improving humanitarian relief and development coordination. Brian was an adjunct professor at American University in Washington, and today sits on the Editorial Board of Global Security, a journal of health, science and policy published by Routledge, Taylor & Francis.

With expertise in nonproliferation, transnational crime, counter-trafficking, and supply chain security, Brian holds an M.A. from the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University, a graduate diploma from the School of Advanced International Studies, the Johns Hopkins University and an honors B.A. from Western University in Canada.

Victoria HERRMANN  
*President and Managing Director*  
*Arctic Institute (Confirmed)*

Dr. Victoria Herrmann is the President and Managing Director of The Arctic Institute. In addition to managing the Institute and Board of Directors, her research and writing focus on climate change, community adaptation, human development, and resource economies. As a National Geographic Explorer, she led the America’s Eroding Edges project in 2016 and 2017. The research and storytelling project identified gaps in national assistance for coastal community adaptation to climate impacts in the US and US Territories. Her current project, Rise Up to Rising Tides, is creating an online matchmaking platform that connects pro bono experts with climate-affected communities with support from the JMK Innovation Prize. In cooperation with the Lowlander Center in Louisiana, Victoria is also leading the creation of a dialogue
framework between climate-displaced coastal-bayou communities and inland-high ground receiving communities.

Victoria previously worked as a Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the National Academies of Sciences’ Polar Research Board and as a Junior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace’s Energy and Climate Program. She was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Canada to pursue Arctic research in 2013. Victoria has published in many peer-review journals, including the Polar Law Yearbook, Polar Record, and Polar Geography and her expert opinion has appeared on CNN, BBC, and NPR among others. She currently teaches sustainability management at American University; science communication at the University Centre of the Westfjords, Iceland; and public speaking at National Geographic Scincetelling Bootcamps. Victoria received her PhD in Geography as a Gates Scholar from the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge University in 2018 and holds a Masters degree from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University.

Kenneth R. WEINSTEIN
President and CEO
Hudson Institute (Confirmed)

Kenneth R. Weinstein is president and chief executive officer of Hudson Institute, and the inaugural holder of the Walter P. Stern Chair. He joined the Institute in 1991 and was appointed CEO in June 2005. Dr. Weinstein was named president and CEO in March 2011.

A political theorist by training whose academic work focused on the early Enlightenment, Dr. Weinstein has established a reputation as a go-to influencer and thought leader for policy and opinion leaders in the U.S. and around the world on a range of matters. He has written widely on international affairs for publications in the United States, Europe, and Asia, including The Wall Street Journal, Le Monde, and the Yomiuri Shimbun. In 2006, he was decorated with a knighthood in arts and letters by the government of France and serves on the boards of nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and Europe.
Dr. Weinstein is chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, the oversight body for U.S. Agency for Global Media, whose entities include the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia and Middle East Broadcasting. Weinstein also serves on the Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations, which provides counsel on trade agreements to the United States Trade Representative. He previously served on the National Humanities Council, the governing body of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is often interviewed by major broadcast and cable outlets around the world, and speaks French and German. A frequent guest on French television and radio, he has served as in-studio commentator for live French-language coverage of U.S. congressional and presidential elections since 1996.

He is the co-editor of The Essential Herman Kahn: In Defense of Thinking (Lexington Books, 2009). Dr. Weinstein earned his B.A. in general studies in the Humanities from the University of Chicago, D.E.A. in Soviet and Eastern European studies from Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, and Ph.D. in government from Harvard University.