



The Passport

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (www.wacmb.org)

May 2021

Quick Takes: World Issues in the Age of Covid-19

This month, the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area concludes its special thematic series of *Quick Takes* exploring the political and economic landscape the Biden Administration will encounter as it reformulates US foreign policy.

May 15, 2021: Sean Everton, Naval Postgraduate School *Understanding Dark Networks*



National and international terrorism. Human trafficking. Illegal drug trade. These and other nefarious activities are able to thrive by way of dark networks. What precisely are dark networks, and how do they work? Professor Sean Everton discusses these illegal and covert networks and the ways by which experts are combatting them.

Sean Everton specializes in the use of social network analysis to track and disrupt dark networks. Dr. Everton is a Professor in the Department of Defense Analysis and Co-Director of the CORE (Common Operational Research Environment) Lab at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. Prior to joining NPS in 2007, he served as an adjunct professor at Santa Clara University and Stanford University. Professor Everton is the author of *Disrupting Dark Networks* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) and *Networks and Religion* (Cambridge University Press, 2018), and a co-author, along with Daniel Cunningham and Philip Murphy, of *Understanding Dark Networks* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016). He earned his MA and PhD in Sociology at Stanford University, and also holds master's degrees from San Jose State University and Vanderbilt University.

Whenever You'd Like: *WACA Climate Week 2021*

In conjunction with Earth Day, the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA), our umbrella organization, sponsored a series of five virtual discussions about the critical issue of climate change. The titles of the discussions are 1) Achieving Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries; 2) Combating Climate Change: Making Green Energy Solutions Accessible and Affordable for All; 3) California's Future Power Grid: Smart, Resilient, and Reliable; 4) The Impact of Climate Innovation on the Road to Net Zero; and 5) Advocating for Climate Change: Grassroots Actions for a Sustainable World. By the time you receive this *Passport*, all five videos will be available on YouTube. There is no charge for viewing the videos. Go to <https://www.waca2021climateweek.org> and click on the "Agenda" link. You'll be taken to a page where you can scroll through information about each topic and speaker and then click on the links to take you to the videos of your choice.

Affiliate Report: Naval Postgraduate School

The US Naval Postgraduate School has been a longtime and valued partner of the World Affairs Council. Quite a few of our speakers have been NPS professors, and we very much appreciate the knowledge and research they've shared with us over the years (including this month, when Sean Everton presents a *Quick Take* on the topic of "Dark Networks.")

Jessica Piombo is currently the acting NPS liaison. Jessica is an Associate Professor in the Department of National Security Affairs, and a specialist in African politics, political transitions, and statebuilding. She earned her PhD in political science at MIT. Jessica provided a number of updates about what's going on at NPS these days.

- Great news: NPS has just received a ten-year accreditation renewal from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), which has the authority from the US Department of Education for accrediting institutions of higher learning in California, Hawaii, and the Pacific. The ten-year term is the longest accreditation term that can be awarded, and receiving it speaks to the high quality of education provided by NPS.

- On March 1, NPS welcomed Dr. Scott Sigmund Gartner as its new Provost and Academic Dean. Dr. Gartner, who holds a PhD in political science from the University of Michigan, comes to NPS from Penn State, where he was the Director of its School of International Affairs and a Professor of International Affairs, Law, Engineering Systems, and Political Science.

(continued in the next column)

(Affiliate Report, continued)

- The School of International Graduate Studies, one of four graduate schools within NPS, has been renamed. Its new title, the Graduate School of International and Defense Studies, was chosen to better reflect the school's mission.

- Not-so-great news: As reported in the *Monterey County Weekly*, shifting priorities within the US Navy will lead to budget cuts at NPS. The school may be facing a \$15 million reduction in funding in the next fiscal year, which will likely lead to a reorganization of the schools and departments within NPS and, potentially, the elimination of a number of jobs.

Discussion Group

The WACMB Discussion Group will meet on Monday, May 10, to discuss "Afghanistan Today." There may also be a meeting on Monday, May 31, and further information will be available once that decision has been made.

Meetings will continue be held online via Zoom through the spring and summer, and will move to in-person meetings once it's been determined that such meetings can be done safely.

The WACMB Discussion Group is facilitated by Judith Glickman and Boyd Haight. If you are interested in participating in the group, please send an email to info@wacmb.org and let them know. Come join the conversation!

**Monthly PSA from your WAC:
Covid-19 vaccines are now available to all adults in Monterey County. They are safe and effective, and could save your life. We encourage everyone who is able to receive a vaccination to do so ASAP!**

Choosing the Board: An Annual Process

If you take a look at the back of any copy of *The Passport*, you will see a box that lists the names of many of the people who make this organization run. These are the Officers, Board of Directors, and Liaisons for your World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area.

The liaisons are chosen by their organizations to serve as their official link with WACMB. You've been reading about some of them over the past three months in our new "Affiliate Report" column.

The Officers and members of the Board of Directors are chosen in a different way. Every year, members of the WACMB Nominating Committee spend many months identifying and interviewing people who they think would be positive additions to the board. In April, they present a slate of new members to the current board, which votes on them as a slate at its May meeting. Board members may nominate other candidates; those names must be submitted at least 15 days prior to the May election. New members are seated at the June board meeting.

This year's Nominating Committee was headed by Judith Glickman. We thank her and the committee members for all of their hard work in producing a slate of excellent candidates. Look for an introduction of the new board members in next month's *Passport*.

If you would like to be more involved in the workings of your World Affairs Council, either as a committee member or a board member, please email us at info@wacmb.org and tell us how you'd like to contribute. WACMB has no paid staff, and is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers!

Changing the Board: A Biennial Process

Members of the Board of Directors are elected to two-year terms. An individual may then be re-elected twice, for a total of six years of service on the board. After that, the individual must step down from the board for at least one year before being nominated to return to the board.

What this means is that every year, those board members who have completed six years of service must, by rule, step down from the board. Other board members may choose to step down at the end of their two-year terms in order to pursue other interests. (This is not unexpected, given the wide-ranging talents and interests of so many WACMB members!)

This year, four of our board members will be stepping down in June. Please join us in thanking Judy Sloan, Jim Emery, Mary Jo McDonough, and Philipp Bleek for their years of service and their many valued contributions to WACMB.

While there are limits on how many years a board member may serve, there are no limits on a person's volunteer service. WACMB committees include Arrangements, Discussion Groups, Finance, Membership, Office Administration, Newsletter, Nominating, Programs, Publicity, Scholarships, and Technology. If you are interested in serving on any of these, let us know!

New MIIS Liaison

MIIS has a new liaison: Toni M. Thomas, who has been the Associate Dean for Academic Operations since 2019. She began her career at MIIS in 2001 as an Academic Advisor, then moved up to Assistant Dean and MBA Program Manager. Toni has a BBA from the University of Toledo and an MBA from MIIS, and served in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica. Please join us in welcoming MIIS Dean Toni Thomas to the WACMB Board!

This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB). WACMB is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization established to promote the presentation, discussion, and study of international affairs. WACMB is a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization, EIN-770301206. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. WACMB sponsors monthly luncheons, discussion groups, and student scholarships.

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- *California State University Monterey Bay
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