



REIMAGINING
**WORLD
ORDER**

March 21st, 2023

Dear friends of the RWO,

I hope this finds you well and in good health. I want to take this opportunity to update you on our scheduled programming and upcoming events for this spring.

As you may know, we organize a monthly speaker series, the **World Order Colloquium**. Over the past (nearly) three years, the Colloquium hosted Rosemary Foot (University of Oxford, St. Antony's), Daniel Nexon (Georgetown University) and Alexander Cooley (Barnard College and Columbia University), Joshua Derman (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), Michael Cox (London School of Economics), Stephen Wertheim (Quincy Institute), Richard Falk (Princeton University, Emeritus, and Queen's Mary University of London), Glenda Sluga (European University Institute), Amitav Acharya (American University), Daniel Gorman (University of Waterloo), Matthew Specter (University of Berkeley), Patrick Cohrs (University of Florence), Paul Kennedy (Yale University), Matias Spektor (FGV), Jia Qingguo (Peking University), and Kyle Lascurettes (Lewis & Clark College). Links to recordings of these talks are posted on our [website](#). We're excited to announce that the Colloquium will be hosting more conversations with scholars of world order this spring.

Presentations will be followed by an open Q&A with the virtual and in-person audiences. All in-person attendees are invited to join us for receptions with our speakers following the Q&A. Please note that the Colloquium is open to the general public and registration is **not required** for in-person attendance. Information about the location of these talks will be posted on our website and shared with our subscribers through this mailing list. If you are unable to join the Colloquia in person, you can register to [join virtually, on Zoom](#).

On February 27th, we welcomed **Jeff Colgan** (Brown University) for the fifth meeting of this year's Colloquium, co-hosted with the Niehaus Center for Globalization and

Governance. The title of Professor Colgan's talk was "Double Vision: Energy, Ukraine, and International Order". If you missed it, you can [watch a recording of the talk here](#).

For the sixth meeting of the Colloquium, scheduled for March 29th (Wednesday), 4:30-6pm, we are excited to welcome **Vladislav Zubok** (LSE), who will present his acclaimed book *Collapse: the Fall of the Soviet Union* (2021). The title of Professor Zubok's talk is "The Soviet Collapse – and the Origins of Russian-Ukrainian Conflict".

Yan Xuetong (Tsinghua University) will join us for the seventh meeting of the Colloquium, scheduled for April 3rd (Monday), 4:30-6pm. The title of Professor Yan's talk is "US-China competition: Are We Headed for a Cold War?" Please note that there *will not* be a reception with Professor Yan following his talk.

For the final, eighth meeting of this year's Colloquium, we are pleased to host our very own **Anatoly Levshin** (Princeton), who will present his book *The Statecraft of Restraint: the League of Nations, United Nations, and Multilateral Regulation of the Systemic Risk of Interstate Wars*. This final talk is scheduled for April 26th (Wednesday), 4:30-6pm.

After putting our **feature podcast** on a brief hiatus in the fall, we have new episodes in the making this semester. We are planning on releasing additional episodes in April and May. The aim of the podcast is to engage leading scholars of world order from around the world in conversation about their intellectual journeys, theoretical contributions, and takes on our present discontents. In the first two seasons of the podcast, we spoke with Richard Falk (Princeton University, Emeritus, and Queen Mary University of London), Barry Buzan (London School of Economics, Emeritus), Daniel Deudney (Johns Hopkins University), Christian Reus-Smit (University of Queensland), and Joshua Cherniss (Georgetown University). These conversations, lasting from one to two hours, are posted on our dedicated channel on [Anchor.fm](#). You can find us on your favorite podcast platform, including Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Spotify.

This spring, we are also continuing our **reading group** and **inter-disciplinary research workshop**, which are intended as platforms for undergraduate and graduate students interested in collaborative study of broad questions of world order. We are shifting away from using separate secondary email lists for these two initiatives and toward using the primary RWO email listserv to circulate announcements about both the reading group and research workshop. Please note that these two initiatives are **only open to members of the Princeton University community**.

I will personally convene the reading group for informal, unstructured conversations about some of the classics of world order as well as more recent monographs. Twice a term, we'll pick a new book to read together. The choice of books we'll be discussing is up to you! In the past, the reading group explored Richard Falk's influential *This Endangered Planet*:

Prospects and Proposals for Human Survival (1971), Matthew Rose's provocative *A World After Liberalism: Philosophers of the Radical Right* (2021) Joshua Cherniss's thought-provoking *Liberalism in Dark Times: The Liberal Ethos in the Twentieth Century* (2021), and Ayşe Zarakol's engrossing *Before the West: the Rise and Fall of Eastern World Orders* (2022). We also try to organize virtual meetings with the authors following our initial discussions of their books. On April 7th, 10-11am, the reading group will meet to discuss Henry Kissinger, Eric Schmidt, and Daniel Huttenlocher's *The Age of AI and Our Human Future*. Everyone who attended our previous meetings on Ayşe Zarakol's *Before the West* has already been invited to join us for this next conversation. If you haven't yet received an invitation but would like to join us, you can use [this online form to RSVP](#) for this upcoming meeting. Complementary copies of the book will be provided.

The research workshop is modelled on the field research seminars in the Department of Politics. It's a venue for students to present their current research on issues of world order and receive constructive feedback from their peers. Woojeong Jang organizes the research workshop. You can [consult the schedule of presentations or sign up to present here](#).

Finally, as over the past two years, so, too, this year, our biggest spring project will be our annual conference. Last year, our second annual conference explored the history and logics of the Liberal International Order. It brought together eminent scholars of world order from Canada, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. For each panel, our speakers were assigned to one of five broad topics: "Surveying the Liberal Legacy: Impacts, Failures, Accomplishments", "Does Liberal Democracy need a Liberal International Order? Does a Liberal International Order require Liberal Democracy?", "Imagining Worlds beyond Liberalism", "Geopolitical Challenges to the Liberal International Order", and "Adapting the Liberal Project to the Challenges of the 21st Century". This year, our third annual conference, scheduled for **March 31st-April 1st**, will consider the "Shape of Things to Come". The subject of our third annual conference deliberately harkens back to the title of the justly famous fictional history composed by the consummate futurist H.G. Wells. Following in Wells's footsteps, we, too, would like to ask: *what does the future of the international order look like? What is the "shape of things to come"?* In attempting to peer into the unwritten future, one helpful point of departure would be to consider the primary challenges that a successful international order will have to negotiate over the several next decades. We identify three such challenges for closer analysis: first, the renewal of great-power competition, exacerbated by the rise of new challengers and (potentially) new visions of world order; second, the continued instability generated by tensions between nationalism and internationalism as well as the vicissitudes of human rights and liberal democracy as political projects; and, third, the emergence of qualitatively new transnational risks associated with the development of artificial intelligence and climate change. Our panelists will chart these challenges in greater detail, tendering their diagnoses and proposing tentative solutions.

Our annual conferences are not open to the general public and admittance is by invitation only. Several graduate students, post-docs, and faculty who are closely involved with our program have already been invited. Although seating is limited, additional seats may become available. If you're interested in attending, you may use [this form to add your name to our waiting list](#). Please note that submission of this form does not constitute an invitation or guarantee admittance. We will reach out to you with an invitation should you be selected. Please note that all guests are expected to attend the conference in person.

Thank you for being a part of our growing RWO community!

With warm wishes,

G. John Ikenberry.

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