

Geopolitics at Virginia Tech presents:

GEPOL 2010

A one-day conference
Tuesday 13 April 2010
At the Alexandria Lyceum Hall,
201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia.
Conference web site: www.criticalgeopolitics.com
Lyceum location: <http://oha.alexandriava.gov/lyceum/>

The term 'geopolitics' has long had a contested meaning. For some a tradition on geographic causation in international affairs, for others the struggle for living space and resources between nations, and for yet others shorthand for Great Power competition, there are also a variety of critical Enlightenment-based perspectives (materialist, post-structuralist, feminist, libertarian) on its discourse and practice. Most recently, rising concern about global climate change and germs have re-invigorated a concern with 'geography' and the 'natural environment' into international affairs. Some figures like Jeffrey Sachs and Robert Kaplan conceptualize this as the determinism or 'revenge' of geography; others see a return of the dubious arguments of Victorian-era Geography. What does geopolitics mean in the twenty-first century? What does its past teach us about the present? What are some of the ways in which the notion is being re-imagined?

The Association of American Geographers conference convenes in Washington DC 14-18 April 2010. Travel to the conference by political geographers from around the world provides a unique opportunity for a conversation between them, political scientists and think-tank policy specialists in the Washington area. We have three aims for the conference:

1. to bring together a diversity of speakers and stimulate conversations across disciplinary, theoretical, and political lines
2. to reflect upon the history and practice of geographical reasoning in public affairs
3. to consider and review the geopolitical challenges of the present-day

I. What is Geopolitics in the Twenty First Century? 9:30 – 10:45 am

Chair: Gerard Toal, Virginia Tech

Simon Dalby, Carleton University

Jakub Grygiel, Johns Hopkins University

Jennifer Hyndman, York University

Charles Kupchan, Georgetown University

II. Geopolitics and Empire, 11:00 am – 12:45 pm

Chair: Joel Peters, Virginia Tech
Dan Deudney, Johns Hopkins
Gerry Kearns, Virginia Tech
Chris Preble, Cato Institute
Patrick Jackson, American University

III. Lunch Time talk: War Cultures, 1:00-2:00 pm

Chair: Giselle Datz, Virginia Tech
Derek Gregory, University of British Columbia
(Boxed lunch will be provided)

IV. Geopolitics and Terror, 2:15- 3:45 pm

Chair: Wolfgang Natter, Virginia Tech
Peter Mandaville, George Mason
Gerard Toal, Virginia Tech
Rachel Pain, Durham University
Nadia Abu-Zahra, University of Ottawa

V. Geopolitics and Cosmopolitics, 4:00- 6:00 pm

Discussion of David Harvey's *Cosmopolitanism and the Geographies of Freedom*
Chair: Karen Till, Virginia Tech
David Harvey, City University New York
Dan Deudney, Johns Hopkins
Michael Lind, New America Foundation
Timothy Luke, Virginia Tech

Drinks, followed by dinner for all the speakers.

Participants

Nadia Abu-Zahra, University of Ottawa

Nadia Abu-Zahra is Assistant Professor in Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa. Her research concerns human rights, public health, identity documentation, and border studies. She has published on the geopolitics of Palestine, on Israel's wall in the West Bank as part of the territorial control of Palestinian people in the context of military occupation, and on the politics of geographical methodologies.

Simon Dalby, Carleton University

Simon Dalby is professor of Geography at Carleton University, Ottawa. Along with Gerard Toal, he more or less established the field of Critical Geopolitics. He is co-editor of the journal, *Geopolitics*, and is the author of *Creating the Second Cold War* (1990), *Environmental Security* (2002), and *Security and Environmental Change* (2009).

Giselle Datz, Virginia Tech

Giselle Datz is Assistant Professor in Government and International Affairs at Virginia Tech. Her research is concerned with the political economy of global finance. She has published on the geopolitics of international debt restructuring.

Dan Deudney, Johns Hopkins

Dan Deudney is Associate Professor in International Relations and Political Theory at the Johns Hopkins University. He has drawn upon the history of geopolitical thought to set out a republican theory of foreign policy. He is the author of *Bounding Power: Republican Security Theory from the Polis to the Global Village* (2007), which won the 2008 Robert Jervis and Paul Schroeder Award for the Best Book on International History and Politics.

Derek Gregory, University of British Columbia

Derek Gregory is Professor of Geography at the University of British Columbia. His research has been central to the engagement of human geography with social theory. His recent work has been concerned with the imperial and colonial relations between Europe and the United States on one side and the countries of western Asia on the other. He is the author of *The Colonial Present: Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq* (2004), *Geographical Imaginations* (1994), *Regional Transformation and Industrial Revolution* (1982), and *Ideology, Science, and Human Geography* (1978) and among a clutch of edited collections, he has recently co-edited *Violent Geographies: fear, terror and political violence* (2007) and *David Harvey: A Critical Reader* (2006). His lecture is based on his forthcoming book, *War Cultures*.

Jakub Grygiel, Johns Hopkins University

Jakub Grygiel is the George H. W. Bush Associate Professor of International Relations in the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at the Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of *Great Powers and Geopolitical Change* (2006), a major restatement of the case for the continuing relevance of the geopolitical approaches pioneered by Victorian geographers.

David Harvey, City University New York

David Harvey is Professor of Anthropology at the City University of New York. He has been central to the development of geographical perspectives within Marxism and has published extensively on the historical geography of capitalism and of capitalist urbanization. His books include *Introduction of Marx's Capital* (2010), *Cosmopolitanism and the Geographies of Freedom* (2009), *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (2005), *The New Imperialism* (2003), *Space of Hope* (2000), *Justice, Nature, and the Geography of Difference* (1996), *The Condition of Postmodernity* (1989), *Consciousness and the Urban Experience* (1985), *The Urbanization of Capital* (1985), *The Limits to Capital* (1982), *Social Justice and the City* (1973), and *Explanation in Geography* (1969).

Jennifer Hyndman, York University

Jennifer Hyndman is professor of Geography and Associate Director of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University, Toronto. She has researched extensively on the displacement of people by conflict or other humanitarian emergencies. She is the author of *Managing Displacement: Refugees and the Politics of Humanitarianism* (2000) and co-editor of *Sites of Violence: Gender and Conflict Zones* (2004).

Patrick Jackson, American University

Patrick Jackson is Associate Professor of International Relations in the School of International Service at the American University in Washington DC. He is the Editor-in-chief of the *Journal of International Relations and Development*. His research is concerned with the relations between culture and agency in international relations theory and he is the author of *Civilizing the Enemy: German Reconstruction and the Invention of the West* (2006) and co-editor of *Civilizational Identity: The Production and Reproduction of 'Civilizations' in International Relations* (2007).

Gerry Kearns, Virginia Tech

Gerry Kearns is Professor of Government and International Affairs and Director the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech. He works on geopolitics, on anticolonial nationalism, and on AIDS. He is the author of *Geopolitics and Empire: The Legacy of Halford Mackinder* (2009) and *Urban Epidemics and Historical Geography: Cholera in London 1848-9* (1985) and co-editor of *Selling Places: The City as Cultural Capital, Past and Present* (1993) and *Urbanising Britain: Essays on Class and Community in the Nineteenth Century* (1991).

Charles Kupchan, Georgetown University

Charles Kupchan is professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He has worked in the State Department and as Director for European Affairs on the National Security Council during the first Clinton administration. He is the author of *The End of the American Era: US Foreign Policy and the Geopolitics of the Twenty-first Century* (2002), *Power in Transition: The Peaceful Change of International Order* (2001), *Civic Engagement in the Atlantic Community* (1999), *Atlantic Security: Contending Visions* (1998), *Nationalism and Nationalities in the New Europe* (1995), *The Vulnerability of Empire* (1994) and *The Persian Gulf and the West* (1987).

Michael Lind, New America Foundation

Michael Lind is Policy Director of the Economic Growth Program at the New America Foundation. He has served as Assistant to the Director of the State Department's Center for the Study of Foreign Affairs (1990-91) and was Executive Director of the National Interest (1991-4). His research has worked to develop a tradition of democratic nationalism. He is the author of *The American Way of Strategy: US Foreign Policy and the American Way of Life* (2006), *What Lincoln Believed: The Values and Convictions of America's Greatest President* (2005), *Made in Texas: George W Bush and the Southern Takeover of American Politics* (2002), *The Radical Center: The Future of American Politics* (2001, with Ted Halstead), *Vietnam:*

The Necessary War: A Reinterpretation of America's Most Disastrous Military Conflict (1999), *Up from Conservatism: Why the right is Wrong for America* (1996), and *the Next American Nation: The new Nationalism and the Fourth American Revolution* (1995).

Timothy Luke, Virginia Tech

Timothy Luke is Professor of Political Science at Virginia Tech. His research into political and social theory has included a long-term involvement with the journal, *Telos*. He is currently working on the information society and on the relations between ecology and politics. He is the author of *Museum Politics: Power Plays at the Exhibition* (2002), *Capitalism, Democracy, and Ecology: Departing from Marx* (1999), *Ecocritique: Contesting the Politics of Nature, Economy, and Culture* (1997), *Shows of Force: Power, Politics, and ideology in Art Exhibitions* (1992), *Social Theory and Modernity: Critique, Dissent, and Revolution* (1990), *Screens of Power: Ideology, Domination, and Resistance in Informational Society* (1989), and *Ideology and Soviet Industrialization* (1985).

Peter Mandaville, George Mason

Peter Mandaville is Associate Professor in Public and International Affairs and Co-Director of Mason's Center for Global Studies at George Mason University. His research examines religious authority and social movements in the Muslim world. He is the author of *Global Political Islam* (2007) and *Transnational Muslim Politics: Reimagining the Umma* (2001) and co-edited *Globalizing Religions* (2007), *Meaning and International Relations* (2003), and *The Zen of International Relations* (2001).

Wolfgang Natter, Virginia Tech

Wolfgang Natter is professor of Political Science and was Director of the Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought (2005-9) at Virginia Tech. His research on German intellectual history has included studies of Geopolitics, of Walter Benjamin, of Carl Schmitt, and of critical theory. He is the author of *Literature at War, 1914-1940: Representing the 'Time of Greatness' in Germany* (1999) and has co-edited *The Social and Political Body* (1996), *Objectivity and its Other* (1995), and *Postmodern Contentions: Epochs, Politics, Space* (1993).

Rachel Pain, Durham University

Rachel Pain is Reader in Geography and Co-Director of the Centre for Social Justice and Community Action at the University of Durham. She uses feminist and participatory theory and practice to explore issues relating to emotions and geopolitics. She is co-author of *Introducing Social Geographies* (2001) and co-editor of *The SAGE Handbook of Social Geographies* (2009), *Fear: Critical Geopolitics and Everyday Life* (2008), and *Participatory Action Research Approaches and Methods: Connecting People, Participation and Place* (2007).

Joel Peters, Virginia Tech

Joel Peters is Associate Professor of Government and International Affairs at Virginia Tech. He has been Director of the Centre for the Study of European Politics

and Society at the Ben Gurion University and a research fellow in the Middle East Program at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), London. He is the author of *Uneasy neighbors: Israel and the European Union* (2009, with Sharon Pardo), *Pathways to Peace: the Multilateral Arab-Israeli Talks* (1996), and *Israel and Africa: The Problematic Friendship* (1992).

Chris Preble, Cato Institute

Chris Preble is Director of Foreign Policy Studies at the Cato Institute. He is widely published in the popular press and is regularly interviewed on TV and radio. He is the author of *The Power Problem: How American Military Dominance Makes us Less Safe, Less Prosperous, and Less Free* (2009), *Exiting Iraq: How the US Must End the Occupation and Renew the War against Al Qaeda* (2004), and *John F Kennedy and the Missile Gap* (2004).

Karen Till, Virginia Tech

Karen Till is Associate Professor in Government and International Affairs and in Urban Affairs and Planning at Virginia Tech. Her research on place-making and social memory is based on ethnographic fieldwork and upon the exploration of artistic and creative works that engage with these themes. She is the author *The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place* (2005), co-editor of *Textures of Place: Rethinking Humanist Geographies* (2001) and of special issues of academic journals on the New Urbanism, and on Fieldwork in Geography.

Gerard Toal, Virginia Tech

Gerard Toal is professor of Government and International Affairs at Virginia Tech. Along with Simon Dalby, he more or less established the field of Critical Geopolitics. He is Associate Editor of the journals, *Geopolitics* and *Eurasian Geography and Economics* and, alongside co-editing five books on Geopolitics, including *A Geopolitics Reader* (2nd edn, 2006) and *A Companion to Political Geography* (2004), he is the author of *Critical Geopolitics: The Politics of Writing Global Space* (1996) and (with Carl Dahlman) *Bosnia Remade: Ethnic Cleansing and Return* (in press).