



World Affairs Council of Charlotte Underwriting and Table Purchase

WACC Speaker Series Panel

Suzanne DiMaggio, Director and Senior Fellow at New America

Gary Sick, Senior Research Scholar at Columbia University's Middle East Institute

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Charlotte City Club (121 W. Trade St. Charlotte, NC 28202)

VIP Reception: 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Lunch: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Suzanne DiMaggio, Director and Senior Fellow at New America and Gary Sick, Senior Research Scholar at Columbia University's Middle East Institute "The United States and Iran under the Trump Administration"



Suzanne DiMaggio is a Director and Senior Fellow at New America, where she focuses on U.S. foreign policy, the Middle East and Asia. She has been leading Track 1.5 and Track 2 diplomatic initiatives on regional security, terrorism, nonproliferation, and governance for nearly 20 years. She has a special interest in the role of policy dialogue with countries that the United States has limited or no official relations, especially Iran and North Korea.

Based at New America NYC, she directs the U.S.-Iran Initiative, which is carried out through a combination of policy dialogue, research, and a series of public events and private roundtables, with the aim of generating analyses and recommendations in support of improving relations between the two countries. The project's centerpiece is a long-running dialogue that she established in 2002, which brings together influential and knowledgeable Americans and Iranians to explore possible grounds for constructive engagement and develop mutually acceptable strategies for addressing a range of issues, including Iran's nuclear program, regional security, and U.S.-Iran relations.

Suzanne also directs a U.S.-DPRK dialogue that has included several visits to North Korea. As part of that process, she facilitated the first official discussions between the Trump administration and North Korean government representatives in Oslo in May 2017.

In 2009, she launched and directed a Task Force and an accompanying U.S.-Myanmar dialogue aimed at generating policy options to advance the normalization of bilateral relations. In 2016, she initiated a U.S.-China dialogue focused on great power interests in Myanmar and Southeast Asia more broadly. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations' Advisory Committee for Securing a Peaceful Transition in Myanmar.

Before joining New America, Suzanne was the Vice President of Global Policy Programs at the Asia Society (2007-2014), the Vice President of Policy Programs at the United Nations Association of the USA (1998-2007), and a Program Officer at the United Nations University (1993-1998). She holds a B.A. from New York University and an M.A. from The City College of New York (CUNY). She is a frequent commentator in the news media and her op-eds have appeared in national and international press outlets.

Gary Sick is a senior research scholar at Columbia University's Middle East Institute and an adjunct professor at the School of International and Public Affairs.

Sick served on the National Security Council under Presidents Ford, Carter, and Reagan. He was the principal White House aide for Iran during the Iranian Revolution and the hostage crisis. Sick is a captain (ret.) in the U.S. Navy, with service in the Persian Gulf, North Africa, and the Mediterranean.

From 1982 to 1987, Sick served as deputy director for international affairs at the Ford Foundation, where he was responsible for programs relating to U.S. foreign policy. He is a member (emeritus) of the board of Human Rights Watch in New York and founding chair of its advisory committee on the Middle East and North Africa. He is the executive director of Gulf/2000, an international online research project on political, economic and security developments in the Persian Gulf, being conducted at Columbia University since 1993 with support from a number of major foundations.

Sick was voted one of the top five teachers in 2009 at the School of International and Public Affairs. He is the author of *All Fall Down: America's Tragic Encounter With Iran* (Random House 1985) and *October Surprise: America's Hostages in Iran and the Election of Ronald Reagan* (Random House 1991). Gary Sick received his BA from the University of Kansas in 1957; a Master of Science from George Washington University in 1970; and a PhD from Columbia University in 1973.

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UNDERWRITING INFORMATION: Please contact Lauren Osga, Director, Programs & Development at 704-687-7758 or losga@worldaffairscharlotte.org for table purchases and underwriting information.

ABOUT WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF CHARLOTTE: The [World Affairs Council of Charlotte](http://www.worldaffairscharlotte.org) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization supported by funding from individual and corporate member dues, foundations and contributions. By serving as a regional center for education and discussion of world affairs, WACC seeks to provide leadership for global thinking, believing that a broad perspective is necessary for effective competition in the global economy and for responsible citizenship in an increasingly interdependent political world.