



World Affairs Council of Charlotte Table Purchase
 WACC Foreign Relations Speaker Series
 Candace Rondeaux, Senior Director, Future Frontlines and Planetary Politics;
 Professor of Practice, Arizona State University, and Author



Thursday, October 30th, 2025
 Hilton Charlotte Uptown
VIP Reception: 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Lunch: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Candace Rondeaux
 Senior Director, Future Frontlines and Planetary Politics; Professor of Practice, Arizona State University, and
 Author
“Putin’s Sledgehammer: The Wagner Group and Russia’s Collapse into Mercenary Chaos”

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- ◆ Increase corporate visibility and promote brand
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- ◆ High-level business and professional networking with leaders in the Charlotte community
- ◆ Learn about international affairs, global economy, and geopolitics from experts and world leaders
- ◆ Support international education in the Charlotte community

Candace Rondeaux Bio:

Candace Rondeaux is a globally recognized expert on international affairs, US national security, irregular warfare, and the strategic use of organized violence. Her book, [*Putin's Sledgehammer: The Wagner Group and Russia's Collapse into Mercenary Chaos*](#) (PublicAffairs, May 2025), reveals how mercenaries, mobsters, and oligarchs have become central tools of Kremlin power projection.

She serves as the Senior Director for the [Future Frontlines](#) program at New America, an open-source public intelligence service for next-generation security and democratic resilience. She also directs the [Planetary Politics](#) initiative, a cross-disciplinary program that aims to find solutions to the wicked problems posed by digitization and decarbonization in a multipolar world. Rondeaux is also a professor of practice with the [Future Security Initiative](#) at Arizona State University and a faculty affiliate with ASU's [Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies](#). Before joining New America and ASU, she served as a Senior Program Officer at the U.S. Institute of Peace, where she led the RESOLVE Network, a global research consortium on countering violent extremism. As Senior Analyst for the International Crisis Group in Afghanistan and Strategic Adviser to the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, she produced high-impact analysis on national elections and security sector reform.

Rondeaux's writing career began on the crime and courts beat, covering breaking news across New York, Florida, Virginia, and Maryland. An award-winning journalist, she reported from Ground Zero after the September 11 attacks for the New York Daily News, chronicled the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina for the St. Petersburg Times, and was part of The Washington Post team that won the Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre. Her reporting later took her to the frontlines of Afghanistan and Pakistan, where she served as the Post's bureau chief. Her analysis and commentary have also been regularly featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Lawfare, Small Wars Journal, Just Security, Daily Beast, and World Politics Review. She has testified before Congress and provided expert advice to several UN panels and commissions on conflict, the protection of civilians, transnational organized crime, and the outsourcing of violence. She has documented political violence and conflicts in hotspots around the world, including Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Georgia, and Ukraine. She holds a B.A. in Russian Area Studies from Sarah Lawrence College, an M.A. in Journalism from NYU, and an M.P.P. from Princeton University.

UNDERWRITING INFORMATION: Please contact Madison NeeSmith by phone (704-687-7758) or [email mneesmit@charlotte.edu](mailto:mneesmit@charlotte.edu) for table purchases and underwriting information.

ABOUT WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF CHARLOTTE: The [World Affairs Council of Charlotte](#) 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.