



WAC 2011:
SUPERHEROES OF THE
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Conference Itinerary

Monday February 7th 2011

5:00PM – 5:25PM

Registration

5:30PM – 5:40PM

Conference Opening & Introduction

5:40PM – 6:20PM

Lionel Gelber Keynote Address

6:20PM – 6:45PM

Question & Answer Period

Tuesday February 8th 2011

8:00AM – 9:00AM

Registration

9:00AM – 10:15AM

Morning Panel

10:15AM – 10:30AM

Break

10:30AM – 11:30AM

Plenary Session #1

11:30AM – 12:00PM

Small Group Discussion #1

12:00PM – 1:00PM

Lunch

1:00PM – 2:00PM

Plenary Session #2

2:00PM – 2:30PM

Small Group Discussion #2

2:30PM – 3:15PM

Closing Session



A Letter from the Executive Conference Chair

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2011 World Affairs Conference! Over the past 28 years, WAC has grown to become a major international conference with over 750 participants.

The dawn of the 21st century has brought with it many pressing issues and raised many crucial questions. Indeed, it would be trite to remind you of these concerns. Instead, we should look towards the future for hope. Ever since the 1990's, people have said that humanity needs new solutions, that it has entered a transition state. But now that the global economy is recovering and people are demanding peace, the world seems to have turned a new chapter in its history. The future rests in our hands and calls upon innovative ideas and strong characters to grapple with the state of world affairs.

This year's conference will bring renowned and inspiring speakers from across the globe. Our goal is simple. We want to create heroes and heroines who will be capable of leading the world in a new direction towards peace and economic prosperity. On behalf of the Chairs, I thank you and look forward to our future success.

Shahab Fadavi Akhavan Bonab,
Conference Chair



A Letter from the Editor

This is the first year we've had a journal, and I am hopeful that it will be enjoyed by everyone attending the conference. My main goal in creating The Report was to provide a snapshot of the conference for all attending as well as provide additional content which I hope you find interesting.

Eric Tweel,
Editor-in-Chief

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The Journal on World Affairs

Plenaries

Feb 7-8 2011



Standardized Currency
Will the Euro survive?



Nuclear Non-Proliferation & Arms Control
A selective right or a doomsday clock?



Genetically Modified Food

Risks v. Benefits



Technology & Mass Media

Is global culture a culture at all?



Clash of Civilizations
Assimilation & Religion



Failed States
A threat to world peace



Climate Change
The supporters and the skeptics



Arab-Israeli Conflict
Problems, struggles and solutions

Morning Panel: Foreign Interventions



Morning Panel - Cheri DiNovo

Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo is the Member of Provincial Parliament for Parkdale – High Park and the Deputy Speaker of the Ontario Legislative Assembly. An outspoken social justice activist and a former United Church Minister, DiNovo is most widely known for her work on poverty related issues. She was recognized with the highest medal of honour from the government of Ukraine for her work on the Holodomor bill in Ontario.



Morning Panel - David Frum

Best known for coining the term, the “Axis of Evil,” David Frum is the author of six books, including most recently “COMEBACK: Conservatism That Can Win Again.” He is a columnist for Canada’s National Post and Italy’s Il Foglio. From 2001 to 2002, Frum served as advisor and speechwriter to President Bush. In 2005, he formed and led the group Americans for Better Justice, and is a member of the board of the Republican Jewish Coalition.



Morning Panel - John McGarry

John McGarry is Professor and Canada Research Chair in Nationalism and Democracy in the Dept. of Political Studies at Queen’s University, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He has edited, co-edited and co-authored eleven books on ethnic conflict, nationalism, and the politics of Northern Ireland. During 2008-09, he served as Senior Advisor on Power-Sharing to the United Nations (Mediation Support Unit).



Speakers

Heroes of the 21st century

Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, MD, MPH, is a Palestinian physician and infertility expert who was born and raised in the Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. He received a scholarship to study medicine in Cairo, Egypt, and then received a diploma from the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of London. He completed a residency in the same discipline at Soroka University hospital in Israel, followed by a subspecialty in fetal medicine in Italy and Belgium. He then undertook a masters in public health (health policy and management) at Harvard University. Before his three daughters were killed in January 2009 during the Israeli incursion into Gaza, Dr. Abuelaish worked as a researcher at the Gertner Institute at the Sheba Hospital in Tel Aviv. He now lives with his family in Toronto, where he is an associate professor at the Dala Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

Technology and Media



Mitchell Stephens

Mitchell Stephens is the author of *A History of News*, an extended history of journalism that has been translated into four languages and was a New York Times "Notable Book of the Year." His well

reviewed book, the rise of the image the fall of the word, a historical analysis of our current communications revolution, was published in 1998 and is available from Oxford University Press. Professor Stephens is also the author of *Broadcast News*, the most widely used radio and television news textbook, and the co-author of *Writing and Reporting the News*.



Sergei Zelenev

An economist by education, Sergei Zelenev studied in Russia and the US: he received MA in international economic relations in 1972 and PhD in economics in 1975 from Moscow State Institute of International Affairs (MGIMO-UNIVERSITY). In 1993 he completed the management program — the executive MBA program at New York University (Stern School of Business) earning MBA. He authored a book on transnational corporations and social policy as well as many articles on economic and social development published in Russian and English.

Upon obtaining his doctorate in 1975 he worked as associate professor of political economy at MGIMO-University in Moscow, serving as well as a Vice-Dean of the Department of International Economic Relations. In 1981 he joined the UN Secretariat in New York as an Economic Affairs Officer. Since then he has been working at the UN Secretariat in the socio-economic field, performing, as required, analytical, normative and managerial functions. He oversaw the preparation of the Comprehensive report on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development submitted to the 24th special Session of the GA and contributed to the preparation of the draft text of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing submitted to the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

Apart from working at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, twice Mr. Zelenev worked in Africa, participating in the peace-keeping missions in Namibia and South Africa in 1989–1990 and 1993–1994 respectively.

Climate Change



Tom Harris

Tom Harris is Executive Director of the science-based, apolitical group, the International Climate Science Coalition. He also lectures at Carleton

University in Ottawa, Canada where he teaches a second year Earth Sciences course — "Climate Change, a geological perspective". Tom's basic education was in thermo-fluids and energy sciences and he has Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Mechanical Engineering. Tom has over 30 years experience working as a mechanical engineer and project manager, science and technology communications professional and media and S&T advisor to a former Opposition Senior Environment Critic in Canada's federal Parliament.



Bruce Cox

Mr. Bruce Cox's relationship with Greenpeace began years before he became the executive director of Greenpeace Canada. Before coming to work for

Greenpeace in 2004, Bruce spent two decades bringing his passion for the environment to provincial and federal politics and held positions with the Ontario ministries of Energy and Environment and at Toronto City Hall. Bruce is an enthusiastic advocate for change in Canada's energy sector, promoting an energy revolution that will see the phase out of dirty technologies such as nuclear and coal while ushering in an era of climate friendly, renewable and sustainable alternatives. During Bruce's tenure as Executive Director at Greenpeace, he has led the organization through a period of significant growth including the opening of new campaigns on Oceans and Tar Sands and an increase in budget and staff of over 50 per cent.

Clash of Civilizations



Tarek Fatah

Tarek Fatah has written for the Toronto Star (until he was put on the newspaper's 'No-Fly List' after they, as he claims "succumbed to Islamist pressures") the Globe and Mail, the National

Post and TIME magazine on the failures of multiculturalism and the threat posed by Islamism to Canada and the West. In 2002, he received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal.

In February 2007, Fatah was included by Maclean's magazine on a list of 50 Canadians described as "Canada's most well known and respected personalities." He is a co-host of "Friendly Fire," the evening show on CFRB 1010. In 2007, he was awarded the Press Freedom Award by the National Press Club.



Haroon Siddiqui

Haroon is a former national editor and editorial page editor of the Toronto Star. Upon his departure, he was given the title of "editor emeritus". He is the past president of PEN Canada and is the chair of

International PEN's Writers-in-Exile Network. He is on the board of directors of the Calmeadow Foundation, the Canadian Club of Toronto and the advisory board of the Ryerson University School of Journalism. In 2002, he was awarded the World Press Freedom Award by the National Press Club.

He shared a 1983 National Newspaper Award for spot news reporting. In 1992 and column writing in 1998. Siddiqui received a Professional Man of the Year award from Indo Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and a media award from the Canadian Islamic Congress. In 2000, he became a member of the Order of Ontario, for crafting "a broader definition of the Canadian identity," inclusive of our First Nations, French Canadians and newer Canadians. In 2001 he became a Member of the Order of Canada, for advocating "fairness and equality of opportunity" at home and "a broader role for Canada in the global village."

Arms Control

**Dr. Trevor Findlay**

Dr. Findlay spent thirteen years in the Australian diplomatic service, with postings in Tokyo, Mexico City and Geneva. He was a member of the Australian delegation to the Conference on Disarmament, as well as delegations to the UN General Assembly and UN Disarmament Commission in New York. Appointed in 1986 to the newly-established Peace Research Centre at the ANU as inaugural Foreign Affairs Disarmament Fellow, he later became Senior Fellow and acting head of the Centre for two years. This was followed by four years at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in Sweden, where he established the institute's program on peacekeeping and regional security. From 1998 to early 2005 Dr. Findlay was Executive Director of the London-based Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), a non-governmental organization that focuses on the verification of international agreements, particularly in respect of arms control, disarmament, the environment and peace accords. Dr. Findlay was chair of the Independent Commission on the Verifiability of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 2000.

**Steve Aplin**

Steve Aplin grew up during the Cold War, and like millions of others lived under the ever-present threat of nuclear annihilation. In 1983 he volunteered for Operation Dismantle, a group dedicated to nuclear disarmament. He was encouraged when, only ten years later, Russia and the U.S. actually began to dismantle nuclear weapons. His interest in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament increased when he became professionally involved in the civilian nuclear industry. Today he is a strong advocate of peaceful nuclear energy, and believes the civilian industry is humanity's best hope for stemming proliferation. Mr. Aplin is Vice President, Energy and Environment, at The HDP Group, an Ottawa consultancy. He blogs about Canadian energy issues at canadianenergyissues.com.

Failed States

**Dr. David Welch**

David A. Welch is CIGI chair of global security at the Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA). He is also a professor of political science at the University of Waterloo, and has received three major teaching awards in the last two years. Dr. Welch is also an accomplished author. Currently, he is completing a book on the Vietnam War and will subsequently begin a major project on security theory.

**Ian Spears**

Though Ian Spears teaches courses in international relations and the politics of developing areas (specifically Africa), his research interests have focused largely on problems and prospects for conflict and conflict resolution in African states. His earlier research concerned the difficulties in negotiating and implementing power-sharing agreements in the aftermath of civil wars. More recently, he has been considering the opposite approach, the possibility that secession or, more radically, the redrawing of Africa's borders, might provide an alternative to conflict resolution. Both of these issues have been informed by an approach to politics which borrows from political realism. Mr. Spear's most recent publication, an edited book, is a collection of papers which considers the emergence of political entities in different parts of the world which have many of the attributes of statehood but do not yet enjoy recognition from the international community. They are in effect 'states-within-states'.

Standardized Currency

**David Watt**

David Watt is a Senior Currency Strategist and Vice President based in Toronto, specializing in the Canadian dollar. David contributes to the daily North American Focus, the weekly Canadian Dollar Pulse and the monthly Currency Report Card. Prior to joining RBC, David spent over 5 years as a Senior Economist focusing on FX and fixed income strategy with another Canadian financial institution. He started his career at the Bank of Canada, and has previously worked at Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation as a Senior Fixed Income Strategist. David holds a Masters of Economics from Queen's University, where he also undertook advanced graduate studies. He has also completed the Canadian Securities Course, with Honours.

**Martin Schwerdtfeger**

Based in Toronto, Martin Schwerdtfeger joined the Economics department at TD Bank Financial Group in March 2010. Prior to joining TD Bank Financial Group, Martin worked with IHS Global Insight doing macroeconomic forecasts and analysis for Latin American economies. He holds a B.Sc. degree in Economics from the University of Buenos Aires and an M.A. degree in Economics from Duke University.

As an economist, Martin's chief responsibilities include analyzing and forecasting the global economy. Martin also contributes regularly to a wide variety of TD publications and provides frequent economic commentary to the media.

Arab-Israeli Conflict

**Berl Nadler**

Berl Nadler is partner of Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP, one of Canada's leading law firms, where he conducts a wide-ranging business law practice in that firm's Toronto and New York offices. Mr. Nadler has been

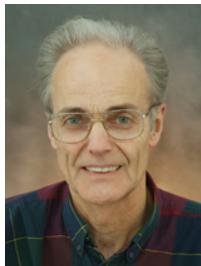
recognized as a leading lawyer in The Best Lawyers in Canada, the Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada, the Lexpert® Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross Border Lawyers in Canada and the Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory. He is also listed in Who's Who in Canada. In addition to his practice, Mr. Nadler is a frequent speaker at professional conferences and has published articles and papers on a wide range of legal topics. He was for a number of years an Adjunct Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School.

**Noura Erakat**

Noura Erakat is a Palestinian attorney and activist. She is currently an adjunct professor of international human rights law in the Middle East at Georgetown University and the Legal Advocacy

Coordinator for the Badil Center for Palestinian Refugee and Residency Rights. Prior to her time on Capitol Hill, Noura received a New Voices Fellowship to work as the national grassroots organizer and legal advocate at the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation where she helped seed BDS campaigns nationally as well as support the cases brought against two former Israeli officials in U.S. federal courts for alleged war crimes. Noura holds law and undergraduate degrees from the University of California at Berkeley. She has worked and studied in Israel and Palestine; she interned at Adalah: The Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel; studied at Hebrew University; and volunteered in Palestinian refugee camps throughout the West Bank and Lebanon. She currently serves on the Board of Split this Rock and the Trans-Arab Research Institute. Her publications include: "Litigating the Arab-Israeli Conflict: The Politicization of U.S. Federal Courts" in the Berkeley Law Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Law and "Arabiya Made Invisible: Between the Marginalization of Agency and the Silencing of Dissent" in a Syracuse Press anthology.

Genetically Modified Food

**Cecil Forsberg**

Cecil W. Forsberg is a professor of Microbiology at the University of Guelph where he has been since 1973. He has a B.S.A. and M.Sc. degrees from the University of

Saskatchewan and a Ph.D. from McGill University in Microbiology and postdoctoral training in London, England. His areas of research include molecular biology and biochemistry of glycosyl hydrolases, phosphohydrolases and transgenic swine R&D. He has more than 100 peer-reviewed publications.

**Arlene Stein**

Arlene Stein is the Program Director at Evergreen Brick Works. Ms. Stein previously worked at U of T's Hart House where she was the director of Events and Catering for 10

years. Arlene has led large scale food conferences, as well as spearheading student and community programs. Ms. Stein brings knowledge and experience to the topic of genetically modified foods.

Closing Panel

Second City

The Second City, the world's premier comedy theatre and school of improvisation, specializes in sketch comedy and has been delighting audiences for over 50 years. The Second City has resident companies in Chicago and Toronto consisting of six actors/writers each and three National Touring Companies with five actors each. The shows consist of short scenes, songs, and improvisations ranging anywhere from 10 seconds to 10 minutes long.



The Second City format is a two-act revue – primarily scripted – followed by a third act of improvisation. The show is written by the cast over an eight to ten week rehearsal period. Most of our material is generated in the improvisational sets – where audience members often contribute suggestions for the topics to be performed. If an improvised piece is particularly strong, that piece is further refined the next day in a rehearsal session with the director of the revue. Over the rehearsal process, new material is introduced into the scripted show. Themes develop and the actors and director craft the scenes into a fully realized production.

STAFF

Shahab Fadavi: Conference Chair

Eric Tweel: Editor-in-Chief

Kaleem Hawa: Writer

Shashwat Koirala: Writer

Eamon O'Keefe: Writer

Omar Abboud: Writer



An Interview with Haroon Siddiqui on Multiculturalism

At the upcoming World Affairs Conference, you will be talking about the clash of civilizations. Without giving away your speech, what issues will you be touching on?

There's nothing to give away. I will outline the American approach of the melting pot versus the Canadian approach of multiculturalism, and I am going to take the side of Canadian multiculturalism. The argument is very simple, that is part of our constitution, it is entrenched in our Charter of Rights. Section 27 of the Charter says Canada is a multicultural country. Not only that, it goes on to say, which a lot of people don't realize, is that the Constitution should be interpreted accordingly. Which is like no other country in the world, perhaps, with the exception of Belgium. The observant Jewish persons notices this and says, 'I can't work on Saturday because it is my Sabbath'. However, in response, the employer says, 'Well, my biggest sales are on Saturday.' According to the Constitution the employer must make reasonable efforts to accommodate religious belief, or the multicultural beliefs of this particular person. And the employer says, 'Okay, I respect that, but my business is not a charity,' so the compromise of the agreement was that the employer can hire someone else that day, and the Jewish person can make it up by working Sunday maybe, or Monday, or whatever. Or adjusting his holiday schedule. So there is this constant give-and-take that this multicultural imperative forces people to take part in.

"The debate really forces us to re-examine our own democratic secular law."

You have been quoted as saying "freedom of speech is not absolute." Could you substantiate this and describe why you hold this belief?

It's certainly true in Canada because its the law of the land. It's not my opinion, I am just repeating what the law says. The law says that freedom of speech is not absolute, for the same reason other rights are not absolute. Very few rights are absolute. My freedom to swing my arm stops at your cheek. So, most rights have to work in balance of other rights. My right to freedom of speech also stops when I libel you, or I defame you. There are anti-hate laws in Canada, as in the United States... which have many serious penalties, including sending you off to jail. Those are the laws of the land. Those who believe that freedom of speech is totally free are living in a dream world, it's just not so.

You grew up as Muslim minority in India, and immigrated to Canada later on in your life, where you remain a Muslim minority. How where the two experiences different?

They're not much different. First of all, it is a huge minority [in India], of 160 million, which is five times the population of Canada. It is the third biggest Muslim population in the world after Indonesia and Pakistan, so you don't really feel like a minority. The second thing is that in India, it is a four thousand year old civilization, which has people of every kind, and every hue, and every ethnicity, and every linguistic minority, and every religion. So you grow up in a virtual parade of different traditions.

What do you think is the best way to remove the stereotype in the West of Muslims as being radical extremists that advocate terrorism?

Well at one time we used to have stereotypes of Catholics, Irish Catholics or Italian Catholics or Spanish Catholics, then we had stereotypes of Japanese Canadians, we had stereotypes of Chinese Canadians, we had stereotypes and anti-semitism towards Jews, and there still is in many ways. Now, the latest stereotypes is against Muslims. The Muslims are not being interned like the Japanese, but that does not mean they are not being stereotyped. They constantly complain of job discrimination. It's the same kind of discrimination Kippah wearing Jews faced. But slowly, I am sure people will learn.

We have seen extreme reactions in Europe to the recent influx of Muslim immigrants, such as the minaret ban in Switzerland and the ban of the niqab in France. Why do you think Europe is gravitating towards this right-wing approach, and do you think it is justified?

No, of course not, it's not justified. First of all, we are living in the post 9/11 era. The phenomenon in Europe is probably not much different than the phenomenon in Quebec.

Europe itself is undergoing a great identity crisis. Because of the European Union, many smaller nations have been steadily losing their sovereignty.

Secondly, they are no longer a Christian continent. They're a Christian majority continent, but not really a Christian continent, but they seem to confuse between the two, including the Pope. The Pope used to say Europe is Christian continent. Excuse me sir, your Holiness, we live in a democracy. A democracy is not a Christian country, it's a Christian majority country, which is democratic, which is secular, which in all people have equal rights. And now the Pope seems to have learned. He's not saying such nonsense as he used to say. The flip side of the coin is that many Christians have broken free from the chains of Christianity, especially Catholicism, and broken out of the power of church. This is similar to what happened in Quebec [during the Quiet Revolution]. People are talking about this a lot in Europe, as they are in Quebec, and there is a sort of paranoia surrounding it. But the more they talk, the happier I am – let them get their paranoia out into the public square, and people will learn from that. When I say I oppose the banning of the hijab, I'm not holding a Muslim position, I'm offering a democratic secular position. [Supporters of the ban] say that the nuns can wear their garb, but a woman can not wear her hijab. On what legal basis, on what secular principle, on what democratic law do we ban these things? So the debate really forces us to re-examine our own democratic secular law. When you [oppose this ban], you are likely to be misunderstood, people say, 'Ah! You say that because you are a Muslim!' But no, I also support the right of an Orthodox Jewish person to wear his Kippah, the nun to wear her garb, and other religious and cultural beliefs of others peoples.

Eric Tweel