

Colloquium on Law and Security

NYU School of Law

Spring Semester 2021

Thursdays 3:20-5:20 PM

Contact Information:

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Course Description

The Colloquium, to be conducted via Zoom, will explore a broad array of emerging issues in the rapidly changing field of national security. Today, U.S. policy makers no longer see transnational terrorism as the central threat to American national security. Unchallenged American hegemony is increasingly a feature of the past. The nature of how we fight as well as how we cooperate across borders is changing. Phenomena like the COVID pandemic pose both domestic and international challenges. The aim of the seminar, therefore, is to define and debate the new, complex and evolving threat environment facing the country in the third decade of the twenty-first century. We will look abroad, including at deteriorating relations with an increasingly powerful China and a belligerent Russia, the threat of cyber warfare and “gray zone” tactics, the weakening of America’s traditional alliances and values, and emerging conflicts in regions such as the Middle East. And we will also focus on domestic issues in the United States, including white nationalism and systemic racism, strains on our system of

democracy, challenges within our national security bureaucracy, and persistent, and growing, questions around executive powers and the adequacy of Congressional oversight. Each week we will engage with a presentation by an eminent national security expert—including former government officials, legal academics, international relations specialists, journalists, and human rights advocates—as we explore the defining features and dilemmas of today’s national security law and policy.

January 21: Ryan Goodman, *Insurrection, Incitement and Accountability*

January 28: Dr. Dafna Rand, *The Future of Middle East Policy*

February 4: Rosa Brooks, *Policing, War Making, and National Security*

February 11: Steve Vladeck, *What can/ should we do about Guantanamo?*

February 18: Rebecca Ingber, *National Security by Congress and the Courts*

February 25: Liza Goitein, *Emergency Powers and Domestic Deployment of the Military*

March 4: Azmat Khan, *Civilian Casualties and Modern Warfare*

March 11: Masha Gessen, *Authoritarianism*

March 18: Ganesh Sitaraman, *A Grand Strategy of Resilience*

April 1: Bob Bauer, *The Ethics (and Politics) of Executive Branch Lawyering*

April 8: Catherine Powell & Mary Dudziak, *Creating a Post-Pandemic Marshall Plan: The Warfare Metaphor and its Discontents*

April 15: Elizabeth Economy, *China’s Global Ambitions and U.S. Policy*

April 22: Sam Rascoff, *Norms and National Security*

Course Requirements

Students will be required to write a 25-page research paper on a topic agreed upon with the instructors.

Class attendance is mandatory. If you cannot attend a class for unavoidable reasons, please email our assistant in advance.

Class participation is expected of all students and will be a factor in grading.