



Change and Continuity in American Leadership

(revised 1/24/19)

January 13-19, 2019

Washington, D.C.

Seminar Schedule Speaker Biographies



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<https://www.facebook.com/osgoodcenter/>



Monday, January 14, 2019

**SNOW EMERGENCY IN DC / ABRIDGED
AND ADJUSTED SCHEDULE**

**10:00 a.m.
Avenue Suites Hotel
2500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Off-Terrace Room**

**Leadership, Mediation, and the Law
Kenneth R. Feinberg
Attorney
Law Offices of Feinberg Rozen**

Lunch on Your Own

Afternoon

Site Visits and Small Group Meetings



Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Avenue Suites Hotel
Meet the bus in front to leave at
8:15 a.m.
Must arrive by 9:30 a.m.

See Map of Grounds:
<https://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/map-of-the-estate-gardens/>

9:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

11:45 a.m.

2:00 p.m.

Afternoon

The Roots of Leadership: George Washington's Mount Vernon
<https://www.mountvernon.org/>

Greetings and Short Introduction
Mount Vernon: The Leadership of George Washington

Joseph F. Stoltz III, Ph.D.

Deputy Director

Leadership Programs

George Washington's Mount Vernon

Guided Tour of the Grounds

Mansion Tour and Related Sites

Visit to the Museum

Board bus to Avenue Suites Hotel

Site Visits and Small Group Meetings



Wednesday, January 16, 2019

8:45 a.m.

George Washington University
Elliott School of International Affairs,
1957 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20052
ROOM: 214 (NEW ROOM)
Closest Metro: Foggy Bottom

**Seminar Opening Session Announcements
and Student Reflections**

9:00 a.m.

New Leadership in American Politics
Lara Brown, Ph.D.
Director
GWU Graduate School of Political Management

10:15 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m.

Leadership and Financial Resources
Clara Montanez
Senior Director, Investments
Oppenheimer & Co.

12:00 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

Afternoon

Site Visits and Small Group Meetings

EVENING RECEPTION

5:15 p.m.

GWU Elliott School of International
Affairs
1957 E St. NW
Room 213
Professional Dress

Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship
Sarah Hillware
Global Communications Strategist and Social
Entrepreneur
The World Bank

6:15 – 6:30 p.m.

Refreshments Served



6:30-7:30 p.m.

Special Guest Speakers:

Julia Nesheiwat, Ph.D. Special Presidential
Envoy for Hostage Affairs, Acting at U.S.
Department of State

Hon. Michael G. Waltz (R-FL)
U.S. House of Representatives



Thursday, January 17, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Newseum Opens

555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

(Expected Arrival time is 10 a.m.)

Nearest Metro from Foggy Bottom: Federal Triangle (Blue/Orange/Silver Line) or you can take a bus from PA Ave., which might be easier (check Google Maps for details).

Notes for the visit:

- Use the Penn. Ave. Entrance
- Newseum tickets are valid for two consecutive days. If you wish to return the following day, keep your ticket.
- Outside food and beverage may NOT be consumed in the building. You may bring in your own lunch but it must remain in your backpack and be eaten offsite. You can purchase lunch in the Food Section by Wolfgang Puck located on the concourse level of the Newseum.
- You will need to pass through security so it is recommended to pack lightly.

Lunch

Afternoon

EVENING FREE

Day at the Newseum

<http://www.newseum.org/>

Distribution of Newseum Tickets on Wednesday—See your faculty representative

Scavenger Hunt at the Newseum

Special Exhibits Include:

- ✚ “1968: Civil Rights At 50”
- ✚ The Editorial Cartoons of Michael Sloan and Jake Halpern
- ✚ The Marines and Tet
- ✚ ABC News Changing Exhibits: “Inside Today’s FBI”
- ✚ 9/11 Gallery Sponsored by Comcast
- ✚ Berlin Wall Gallery
- ✚ “First Dogs: American Presidents and Their Pets”
- ✚ “Make Some Noise: Students and The Civil Rights Movement”

Lunch on Your Own (Newseum has a cafeteria)

Site Visits and Small Group Meetings

Suggestion: Have your experimented with some ethnic restaurants?

Try DAS Ethiopian Near the Avenue Suites Hotel

1201 28th Street NW

Washington, DC 20007

<http://www.dasethiopian.com/>



Friday, January 18, 2019

8:45 a.m.

**George Washington University
Elliott School of International Affairs,
1957 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20052
ROOM: LINDNER COMMONS (6th
Floor)**

Closest Metro: Foggy Bottom

**Seminar Opening Session Announcements
and Student Reflections**

9:00 a.m.

**World Community Leadership:
Neighborhood Gems
Sharon T. Freeman, Ph.D.
CEO, Gems of Wisdom Consulting and Author**

***Cynthia Farrell Johnson*
Artist**

***Amb. Mattie R. Sharpless*
Independent Consultant**

10:15 a.m.

**Break / Distribution of Certificates / Closing
Remarks**

10:45 a.m.

**Leadership and the Global Community
Trita Parsi, Ph.D.
Adjunct Associate Professor - Center for Security
Studies (CSS), Georgetown University
Founder and Past President
National Iranian American Council
<https://www.niacouncil.org/>**

12:00

Closing Remarks



Shelton Williams, Ph.D.
President, The Osgood Center

**Evaluations Due
Program Concludes**

Afternoon Free

Saturday, January 19, 2019

- **Confirm Checkout Procedures at Your Facility**
- **Avoid additional charges by removing trash, return all keys and fobs, etc.**
- **Hotel Check-out by Noon**

Thank you for participating in the 2019 Continuity and Change in American Leadership Seminar by the Osgood Center!



Speaker Biographies

(in order of appearance and with selected video and web links)

Monday, January 14, 2019



KENNETH R. FEINBERG, J.D.

Attorney

Law Offices of Feinberg Rozen

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenneth_Feinberg

<http://observer.com/2016/03/meet-ken-feinberg-the-master-of-disasters/>

<http://content.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1903547,00.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/31/us/politics/kenneth-feinberg-terrorism-fund.html>

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?314189-1/after-words-elizabeth-greenspan>

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?316291-5/ken-feinberg-50th-anniversary-jfk-assassination>

https://www.amazon.com/What-Life-Worth-Compensate-September-ebook/dp/B002EF2A14/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1514156014&sr=8-1&keywords=what+is+life+worth

Born in Brockton, Mass., Kenneth Feinberg earned a degree in history from the University of Massachusetts, where he became involved in theater and briefly considered a career as an actor. Instead, he decided to pursue a law degree at NYU, where he served as articles editor of the Law Review. After clerking for New York State Court of Appeals Judge Stanley Fuld, Feinberg became an assistant attorney for the New York department of justice — where he worked alongside former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani and former U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey — before joining Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy's office as an assistant. He became Kennedy's chief of staff in the late 1970s.

Feinberg left Kennedy's office in 1980 to help found the Washington office of law firm Kaye Scholer LLP. After 12 years, he started his own firm. As a mediator, Feinberg helped resolve a string of high-profile cases, including some of the nation's biggest asbestos-damages suits, a \$2.5 billion settlement for women suing over a defective contraceptive device, and a class action by 250,000 Vietnam veterans and their families against the manufacturers of Agent Orange. Though the Agent Orange case had been dragging on for more than eight years, Feinberg after just six weeks on the job was able to reach a \$180 million settlement between the toxic defoliant's manufacturers and its victims.

Working pro bono as head of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, Feinberg reached out to all who qualified to file a claim, evaluated applications, determined appropriate compensation and distributed awards. He personally took part in most of the 1,500 hearings with survivors and victims' families, and his staff of 200 spent 33 months investigating claims and deciding benefits. In 2005, Feinberg published a book, *What Is Life Worth?*, in which he recounted his experiences.



He was one of three arbitrators who in 1999 determined the fair market value of the Zapruder film of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In 2004 the National Law Journal named him "Lawyer of the Year."

Additionally, Feinberg has served as the government-appointed administrator of the BP Deepwater Horizon Disaster Victim Compensation Fund. Feinberg was appointed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to administer the One Fund—the victim assistance fund established in the wake of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings. Feinberg was also retained by General Motors to assist in their recall response and by Volkswagen to oversee their U.S. compensation of VW diesel owners affected by the Volkswagen emissions scandal.

Kenneth Feinberg is also an adjunct professor at the Columbia University School of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Georgetown University Law Center, New York University School of Law, the University of Virginia School of Law and at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Sarah has a Field of Study Certificate, Entrepreneurship from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a bachelor's degree in international affairs with a concentration in global public health from George Washington University

Tuesday, January 15, 2019



JOSEPH F. STOLTZ III, PH.D.

Deputy Director, Leadership Programs
George Washington's Mount Vernon

<https://josephfstoltz.com/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/josephfstoltz/>

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?441443-1/george-washingtons-literary-life>

A scholar of the early American military, Joe is currently researching the Franco-American coalition during the American War of Independence. Prior to his current position, he was at the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon where he oversaw the library's leadership

programming. Joe's first book, *A Bloodless Victory: the Battle of New Orleans in History and Memory*, is available through Johns Hopkins University Press. Joe held the position of Rowan Post-doctoral fellow in the Department of History at the United States Military Academy prior to joining the team at Mount Vernon. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from the University of New Orleans and his Ph.D. from Texas Christian University.



Wednesday, January 16, 2019



LARA M. BROWN, PH.D.

Director

**Graduate School of Political Management
George Washington University**

@laraMBrownPhD

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?296850-1/roundtable-discussion-george-w-bushs-decision-points>

Dr. Lara M. Brown is an associate professor and the program director for the Political Management Program in The Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM) at The George Washington University. She brings her vast knowledge and research interests ranging from the national elections processes to the presidential aspirants, congressional incumbents and political scandals to the Presidential Inauguration Program.

She also supports The New Agenda, a pro-woman organization, as a member of its Board of Advisors of The New Age. Dr. Brown contributes regularly to U.S. News & World Report's "Thomas Jefferson Street" blog.

Prior to joining George Washington University's faculty, Dr. Brown served as an assistant professor of political science at Villanova University. In addition to her academic work, she brings her professional experiences both in policymaking, education and public administration. She has worked as a consultant in education policy and strategic planning. In the government, Dr. Brown served as a political appointee in President Bill Clinton's administration at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. In 2001, she earned her Ph.D. in political science from the University of California.



CLARA MONTANEZ

Senior Director, Investments

Oppenheimer & Company, Inc.

<https://blog.rotary.org/2016/03/07/5-concerns-facing-professional-women-today/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/clara-montanez-921b2097/>

Clara Montanez is senior director of investments at Oppenheimer & Company Inc. in Washington, DC and has over 20 years of experience in the finance industry. She has served as Rotary's alternate representative to the Organization of American States since 2010. She has a Diploma in International and Comparative Politics from the University of London and a bachelor of science degree in business administration from American University



SARAH HILLWARE
Global Communications Strategist
and Sr. Consultant
World Bank Group

@SarahHillware

<http://www.sarahhillware.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fy2k8xy5hcw>

<https://vimeo.com/87462996>

Sarah Hillware is a social entrepreneur and global communications strategist. She has spent her career designing, implementing and managing effective public affairs and behavior change campaigns with measurable public health, gender equality, educational and environmental outcomes.

She currently consults the World Bank on external communications and corporate engagement for an international, multi-sectoral program. In addition to the broader program activities, she also works with task teams to implement behavior change communication at the country level.

Sarah has an academic background in international affairs, global health and entrepreneurship and has held positions in international organizations, NGOs and private sector media and marketing companies. Prior to working for two major United Nations agencies, she supported the execution of two major campaigns for the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Foundation.

In 2012, she founded [Girls Health Ed](#), a nonprofit health education program for low-income girls and young women ages 8-17 throughout the United States and Kenya. The organization has since hired employees to manage day-to-day operations, but Sarah continues to advise the organization on strategic initiatives.

Sarah's research on school- and community-based health communication interventions have led her to give talks at TEDxBerkeley as well as at the United Nations through TEDxUNPlaza. You may visit her blog on the [Huffington Post](#) or follow her on Twitter [@sarahhillware](#).



JULIA NESHEIWAT, PH.D.

Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs
Acting at U.S. Department of State

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?400913-2/us-hostage-policy>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNRikBc04fl>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_GTtkjHbn4

Dr. Julia Nesheiwat is the Deputy Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, strengthening



diplomatic efforts to secure the safe return of Americans held hostage overseas. Working closely with the families of American hostages, foreign governments and the interagency Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, she represents the United States on hostage-related issues. Previously, Dr. Nesheiwat was appointed as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Implementation in the Bureau of Energy Resources. She also served as a Political-Military Advisor and Visiting Professor at the U.S. Naval Post Graduate School's National Security Affairs Department. Dr. Nesheiwat has held numerous positions as Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs and U.S. Special Envoy for Eurasian Energy Security.

Earlier in her career, she served as the Chief of Staff for Policy and Planning in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, where she managed the integration and collaboration of analysis and reporting with all intelligence agencies. Prior to that role, she was selected to serve on the U.S. Presidential Commission on Intelligence Capabilities Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction, leading the North Korea and Iran policy steering committee from 2004-2005.

A former U.S. Army Military Intelligence officer, Dr. Nesheiwat served consecutive tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. As a senior operations officer, she coordinated and managed interagency assessments on terrorist networks within the Middle East and Asia and acted as the U.S. military liaison officer with regional political parties on governance and threat reduction.

Dr. Nesheiwat was an International Affairs Fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations and on the Governing Advisory Council for the World Economic Forum. She earned a Ph.D. from Tokyo Institute of Technology in Japan; an M.A. in security studies from Georgetown University and a B.A. in religious studies and sociology from Stetson University in Florida. She speaks fluent Arabic and Japanese.



HON. MICHAEL G. WALTZ (R-FL)
U.S. House of Representatives

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?323057-1/warrior-diplomat>

Congressman Waltz is a retired U.S. Army Special Forces officer, a veteran of the War in Afghanistan, a former senior advisor to Vice President Dick Cheney for South Asia and Counterterrorism in the George W. Bush White House, the founder and former CEO for a successful defense firm that provides strategic analysis, intelligence support, and training to U.S. Government customers worldwide, and the first Green Beret ever elected to the United States Congress. Prior to his time in the White House, Waltz served in a senior role at the

Pentagon as Director for Afghanistan policy within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Rep. Waltz has been a FOX News contributor, providing expert commentary on foreign policy and defense issues, and has also appeared frequently on CNN, MSNBC, BBC World News, and PBS Frontline.



He was elected to Congress in 2018 and is serving his first term. He is the author of the book, *Warrior Diplomat: A Green Beret's Battles from Washington to Afghanistan*. He is a native Floridian and attended the Virginia Military Institute where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Studies and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army Reserve.

Friday, January 19, 2018



SHARON T. FREEMAN, PH.D.

CEO, Gems of Wisdom Consulting and Author

<http://www.gemsofwisdomconsulting.com/books/33-gems-wisdom-for-living-pieces-of-lifes-puzzle/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sharon-freeman-87076168/>

<https://www.amazon.com/default/e/B001K8QGRM?redirectedFromKindleDbs=true>

<https://www.insidengo.org/blog/sharon-freeman-publishes-book-usaid-awards-management>

Dr. Sharon T. Freeman is an entrepreneur, small business owner and expert on US and global ecosystems of support for startups and SMEs (small, medium sized enterprises) and an expert in regulatory compliance and risk assessment and advisor- since 1993- to the US Secretary of Commerce Office of the US Trade Representative. She advises on doing business with the US government. She consults on the facilitator of women, minority, and immigrant business growth and is a sought-after global speaker on topics related to ecosystems development. She has written 27 books, including, as of August 2018: *The US Ecosystem of Support for Startups: 33 Insights into How and Why It Works*. She has worked in 100+ countries providing expert advice on programmatic and operational issues in the field of economic development to USAID, the World Bank, IFC, AfDB, InterAmerican Development Bank, UNDP and other international development institutions. She lived for 12 years in Hong Kong and has worked in all major Asian countries; 49 African countries, throughout Latin, Central and South America and in most European countries. Dr. Freeman is also a frequent speaker in the US State Department's Public Diplomacy Bureau's Speakers Program.

Dr. Freeman holds a Ph.D. in applied management and decision sciences from Walden University, a master of science in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University and and possesses a broad range of quantitative and qualitative skills of analysis. Having worked in over 100 countries for over 30 years, Dr. Freeman is also an expert on a broad range of topics within international development such as regulatory compliance, and trade, export, and SME development. She is also an expert on public and private sector developments and regulations in countries and regions,



such as China, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Ethiopia and Nigeria, and in many countries in Africa and South and Central America in which she has worked extensively throughout her 30+ year career for USAID, the World Bank, AfDB, IFC, and for many development institutions.

Her book, *33 Gems: Wisdom for Living Life's Pieces of the Puzzle*, was an effort to edit the stories of people of different races with extraordinary and compelling life circumstances who were handed odd pieces and shapes in life's puzzle but who resized and reshaped them to become winners in the game of life. (Amazon review).



CYNTHIA FARRELL JOHNSON

Artist

<http://www.cfjfinearts.com/>

From her website: Cynthia Farrell Johnson is a fan of vibrant colors. Her works in gouache and acrylic have been inspired by the people she met and places where she lived during 25 years of globetrotting as a U.S. diplomat. Service in West Africa, Central and South America exposed her to a wide variety of artistic traditions and forms of expression. Her role models are Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, Faith Ringgold and Vincent Van Gogh. Johnson currently makes her home in Silver Spring, Maryland, and draws much of her inspiration for themes and color schemes from the Washington, D.C. region's rich, cultural diversity.

Johnson is a member of Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, where she has her art studio, and is included in the Maryland State Artists Registry. Her work is included in the West Indian Museum of Panama, as well as the DC Arts & Humanities Art Bank and the Martha's Table collections. Johnson has served on the Advisory Board of the School of Fine & Performing Arts, State University of New York at New Paltz, and the board of Silver Spring Town Center, Inc.

In July 2013, Johnson was awarded an Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County Individual Artist/Scholar Grant. She was Artist-in-Residence at Wesley Theological Seminary's Luce Center for the Arts & Religion in 2011, and prior to that was Artist-in-Residence at Iona Senior Services, both in Washington, D.C.

Johnson's paintings have been exhibited overseas in cultural centers and galleries in Africa and in Latin America. As a participant in the Department of State's Art in Embassies Program, Ms. Johnson has placed her work in U.S. ambassadorial residence in Niger, Nicaragua, Serbia, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Panama.



Ambassador Sharpless

AMB. MATTIE R. SHARPLESS

Independent Consultant

<https://blackpast.org/aah/sharpless-mattie-r-1943>

On October 1, 2001, President George W. Bush nominated Mattie R. Sharpless to be the next United States Ambassador to the Central African Republic. Sharpless served in Bangui until June 2003. Unlike most ambassadors who are either political appointees or career foreign service diplomats, Sharpless was a long-term employee of the United States Foreign Agriculture Service, a section of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Sharpless, a native of Hampstead, North Carolina, graduated from Pender County Training High School in Rocky Mount, North Carolina in 1961 and then entered North Carolina College (NCC), a historically black college in Durham, North Carolina, on a scholarship. While at NCC she became interested in pursuing a career with the federal government.

In 1965, Sharpless graduated from NCC with a bachelor of science degree in business education. She continued to pursue graduate work at the institution part time and was there when it became North Carolina Central University in 1969. In 1972 she graduated from North Carolina Central University with an M.A. in business administration and economics.

In 1965, after obtaining her B.S. degree, Sharpless began working for the United States Foreign Agriculture Service (USFAS), the agency in the USDA that connects American farming with other areas of the world; it seeks to further trade possibilities globally so there is more foodstuff security. Sharpless served over 40 years with USFAS within the USDA, often in other nations. She also held various positions in the Foreign Agricultural Service including Agricultural Attaché, and Agricultural Counselor.

In 1999-2001, for example, before her appointment as U.S. Ambassador, Sharpless was the Special Envoy to Emerging Economies for USFAS. In that capacity she led the effort to encourage increased American purchases of African cash crops such as coffee, cocoa, and tobacco. Sharpless and a growing number of government officials and leaders of non-government organizations (NGOs) working in Africa believe that increased trade with the U.S. and the rest of the world would generate more long-term benefits for these young nations than additional foreign aid. Sharpless continued that focus when she served as U.S. Ambassador to the Central African Republic.

Amb. Sharpless has received multiple honors for her work, such as the Presidential Meritorious Service Award, the Woman of the Year Award from the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Superior Honor Award from the USDA. In the same year Sharpless became U.S. Ambassador (2001), President Bush bestowed upon her the Presidential Distinguished Service Award. After her retirement from the USDA in 2003, Sharpless continued to be active in multiple community projects most of which assist young people pursuing education or career opportunities in government or the non-profit sector.



TRITA PARSI, PH.D.

Adjunct Associate Professor - Center for Security Studies (CSS)

Georgetown University

Founder and Past President

National Iranian American Council

<https://www.niacouncil.org/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Losing-Enemy-Obama-Triumph-Diplomacy/dp/0300218168>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLdVNNf5UDY>

<http://www.cc.com/video-clips/0qvety/the-colbert-report-iran-nuke-negotiations---trita-parsi>

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?429083-4/washington-journal-trita-parsi-discusses-us-iran-relations>

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?435756-1/politico-forum-explores-future-iran-nuclear-deal>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Izou8VZTKvc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9Fw1wE98FI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3GtZUj8NHM>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dn2Ep6kd3_4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfvWZ1DFZ68>

From the NIAC website: Dr. Parsi is the founder, a board member and past president of the National Iranian American Council and an expert on US-Iranian relations, Iranian foreign politics, and the geopolitics of the Middle East. He is the author of *Treacherous Alliance: The Secret Dealings of Iran, Israel and the United States* (Yale University Press 2007), for which he conducted more than 130 interviews with senior Israeli, Iranian and American decision-makers. *Treacherous Alliance* is the silver medal winner of the 2008 Arthur Ross Book Award from the Council on Foreign Relations.

Parsi's book *A Single Roll of the Dice – Obama's Diplomacy with Iran* (Yale University Press) was released early 2012. He interviewed 70 high-ranking officials from the U.S., Iran, Europe, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Brazil—including the top American and Iranian negotiators—for this book. Parsi uncovered the previously unknown story of American and Iranian negotiations during Obama's early years as president, the calculations behind the two nations' dealings, and the real reasons for their current stalemate.

In 2017 he published *Losing an Enemy: Obama, Iran, and the Triumph of Diplomacy* (Yale University Press). This book focuses on President Obama's strategy toward Iran's nuclear program and reveals how the historic agreement of 2015 broke the persistent stalemate in negotiations that had blocked earlier efforts.

Parsi was born in Iran but moved with his family at the age of four to Sweden in order to escape political repression in Iran. His father was an outspoken academic and non-Muslim who was jailed by the Shah and then by the Ayatollah. He moved to the United States as an adult and studied foreign policy at Johns Hopkins' School for Advanced International Studies where he received his Ph.D. He founded NIAC to provide a non-partisan, non-profit organization through which Iranian-Americans could participate in American civic life. NIAC is a vocal proponent of dialogue and engagement between the US and Iran, which Parsi consistently has argued would enhance our national security by helping to stabilize the Middle East and bolster the moderates in Iran.



Parsi has followed Middle East politics through work in the field and extensive experience on Capitol Hill and at the United Nations. He is frequently consulted by Western and Asian governments on foreign policy matters. Parsi has worked for the Swedish Permanent Mission to the UN, where he served in the Security Council, handling the affairs of Afghanistan, Iraq, Tajikistan and Western Sahara, and in the General Assembly's Third Committee, addressing human rights in Iran, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Iraq.

Parsi studied for his doctoral thesis on Israeli-Iranian relations under Professor Francis Fukuyama at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. In addition to his Ph.D, he holds a master's degree in international relations from Uppsala University and a master's degree in economics from the Stockholm School of Economics. He has served as an adjunct professor of international relations at Johns Hopkins University SAIS, an adjunct scholar at the Middle East Institute and as a Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC.

He is fluent in Persian/Farsi, English, and Swedish. Parsi's articles on Middle East affairs have been published in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Financial Times, Jane's Intelligence Review, the Nation, The American Conservative, the Jerusalem Post, The Forward, and others. He is a frequent guest on CNN, PBS Newshour, NPR, the BBC, and Al Jazeera.

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