



Brazil and Its Influence in South America

Our speaker for Wednesday, November 17, is Dr. Luis Bitencourt, professor of international security at the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies in Washington, DC.

Bitencourt will discuss his native Brazil, the world's fifth largest country by area and the sixth most populous with more than 222 million people.

Bitencourt rejoined the Perry Center in August 2020. Prior to that, he was a consultant professor for the Defense Education Cooperation Program between the center and Brazil's Escola Superior de Guerra.

He also was a visiting professor at the Brazil Navy War College and, for more than 25 years, a visiting professor at Georgetown University.

From June 2005 to November 2017, he was professor, dean of academic affairs, and deputy director at the Perry Center. Before that, he was respectively a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council and director of the Brazil Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

While working for the Brazilian government, Bitencourt performed several functions related to research and training in strategic planning, international security, public administration, and congressional intelligence oversight.

At the Catholic University of Brazil, he was a professor and dean of the Social Sciences College for more than a decade. He also worked for the United Nations as a regional coordinator in East Timor and as a member of the electoral team of experts in Tajikistan,

Bitencourt holds a doctorate degree and a master's degree in world politics from the Catholic University of America and a master's degree in political science from the University of Brazil. His bachelor's degree is in mathematics.

Besides hemispheric security, his research interests include strategic planning, defense governance, international trade, and business.

Welcome, New Members

The Foreign Policy Association is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Paul Abel, Mechanicsburg; Mary Ann Daniels, Harrisburg; Elaine Groff, Harrisburg; Raymond Kostin, Hamburg; Roger Levin, Hummelstown, and Frank Levy, Harrisburg.

November 17 Dinner Arrangements

For the safety of our members, we ask that all attendees be fully vaccinated against Covid - 19.

Place: West Shore Country Club
100 Brentwater Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Time: 5:30 p.m. Social Hour (Cash Bar)
6:30 p.m. Sit-Down Dinner
7:30 p.m. Presentation with Q&A

Menu: Fresh fruit cup, grilled salmon with citrus soy drizzle, green onion basmati rice, steamed broccoli, chef's choice seasonal desert.

Persons with special dietary needs may request a substitute meal when making reservations. If you do, pick up a coded tag at the sign-in table and put it by your dinner place.

**The cost for FPA members is \$33.
The cost for non-members is \$38.**

There is no charge for anyone to attend the program presentation only, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

You may make dinner reservations at our website, www.fpaharrisburg.org, or by contacting Ron Pontius at ronpon@comcast.net or [717-991-0899](tel:717-991-0899).

Reservations must be made by 12 noon Friday, November 12. The deadline is always Friday for Wednesday events. If you come to dinner without a reservation, the country club may charge a late fee of up to \$10 per person. In addition, your meal selection cannot be guaranteed.

When making a dinner reservation, please give your complete name and phone number. We need that information to notify you if a meeting is canceled.

Dinner no-shows will be billed unless there are sufficient walk-ins to meet the reservation number we give to the West Shore County Club.

Contributions to the FPA are tax deductible.

Your contribution to the Foreign Policy Association is tax deductible under the IRS code.



For Travel, Insurance, Financial and Auto Services

The Foreign Policy Association expresses its sincere appreciation to AAA Central Penn for its sponsorship of our 2021-2022 program year.

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Impact of the German Elections By FSA Secretary Akash Banerjee

Germany is moving forward at German speed, one step at a time, according to Dr. Gale A. Mattox, who teaches political science at the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA).

Mattox spoke on October 21 to 80 members and guests of the Foreign Policy Association at the West Shore Country Club. She discussed the recent German elections to replace Chancellor Angela Merkel, stepping down as head of state after 17 years.

Mattox predicted that a post-Merkel Germany will see small, but important changes in its role in the international arena. The changes will be driven, she said, by public opinion, coalition negotiations, and foreign affairs.

She cited public opinion data showing strong support for Vice Chancellor Olaf Sholtz as Merkel's replacement, indicating a desire for continued stability. However, she acknowledged that young Germans' call for action on such matters as climate change, migration, and the European Union cannot be ignored.

Mattox highlighted the agenda of the so-called Traffic Light Coalition, a governing alliance of three parties: the Social Democrats, the Free Democrats, and the Greens. She said the coalition's policy goals include unifying Europe through value-based policy, combating disinformation, improving the digital infrastructure, and addressing global warming.

Germany faces numerous challenges regarding international relations, Mattox said. She noted Germany's passive stance toward China, its largest trading partner. She also pointed to U.S. tension with Germany over its ties to Russia and Germany's failure to meet NATO spending goals.

Mattox concluded that in order to succeed in a post-Merkel era, Germany's new leadership must step up its role in the international arena, drive meaningful policy reform, and confront growing international tensions head-on.

Mattox is a professor and former chair of the USNA's Political Science Department. She teaches national security policy, comparative European politics, American government, and international relations.

Author of several books and articles, Mattox has appeared on the PBS News Hour and other media outlets. She earned her doctorate degree from the University of Virginia.

(In addition to being FSA secretary, Mr. Banerjee is a mathematical economics major at Temple University, from which he expects to graduate in

2021-22 Program Topics / Schedule

All local events at the West Shore Country Club
Except the International Fellows Reception at the
U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle

- Nov. 17** Brazil and Its Influence in South America
- Dec. 16** Iran - Saudi Arabia Relationship
- Jan. 13** Afghanistan after the U.S. Withdrawal
- Feb. 17** Climate Change
- March 17** International Fellows Reception
Army Heritage and Education Center,
Carlisle
Date to be determined
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- April 21** Keystone Speaker Series
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- May ??** Annual Embassy Trip to Washington, DC
Date to be determined
- May 19** Social Media: A Force in International Conflict

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