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National Security Speaker Series

DAVID EDELSTEIN



"The Politics of Uncertainty: What Theory and History Teach Us about the Rise of China"

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 3:30PM - 5:00PM
Mershon Center for International Security Studies
1501 Neil Ave. Columbus, OH 43201

[Register here for this event](#)

David M. Edelstein is associate professor in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and Department of Government at Georgetown University. In addition, he is a core faculty member in Georgetown's Security Studies Program and Center for Peace and Security Studies.

Edelstein received his master's and doctoral degrees in political science from University of Chicago and his bachelor's from Colgate University.

His research and teaching focus on international security, international relations theory, and U.S. foreign policy. Prior to arriving at Georgetown, he was a pre-doctoral fellow at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation and a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

During the 2008-09 academic year, Edelstein was a visiting scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. His first book is entitled *Occupational Hazards: Success and Failure in Military Occupation* (Cornell University Press, 2008). In addition, his research has been published in *International Security*, *Security Studies* and *Survival*. He is currently engaged in two major research projects. One is on the time horizons of political leaders in international politics, and the other examines exit strategies from military interventions.

Abstract

While scholars and policy makers alike have paid much attention to the implications of the rise of China, less attention has been paid to what past cases of rising great powers might lead us to expect in the case of China. Drawing from past cases of rising powers, including the rise of Bismarck's Germany and the United States, Edelstein presents an argument that explains both how Sino-American relations have gotten where they are today and how they are likely to evolve in the future.

In particular, the argument emphasizes the role that uncertainty about long-term Chinese intentions has played in fostering, not undermining, cooperation between the United States and China and how it is the resolution of that uncertainty, not developments in Chinese capabilities, that is likely to be crucial to the future of Sino-American relations.



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