

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

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The **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars** (or **Wilson Center**), located in Washington, D.C., is a United States Presidential Memorial that was established as part of the Smithsonian Institution by an act of Congress in 1968. It is also a highly recognised think tank, ranked among the top ten in the world.^[1]

Named in honor of President Woodrow Wilson the only President of the United States to hold a PhD,^[2] its mission is "to commemorate the ideals and concerns of Woodrow Wilson by: providing a link between the world of ideas and the world of policy; and fostering research, study, discussion, and collaboration among a full spectrum of individuals concerned with policy and scholarship in national and world affairs."^[3]

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Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

	
	
Motto	Independent Research, Open Dialogue & Actionable Ideas
Established	1968
Type	Government Organization Think Tank
Legal status	United States Presidential Memorial
Headquarters	International Trade Center
Location	1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20007
Key people	Jane Harman (Director), Thomas R. Nides (Chairman), John Kerry (Board of Directors)
Affiliations	Smithsonian Institution
Website	http://www.wilsoncenter.org

Organization

The Center was established within the Smithsonian Institution, but it has its own board of trustees, composed both of government officials and of individuals from private life appointed by the President of the United States. The Center's director and staff include scholars, publishers, librarians, administrators, and support staff, responsible to the trustees for carrying out the mission of the Center. The trustees and staff are advised by a group of private citizens called the Wilson Council. Interns, usually undergraduate or graduate students, support the activities of visiting scholars and staff while learning the business of top-level research.

Most of the Center's staff form specialized programs and projects covering broad areas of study. These programs and projects organize and host conferences and seminars, and support many kinds of research, communication, and publication on topics relevant to their areas.

The Center also publishes a digital magazine, the *Wilson Quarterly*.

In 2013 and again in 2014, the Wilson Center was ranked by the Go To Think Tank Report at the University of Pennsylvania as one of the top ten think tanks in the world. The 2014 rankings named the Wilson Center as 5th best overall in the United States, 4th in the world for international development, 8th in the world for international affairs, and 27th in defense and national security. It was also ranked the "#1 think tank to watch" in the United States and 11th best-managed think tank in the world.^[4]

Funding

The Center is a public-private partnership. Approximately one-third of the Center's operating funds come annually from an appropriation from the U.S. government, and the Center itself is housed in a wing of the Ronald Reagan Building, a federal office building where the Center enjoys a 30-year rent-free lease. The remainder of the Center's funding comes from foundations, grants and contracts, corporations, individuals, endowment income, and subscriptions. Because of its historic reliance on congressional appropriations, the Center posts on its website a Plan for Federal Funding Hiatus^[5]

Administration

The Board of Trustees, currently led by Chairman Thomas R. Nides, are appointed to six-year terms by the President of the United States. Trustees serve on various committees including executive, audit and finance, development, investment, fellowship, and investment policy.^[6]

- Director, President, and CEO of the Wilson Center: Jane Harman

Board of Directors

- Chairman: Tom Nides, Vice Chair, Morgan Stanley
- Vice Chairman: Sander R. Gerber, Chairman and CEO, Hudson Bay Capital Management LP
- Private citizen members:
 - Timothy Broas, Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP
 - John T. Casteen III, President Emeritus, University of Virginia
 - Charles Cobb Jr., CEO/Sr. Managing Director, Cobb Partners, Ltd.
 - Thelma Duggin, President, AnBryce Foundation
 - Barry S. Jackson, Managing Director, The Lindsey Group; Strategic Advisor, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
 - Nathalie Rayes, Executive Director, Fundación Azteca América
 - Jane Watson Stetson, Chair of the Partners for Community Wellness at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
- Public members:
 - William Adams, Acting Chair, National Endowment for the Humanities
 - Hon. James H. Billington, The Librarian of Congress
 - Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 - G. Wayne Clough, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution
 - Arne Duncan, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
 - David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States
 - Fred P. Hochberg, Chair & President, Export-Import Bank of the United States
 - John Kerry, Secretary, U.S. Department of State
- The Wilson National Cabinet Members:
 - Lester Crown
 - Susan Hutchison
 - Frank F Islam
 - Alexander Mirtchev
 - Eddie C. Brown
 - Charles E. Cobb



The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, where the Wilson Center is located.



Relief and inscription in the Memorial Hallway of the Woodrow Wilson Center

- Thomas R. Nides
- Wayne Rogers
- Jane Watson Stetson

Woodrow Wilson Awards

Each year, the Woodrow Wilson Center gives out several awards recognizing members of the community who have shown an outstanding commitment to President Woodrow Wilson's dream of integrating politics, scholarship, and policy for the common good. Recipients fall into two award categories, those receiving the award for Public Service, and those receiving the award for Corporate Citizenship. Awardees are selected by the Board, and distributed at dinners benefitting the Center in different locations each year.

Programs

Most of the Center's staff form specialized programs and projects covering broad areas of study.^[7] There are approximately 30 programs, some of which are described below.

Africa Program

Established in 1999, the Wilson Center's Africa Program focuses on international affairs issues as affect Africa, conducts programmatic work to train and mentor rising leaders in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and facilitates meetings between the policymaking communities of Washington, DC, and Africa.^[8] Its current director is Monde Muyangawa.^[9]

Asia Program

The Wilson Center's Asia Program analyzes the politics, policy, culture, and issues of the broader Asia-Pacific region, encompassing a region stretching from Afghanistan to Japan.^[10]

Brazil Institute

Since its founding in 2006, the Brazil Institute has focused on analyzing and convening panels to discuss the politics, economics, and global profile of Brazil.^[11]

Canada Institute

Founded in 2001, the Canada Institute analyzes Canada-U.S. relations, trade, and Canada's international role as polar ice melts.^[12]

Cold War International History Project

The Cold War International History Project (CWIHP) supports the full and prompt release of historical materials by governments on all sides of the Cold War, seeking to integrate new sources, materials and perspectives from the former "Communist bloc" with the historiography of the Cold War. In particular, it disseminates new information and perspectives from previously inaccessible sources from the former Communist world on the history of the Cold War.

In 2011, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars partnered with East China Normal University (ECNU), Shanghai, to launch the ECNU-Wilson Center Cold War Studies Initiative, it is supported by the Wilson Center's flagship Cold War International History Project (CWIHP) and ECNU's Cold War International Studies Center, the first Cold War Studies center in China.

Environmental Change and Security Program

Main article: Environmental Change and Security Program

The Environmental Change and Security Program (ECSP) was founded in 1994 to explore the connections among environmental, health, and population dynamics and their links to conflict, human insecurity, and foreign policy.

History and Public Policy Program

The History and Public Policy Program (HAPP) at the Woodrow Wilson Center focuses on the relationship between history and policy making and seeks to foster open, informed and non-partisan dialogue on historically relevant issues.

Kennan Institute

The Kennan Institute (KI), founded in 1974 as a division of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, is committed to improving American understanding of Russia and the successor states to the Soviet Union.

Kissinger Institute on China and the United States

The Kissinger Institute analyzes the political, economic, historical, and cultural relationships between the United States and China. Named after Henry A. Kissinger, who as secretary of state was instrumental in opening diplomatic relations between the U.S. and China.^[13] Its current director is Robert Daly (<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/staff/robert-daly>).^[14]

Mexico Institute

The Wilson Center's Mexico Institute conducts original research and analysis on Mexico's economy, convenes meetings, and proposes public policies.^[15] The institute focuses on five key areas: Mexico's security and rule of law, economic competitiveness (both of Mexico and the transnational economies along the border), migration, the U.S-Mexico border, and energy issues.

Middle East Program

The Middle East Program, launched in 1998, analyzes geopolitical, cultural, and social trends in the Middle East and North Africa region.^[16] From May 8 until August 21, 2007, Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, then-director of the Middle East Program, was imprisoned in Tehran, Iran, in the Evin Prison.^[17] She was released on bail and had her passport returned to her on September 2, 2007. Esfandiari was then permitted to leave Iran.^[18] As of 2015, the current director of the Middle East Program is Dr. Henri Barkey.

North Korea International Documentation Project

Main article: North Korea International Documentation Project

The North Korea International Documentation Project translates and disseminates newly declassified documents about North Korea, largely drawing from its former communist allies.^[20] The documents are then distributed on the Wilson Center's Digital Archive site (<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/search-results/1/%7B%22coverage%22:%2282%22%7D>) and curated in the project's dossier series (<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication-series/nkidp-e-dossier-series>).^[21]

Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies

Main article: Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies

The Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies was established in 2005 as a partnership between the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Pew Charitable Trusts. The Project is dedicated to helping ensure that, as nanotechnologies advance, possible risks are minimized, public and consumer engagement remain strong, and the potential benefits of these new technologies are realized.

Publications

The Woodrow Wilson Center Press publishes books by fellows, other resident scholars, and staff written in substantial part at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

See also



The History and Public Policy Program (HAPP) sponsored this 2009–2010 exhibit in the Memorial Hallway, *Polish People's Republic—So Far Away and So Close By*, which depicted key events in Polish history from 1944 to 1989.^[19]

- The *Wilson Quarterly*, the center's journal
- Murray Feshbach
- A National Strategic Narrative

References

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3. "About Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars". Wilsoncenter.org. Retrieved 2014-02-01.
4. http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1008&context=think_tanks



Another perspective on Woodrow Wilson Plaza.

5. https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/wilson_center_plan_for_possible_lapse_in_federal_appropriation_revised_august_2015.pdf
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18. "Freed Scholar Leaves Iran to Meet Family". *The New York Times*. Associated Press. September 3, 2007.
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20. <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/about-nkidp>
21. <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication-series/nkidp-e-dossier-series>

External links

- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (<http://www.wilsoncenter.org>)
- The Wilson Center Digital Archive (<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/>) of once-secret documents from governments all across the globe
- The Wilson Quarterly (<http://www.wilsonquarterly.com>), a digital magazine published by the Wilson Center

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Categories: Foreign policy and strategy think tanks in the United States | Monuments and memorials in Washington, D.C.
 | Smithsonian Institution | Think tanks established in 1968

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