US Foreign Policy and Islamic Terrorism in the Middle East

MORRIS MOTTALE, Professor of Political Science, Franklin College Switzerland

Professor Motale will describe and analyze the American response to the events surrounding the attack on the Twin Towers on 9/11 and the subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The lecture will focus on the significance of the war on terror that is shaping American foreign policy in the area and its implications for future strategic developments in the Middle East.

The War in Iraq - A Balance Sheet after Three Years

MEVIN SCHLEIN, Professor of Political Science, Franklin College Switzerland

This presentation will attempt to analyze the war in Iraq critically with respect to the objectives pursued and attained, the direct costs involved, and its collateral effects. After three years of United States' involvement it may be possible finally to see through the dense fog and passionate emotions that accompanied the decision to go to war and perceive the realities of the present situation and possible future developments. Recently the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), a government agency active in Iraq and elsewhere, published a notification of grants valued at about one billion dollars available to anyone (perhaps even to the insurgents themselves?) for proposals and projects on how to stabilize ten Iraqi cities which have been strongholds of opposition to the United States' presence in Iraq. How effectively these funds are used may tell us a lot about the prospects for the near future.

Reconfiguring the Border

SARAH STEINERT BORELLA, Professor of French Language and Literature, Franklin College Switzerland
CAROLINE WIEDMER, Professor of German Language and Literature, Franklin College Switzerland

Border crossings have always loomed large in the Swiss popular imagination. Borders keep people in, keep people out; border crossing is at once liberating and dangerous, promising and daunting. This presentation will focus on multiple ways of regarding the Swiss border. Professor Wiedmer will explore the shifting meanings of the border in the context of the memory of the Holocaust. Her presentation will pay particular attention to how visual reconstructions of the border have altered popular perceptions of Switzerland’s role in the Second World War. Professor Borella approaches the border from another perspective: her study of Swiss travel writing. Ella Maillart looks at notions of travel, crossing borders, and coming home. Her discussion will focus on the transformative nature of border crossing, thus offering a radical counter reading of this often ambiguous space.

Euroland: Global Player or Global Drag?

CHARLES GOODHEART, Professor Emeritus, London School of Economics

It is no secret that Euroland’s economic performance leaves much to be desired. At the same time, serious imbalances have built up in the global economy since the mid-1990s, for which the United States is seen as the supposed culprit. By contrast, the world’s second largest economy, Euroland, seems to become ever more reliant on exports as its major source of growth. This raises the questions of whether Euroland will ever be a growth engine of the world economy and what its part in the emergence of today’s global imbalances may have been up to now.

Corporate Religion: How Mass Media Icons Recapitulate the Medieval Catholic Symbol System

READ SCHUCHARDT, Professor of International Communication, Franklin College Switzerland

In this interdisciplinary and media ecological talk, Professor Schuchardt will discuss the ways in which the medieval great chain of being is being reconstructed in globalized consumer economies and how the spiritual values of the medieval world are exploited and inverted for the new cultural values of consumption. The presentation will feature several images to illustrate key points and will offer a brief history of the 800-year journey from the great chain of being to the great chain store of being.

Stock Photography, A Path to Creative Freedom

DAVID SACKS, International Award-winning Photographer, NYC

There are many options that one has when deciding which area of professional photography to pursue. Mr. Sacks has found that shooting stock images provides a great deal of creative freedom and fulfillment. In this lecture, he will explain the process of becoming a professional stock photographer, display his imagery, and field questions about professional photography in general.