

PAUL SIMON PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

UNDERSTANDING OUR NEW WORLD

Live Stream Discussion Series via Zoom



FIVE YEARS OF
IMPORTANT
CONVERSATIONS
SPRING 2020 – SPRING 2025

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute launched our Understanding Our New World conversation series in the spring of 2020, as Covid-19 descended, shuttering institutions and frightening people around the world.

The Institute was determined to create new programs to help our community and others better understand this complicated time.

David Kennedy, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, joined us for our first conversation on April 29, 2020. His magisterial book, *Freedom From Fear*, chronicled America's valiant struggle through the Depression and then transition to the global battle against tyranny in World War II. Professor Kennedy offered a valuable historical context to help us think about the stunning changes looming due to the pandemic.

Several weeks later, we were joined by Jan Eliasson, a remarkable Swedish diplomat and a former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. Ambassador Eliasson helped us understand the international dimensions of the crisis and made a passionate case for global cooperation.

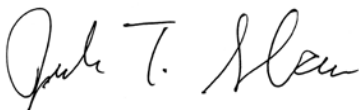
Our Understanding Our New World series has grown and blossomed from this remarkable start.

We've now had more than 100 conversations with leading diplomats, scholars, journalists, politicians, university and foundation presidents, think tank scholars, and military leaders. Nearly 12,000 people have registered for our events from 45 states and territories and 42 countries. The conversations, most of which extend for an hour, have been viewed more than 117,000 times on YouTube.

We are proud of the quality, depth, and variety of these conversations. We will continue to reach out to compelling leaders, invite their stories, and seek their wisdom.

Thank you for joining us and supporting the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. We are grateful!

With many thanks,



JOHN T. SHAW



OUR GUESTS



Sharon Davies
President and CEO of the Charles F. Kettering Foundation



Melissa Connelly
CEO of OneGoal



Stephen Heintz
President and CEO of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund



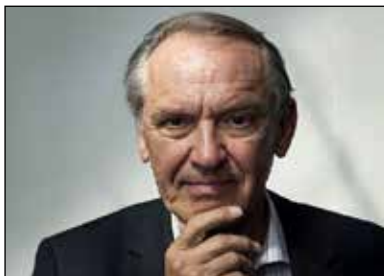
Rachel Kousser
Professor at the City University of New York and author



Carla Martinez-Machain
Professor at the University of Buffalo, SUNY



Lindsey Cormack
Professor at Stevens Institute of Technology and author



Jan Eliasson
Former Swedish Foreign Minister, Former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations



Kai Bird
Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and historian



William Hoagland
Senior Vice President at the Bipartisan Policy Center



Norm Ornstein
Senior Fellow Emeritus at the American Enterprise Institute

“Kudos to John Shaw for hosting his guest Kai Bird, reflecting on the monumental towering life of President Jimmy Carter. This was one of the best events I’ve attended. It conveyed important information about President Carter that is not widely known. I hope this truth is widely shared so he can receive the recognition he deserves.”

- Praise for our conversation with Kai Bird

Our guests are listed in the order of their participation in our series, beginning with the most recent. Each person’s affiliation is based on his or her position at the time of the interview.



Dame Louise Richardson
President of the Carnegie Corporation of
New York



Fanta Aw
Executive Director and CEO of NAFSA:
Association of International Educators



John Palfrey
President of the MacArthur Foundation



Evelyn Farkas
Executive Director of the McCain Institute



Brian Rosenberg
Former President of Macalester College



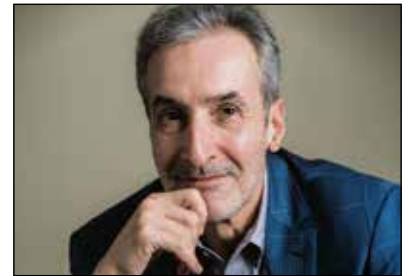
John Hamre
President and CEO of the Center for
Strategic and International Studies



Eliot Cohen
Center for Strategic and International
Studies



Drew Gilpin Faust
Former President of Harvard University



Samuel Freedman
Professor at Columbia Journalism School



Watch all of our
**UNDERSTANDING OUR NEW
WORLD**

conversations on our YouTube channel.

YOUTUBE.COM/PAULSIMONINSTITUTE
or scan the QR Code





Michelle Morales
President of Woods Fund Chicago



Julieanna Richardson
Founder and President of
The HistoryMakers

“The conversation was well worth my time which included encouraging me to purchase Mr. Shapiro’s book. I have enjoyed the three programs I have attended to date. They are informative, and I enjoy the diversity of the topics.”

- Praise for our conversation with
Ira Shapiro



Liz Dozier
Founder and CEO of Chicago Beyond



Ellen Alberding
President and CEO of the Joyce Foundation

“Excellent conversation. As Ms. Richardson noted, you prepared well for the interview, a gift to the interviewee as well as those listening.”

- Praise for our conversation with
Julieanna Richardson



Miles Rapoport
Executive Director of 100% Democracy



Liz Alderman
Chief European Business Correspondent,
The New York Times

“Outstanding and timely presentation. Thank you for the high quality of this presentation.”

- Praise for our conversation with
Rachel Kleinfeld



Daniel Kurtz-Phelan
Editor, *Foreign Affairs*



Ira Shapiro
Former U.S. Trade Ambassador

“How do you keep coming up with these outstanding people to interview? Your preparation and questions are so good.”

- Praise for our conversation with
John Hamre



Tanisha Fazal
Professor at the University of Minnesota



Peter Goodman
Global Economic Correspondent,
The New York Times



Melinda Henneberger
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Columnist



Danielle Allen
Professor at Harvard University



Adam Schiff
U.S. Congressman (D-California),
Chair of the House Intelligence Committee



Julian Zelizer
Professor at Princeton University



Ben Smith
Co-founder of Semafor



John Walcott
Professor at Georgetown University

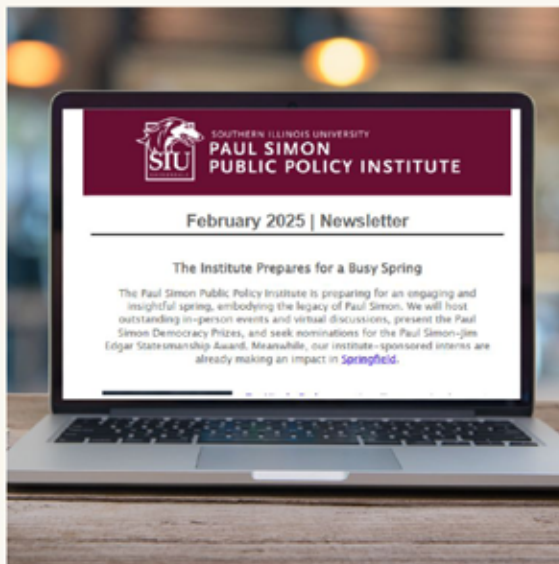


Philip Taubman
Lecturer at Stanford University



Shannon McGregor
Professor at University of North Carolina

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Susan Hayward
Professor at Harvard Divinity School



Rachel Kleinfeld
Senior Fellow at the Carnegie
Endowment for International Peace



Rebecca Donner
National Book Critics Award-Winner



Gareth Evans
Former Foreign Minister of Australia



David Greising
President and CEO of Better Government
Association



Dale Fowler
Illinois State Senator (R-59th District)

“Superb,
knowledgeable
interviewing by Shaw.
Clear, succinct,
lively answers by
Hayward. Many of her
comments are worthy
of study and practice
within all disciplines.
Excellent in all
aspects.”

*- Praise for our conversation with
Susan Hayward*



Jason Barickman
Former Illinois State Senator (R-53rd
District)



April Lawson
Director of Debates for Braver Angels



Tom Zoellner
Editor, *Los Angeles Review of Books*

“Excellent interview
covering a wide
variety of professional
experiences,
highlighting the sea
of change in local
journalism and its
impact upon local
communities. Great
reporting.”

*- Praise for our conversation with
Tom Zoellner*



Janel L. Forde
Director of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services



Karin Olofsdotter
Swedish Ambassador to the United States



Stavros Lambrinidis
European Union Ambassador to the United States

“An absolute joy to hear a success story from a bright journalist who is a role model for southern Illinois youth.”

- Praise for our conversation with Melinda Henneberger



Elizabeth Shackelford
Fellow on U.S. Foreign Policy at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs



Andrew Bacevich
President of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft

“This was a superb program! If I could change the necessary reality, I would require all undergraduate and graduate students to carefully listen to the program.”

- Praise for our conversation with Amy McGrath



Amy McGrath
American SOS Project



Candice Millard
Bestselling Biographer



Audra Wilson
President and CEO of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law

“Bacevich was very smart, articulate, and thought provoking. It was a good interview as always. Shaw does a splendid job.”

- Praise for our conversation with Andrew Bacevich

Our guests are listed in the order of their participation in our series, beginning with the most recent.



Ruth Simmons
President of Prairie View A&M University



Alice Hill
Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations



Anne-Marie Slaughter
CEO of New America



Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senator (D-Illinois)



Monique Jones
President of Forefront

“Leadership, empathy and humankind all rolled into one. A true world leader. Thank you for bringing this wonderful interview, I am a better person for attending.”

- Praise for our conversation with Mary Robinson

“One of the best since the series was started. Broad based discussion provided insight about relationships within the diplomatic world as well as a fascinating story of the career path of a high level diplomatic. Great description of ongoing relationships between countries and people who work on behalf of countries. Great descriptions of tourism and business activities along with the political interactions.”

- Praise for our conversation with Karin Olofsdotter



Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz
Illinois State Representative (D-17th District)



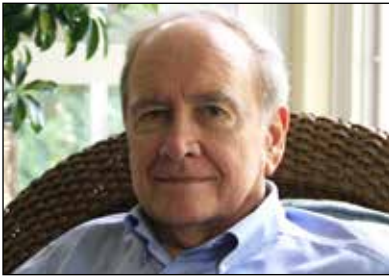
Tim Knight
President and CEO of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation



Nicole Perlroth
Cybersecurity Reporter, *The New York Times*



Susana Mendoza
Illinois State Comptroller



John Gaddis
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Biographer



Angela Jackson
Illinois Poet Laureate



Jim Bullard
President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

“I gather the Paul Simon Institute exists to promote honest, civil, and constructive engagement on public issues. This event did this in a humane and intelligent way. I appreciate the way Shaw’s extraordinarily well-framed questions help the speaker put forth their ideas and perspectives in the best way. And in these rancorous times, the fair-minded and even warm tones in these exchanges is balm to the citizen-soul. They remind us that public life can be more this way, and how society profits when it is.”

- Praise for our conversation with Julian Zelizer



Elizabeth Hinton
Professor at Yale University



Barbara Bodine
Director of the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University



Don Harmon
President of the Illinois Senate (D-39th District)



Alexis Coe
Presidential Historian



Sharon Bush
Executive Director of Grand Victoria Foundation



Fredrik Logevall
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Historian



Theresa Mah
Illinois State Representative (D-2nd District)



Ertharin Cousin
Former Executive Director of the World Food Programme



Hanh Le
Executive Director of the Weissberg
Foundation



John Danforth
Former U.S. Senator (R-Missouri)



Edward Larson
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Historian



John Allen
President of the Brookings Institution



Timothy Lynch
Professor at the University of Melbourne,
Australia

“The Institute has had some great webinars. However, the webinar with Yale University’s Elizabeth Hinton was one of the best!”

- Praise for our conversation with Elizabeth Hinton



Jorge Castañeda
Former Foreign Minister of Mexico



Eliot Cohen
Johns Hopkins University School of
Advanced International Studies

“Excellent. If only political campaigns were composed of interviews like this instead of sound-bites! Very interesting discussion. I really appreciate the friendly and respectful approach of the interviewer.”

- Praise for our conversation with Tammy Duckworth



Margaret MacMillan
Duff Cooper Award-Winning Historian



Kimberly Lightford
Illinois Senate Majority Leader
(D-4th District)



Pete Buttigieg
Former U.S. Presidential Candidate;
Former Mayor of South Bend, Indiana



Richard Haass
President of the Council on Foreign
Relations



Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator (D-Ohio)



Michelle Howard
Retired U.S. Navy Four-Star Admiral



Mary Robinson
Former President of Ireland



Donald McHenry
Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations



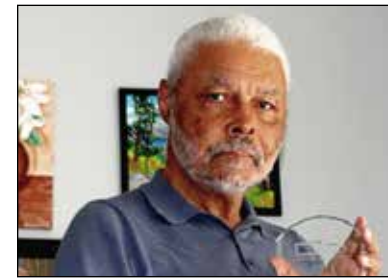
Carmen Rojas
President of the Marguerite Casey Foundation



Jim Durkin
Illinois House Republican Leader
(R-82nd District)



Juliana Stratton
Illinois Lieutenant Governor



Charles Ray
Former U.S. Ambassador



Angelique Power
President of the Field Foundation



Leon Panetta
Former U.S. Secretary of Defense,
Former CIA Director



William Burns
President of the Carnegie Endowment for
International Peace



Emanuel "Chris" Welch
Illinois State Representative
(D-7th District)



Darin LaHood
U.S. Congressman (R-Illinois)



Rahm Emanuel
Former Mayor of Chicago



Carl Hulse
Chief Washington Correspondent,
The New York Times



Teresa Amott
President of Knox College



Jan Eliasson
Former Swedish Foreign Minister, Former
Deputy Secretary-General of the United
Nations



David Kennedy
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Historian

Jan Eliasson and Eliot Cohen were interviewed twice for this series so their photos appear two times in this report.

OUR VIRTUAL EVENT REACH

Since our first conversation on April 29, 2020 ...

UNDERSTANDING OUR NEW WORLD

BY THE NUMBERS



102

Distinguished
guests and
counting...



117,000+

Total views for our
videos
on Youtube

1,361,671

Youtube Impressions



45

Different states and
territories from where
our videos have been
viewed from



17,000+

Hours that our
videos have been
viewed



42

Different countries
from where our
videos have been
viewed from

11,700+

Zoom registrations

222

Unique videos on
our channel

950+

Subscribers to our
Youtube channel



MEET YOUR HOST



John Shaw

Director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute

Prior to coming to the Institute in 2018, John Shaw was a journalist for more than twenty-five years in Washington, D.C. As a congressional reporter and a feature writer for a diplomatic magazine, Shaw interviewed dozens of lawmakers, diplomats, think tank leaders, historians, and policy analysts. He believes that the key to a successful interview is to thoroughly study the writings and previous interviews of the subject, carefully prepare the substance and sequence of questions, listen respectfully, and speak sparingly.

Comments from our participants

- *Sherrod Brown, U.S. Senator from Ohio*

“Thank you, John. You are a really good interviewer. It went by so fast.”

- *Liz Dozier, Founder and CEO of Chicago Beyond*

“Your care and research made the conversation incredible.”

- *Julian Zelizer, Professor at Princeton University*

“It was a terrific conversation.”

- Gareth Evans, Former Foreign Minister of Australia

“Thanks John. You sure did your homework and it was a pleasure to talk to you. We certainly covered a lot of ground.”

- Elizabeth Hinton, Professor at Yale University

“I can’t thank you enough for the discussion. It’s probably one of, if not, the very best conversation I’ve ever had about my work. I really appreciate your questions and deep engagement in my research.”

- Eliot Cohen, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies

“The questions were wonderful and I think you knew more about my writing than I do. A real pleasure.”

- Tom Zoellner, Author, Editor of the Los Angeles Review of Books

“It was a real pleasure to do this and you were one of the best-prepared interviewers I’ve ever spoken to.”

- Philip Taubman, Author, Lecturer at Stanford University

“I’ve done a lot of podcasts, webinars, and other appearances in recent months. Your questions were the best and your congenial style provided the impetus for a lively and informative conversation.”

- Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations

“John, thank you for being such a gracious and generous host. Hope people enjoyed our convo as much as I did.”

- Nicole Perlroth, Author, Cybersecurity Reporter of The New York Times

“Thank you so much John. I loved every minute of it and really appreciated the quotes you pulled together. Some of my favorite, written in those still nights.”

- John Gaddis, Pulitzer Prize-winning Biographer, Professor at Yale University

“Thank you, John, especially for your own careful preparation, which certainly doesn’t always happen in these zoomed conversations.”

- Elizabeth Shackelford, Chicago Council on Global Affairs

I really enjoyed it. You’re a great interviewer/moderator and kudos to your staff for running tweets throughout the event. Great captures.”