

# World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh

## *Public Policy Discussion and Luncheon*

### **Blindsided? Washington's Response to the Arab Spring**

**Ambassador Cynthia P. Schneider, Ph.D.**

Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy  
Georgetown University

**Friday, February 10 | 12:00-1:45 pm**

**Rivers Club | 300 Grant Street | Pittsburgh**

**Register Now!**

**Visit [www.worldpittsburgh.org](http://www.worldpittsburgh.org) or call 412-281-7970**

**Member: \$45 | Non-Member: \$60 | Table of eight (8) \$360**

**Please advise in advance of any dietary restrictions.**

**No-shows and cancellations after February 8, 2011 will be charged.**



The United States has struggled to promote democracy and stability and also manage its interests in the Middle East for decades. However, such interests sometimes compete, making it difficult to assess the real strength of the United States' negotiating skills. In the case of the Arab Spring, many analysts say that the United States was surprised by Arab citizens' calls for freedom and democracy. Can the United States better predict when such uprisings will occur? If so, how should the United States apply its soft and hard power to leverage such crises? Join Ambassador Cynthia P. Schneider for a discussion of Washington's initial reactions and future responses to the changing Middle East.

***Ambassador Cynthia P. Schneider** teaches, publishes, and organizes initiatives in the field of cultural diplomacy, with a focus on relations with the Muslim world. She co-directs Los Angeles-based MOST Resource (Muslims on Screen and Television), which provides valuable resources and accurate information on Islam and Muslims for the U.S. entertainment community and brings together policy leaders with their counterparts in media and entertainment. For the Brookings Institution, she leads the Arts and Culture Dialogue Initiative within the Saban Center for Middle East Policy. Amb. Schneider teaches courses in*

*Diplomacy and Culture in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where she was a member of the faculty from 1984-2005.*

*Amb. Schneider publishes and speaks frequently on topics related to arts, culture, and media and international affairs, particularly the Muslim world. Her writings range from blogs for the Huffington Post and CNN.com to policy papers for the Brookings Institution. Her talks include a TED presentation on the global impact of "American Idol," as well as speeches on the role of arts and culture in the U.S.–Islamic world relationship in venues from Kurdistan to Cairo. From 1998-2001, she served as U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, during which time she led initiatives in cultural diplomacy, biotechnology, cyber security, and education. In 2001, she was awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Public Service Award (highest civilian award given by Pentagon, in recognition of support for the U.S. military during ambassadorship). Amb. Schneider received her B.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University.*