

Title: China and Taiwan: Cross-Strait Dangers and Opportunities

Speakers: Shelly Rigger, Ph.D. & Richard Bush, Ph.D.

Date: 23 May 2022

Time: 1200-1315

Where: Conolly Conference Room, C-138

POC: Matthew Towner, Ph.D.

Synopsis

This LOO will be a moderated discussion with two of the foremost cross-Strait experts in the United States, Dr. Shelley Rigger and Dr Richard Bush. These experts will share their views and debate critical issues surrounding the relationship between China and Taiwan, the likelihood and nature of future conflict, and the prospective role of the US and its allies in both avoiding and, if called on, responding to conflict. After the moderated discussion attendees will be welcome to pose their own questions to the distinguished panel.

Bios

Shelley Rigger is the Brown Professor of East Asian Politics at Davidson College. She has a PhD in Government from Harvard University and a BA in Public and International Affairs from Princeton University. She has been a Fulbright scholar at National Taiwan University (2019), a visiting researcher at National Chengchi University in Taiwan (2005) and a visiting professor at Fudan University (2006) and Shanghai Jiaotong University (2013 & 2015). She is a non-resident fellow of the China Policy Institute at Nottingham University and a senior fellow of the Foreign Policy Research Institute (FPRI). She is also a director of The Taiwan Fund, a closed-end investment fund specializing in Taiwan-listed companies. Rigger is the author of two books on Taiwan's domestic politics, *Politics in Taiwan: Voting for Democracy* (Routledge 1999) and *From Opposition to Power: Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party* (Lynne Rienner Publishers 2001). She has published two books for general readers, *Why Taiwan Matters: Small Island, Global Powerhouse* (2011) and *The Tiger Leading the Dragon: How Taiwan Propelled China's Economic Rise* (2021). She has published articles on Taiwan's domestic politics, the national identity issue in Taiwan-China relations and related topics. In 2019-20 she was a Fulbright Senior Scholar based in Taipei, where she worked on a study of Taiwan's contributions to the PRC's economic take-off and a study of Taiwanese youth.

Richard Bush is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. He specializes on the East Asia region, particularly China and Taiwan. Dr. Bush served for nineteen years in the U.S. government, first on the staff of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives (1983-1995); as National Intelligence Officer for East Asia and member of the National Intelligence Council (1995-97); and then as Chairman and Managing Director of the American Institute in Taiwan, the instrumentality through which the U.S. government conducts substantive relations with Taiwan in the absence of diplomatic relations (1997-2002).

Dr. Bush joined The Brookings Institution in 2002 as a Senior Fellow and Director of the Center for Northeast Asia Policy Studies. He has held the Michael H. Armacost Chair and the Chen-fu and Cecilia Yen Koo Chair in Taiwan Studies. While at Brookings he published *At Cross Purposes: U.S.-Taiwan Relations, 1942-2000*; *Untying the Knot: Making Peace in the Taiwan Strait*; *A War Like No Other: The Truth About China's Challenge to America* (co-authored with Michael O'Hanlon); *The Perils of Proximity: China-Japan Security Relations*; *Uncharted Strait: The Future of China-Taiwan Relations*; and *Hong Kong in the Shadow of China: Living with the Leviathan*. In early 2021, the Brookings Institution Press published his *Difficult Dilemmas: Taiwan's Quest for Security and the Good Life*.

Richard Bush received his undergraduate education at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. He did his graduate work in political science at Columbia University, getting an M.A. in 1973 and his Ph.D. in 1978. He retired from Brookings in March 2020.