THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF OIL

Wesleyan University invites you to the 10th Shasha Seminar for Human Concerns, an educational forum for Wesleyan alumni, parents, and friends that provides an opportunity to explore issues of global concern in a small seminar environment. This year we address THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF OIL with experts in the field.

DAY I THURSDAY, APRIL 19

4:30 PM STUDENT DEBATE—Keystone Pipeline: Should It Be Built?
An Oxford-style debate between teams of students: one from Professor Oksan Bayulgen’s Politics of Oil class at the University of Connecticut, and one from Professor Peter Rutland’s Political Economy of Oil class at Wesleyan.

5:30 PM RECEPTION AND DINNER

8 PM KEYNOTE ADDRESS—Daniel Esty, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Protecting Our Environment in Turbulent Times
Commissioner Esty will talk about the need to continue moving forward with an energy and environmental agenda for the 21st century, despite a backlash that has developed on these issues. While some question the need to move toward a cleaner and cheaper energy future and the value of environmental regulation, Connecticut is determined to serve as a national model on how an integrated approach to energy and the environment can best protect the public health and our natural resources—and also contribute to economic growth and job creation. Esty leads an agency in Connecticut’s state government charged with playing a leadership role in this effort, and with a mission of bringing down the cost of energy, shaping an alternative energy future, and unleashing a renewed spirit of innovation for pollution control and environmental regulation.

DAY II FRIDAY, APRIL 20

8 AM BREAKFAST

9 AM SESSION I—Peak Oil and Beyond
Will new discoveries in the Arctic and elsewhere, or new technologies such as fracking, enable the world’s dependency on petrocarbons to continue for several more decades? Are we on the verge of transition to a post-oil world? An understanding of the geology and extraction technologies is central to debating the energy choices that we face.

PRESENTERS: Dean Malouta P ’12, retired Geologist, Shell Oil Company
David Work ’68, P ’93, retired Regional President, BP Amoco Corporation
MODERATOR: Phillip Resor, Assistant Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Wesleyan University

10 A.M. BREAK

10:15 A.M. SESSION II—The Oil Business: Profit and Social Responsibility
How is peak oil affecting the economics of the oil business? Is government doing too much—or too little—to ensure that the energy business respects the rights of other social stakeholders? Some see corporate social responsibility as a public relations fig leaf, while others talk of a sea-change in business thinking about long-term sustainability.

PRESENTERS: Ladeene Freimuth ’89, President, Freimuth Group
Jan Ishii, Assistant Professor of Economics, Amherst College
Paul McDermott ’76, P ’12, Managing Partner, Cadent Energy Partners, LLC
MODERATOR: Christina Hogendorn, Associate Professor of Economics, Wesleyan University

NOON LUNCHEON LECTURE—Steve LeVine, author, The Oil and the Glory
LeVine’s book, The Oil and the Glory, is a gripping account of the latest phase in the epochal struggle for control of the earth’s “black gold.” LeVine, who was based near the Caspian region for The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and Newsweek, weaves an astonishing tale of high-stakes political gamesmanship, greed, and scandal, set in one of the most opaque corners of the world.

2:15 PM SESSION III—War, Instability, and the Search for Energy Security
Oil was a trigger for civil strife and international conflict for much of the 20th century. With the rise of India and China, the list of powers committed to securing access to oil supplies continues to grow. What can we do to forestall future resource wars? And what can be done about the dismal fate of democracy in petrostates?

PRESENTERS: Oksan Bayulgen, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Connecticut
Anne Peters, Assistant Professor of Government, Wesleyan University
MODERATOR: Katherine Hardin ’90, Senior director of Russian and Caspian energy research, Cambridge Energy Research Associates

3:15 PM BREAK

3:30 PM SESSION IV—Environmental Sustainability and the Future of Petrocarbons
What are the lessons of the Gulf oil spill? What has been the impact of oil development on local ecosystems around the world? How is business responding to the challenge of climate change? What can and should the government be doing to address these problems?

PRESENTERS: Amjad Ali Awan, Hubert Humphrey Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Barry Chernoff, Robert K. Schumann Chair of Environmental Studies, Wesleyan University
Matthew Roe ’05, Planning and Research Manager, City of New York
MODERATOR: Mary Alice Haddad, Associate Professor, Government, Wesleyan University

5 PM RECEPTION AND DINNER
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DANIEL ESTY is the commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Prior to becoming commissioner, Esty was the Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy at Yale University. He held faculty appointments in both Yale’s environment and law schools. He also served as the director of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Center for Business and Environment at Yale.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF OIL

LUNCHEON SPEAKER

STEVE LEVINE is a contributing editor at Foreign Policy magazine in Washington, D.C., and an adjunct professor of energy and security at the School of Securities Studies at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. He is the author of The Oil and the Glory.

FACILITATOR

PETER RUTLAND is Colin and Nancy Campbell Professor in Global Issues and Democratic Thought at Wesleyan, where he has taught since 1989. His research interests focus on all things Russian and places “where the Russian boot has trod” (Nicholas II) in the former Soviet Union and the former East Europe. He has written two books, The Politics of Economic Stagnation in the Soviet Union and The Myth of the Plan: Lessons of Soviet Planning Experience; and has edited a third, Business and the State in Contemporary Russia. Recent articles cover topics such as the rise of President Putin, the Russian oil and gas industry, the reform of the Russian electricity monopoly, and Russia as an Asian power.

PANELISTS

AMJAD ALI AWAN is Hubert Humphrey Fellow at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Harvard Kennedy School. He has worked previously in key advisory and civil service positions with the Government of Pakistan for the last 15 years and has acquired vast experience in policy dynamics management and regulatory as well as engineering matters relating to electric power, energy, infrastructure, and urban planning sectors. He is among the pioneer executives who implemented the Government of Pakistan’s first private power policy in 1994.

OKSAN BAYULGEN is an associate professor of political science at the University of Connecticut. She has published numerous articles on foreign investment, oil politics, democratization, and microfinance. Bayulgen is the author of Foreign Investment and Political Regimes: The Oil Sector in Azerbaijan, Russia and Norway. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in Azerbaijan, Russia, Norway, Kazakhstan, and Turkey.

BARRY CHERNOFF joined the Wesleyan faculty in 2003 where he holds the Robert K. Schumann Chair of Environmental Studies. He currently chairs the Environmental Studies Major and is director of the College of the Environment. He teaches courses in environmental studies, tropical ecology, aquatic ecosystem conservation, and quantitative analysis. Chernoff’s research includes, ecology, evolutionary biology and conservation, and centers on the freshwater fishes of the Neotropical region, primarily those in South America in the Amazon. He has also led international teams on expeditions designed to conserve large watersheds of the world, having made more than 32 expeditions in 12 countries. Recently, he and his students have been working on aquatic ecology and conservation of Connecticut watersheds.

LADEENE FREIMUTH ’89 is the founder and president of a domestic and international energy and environmental consulting firm, The Freimuth Group, LLC. She specializes in policy and strategic advising, lobbying, research and analysis, and project design, implementation, and management. Her areas of expertise include global climate change, energy efficiency, renewable energy, trans-boundary water management, advanced vehicle technologies, and sustainable development. She has a track record of successfully bringing together various stakeholders on a range of issues with the aim of facilitating solutions, and of drafting and helping to pass legislation that ultimately has been enacted into law.

JUN ISHIII is an assistant professor of economics at Amherst College. His main area of research involves the study of energy industries and markets, especially the modeling of strategic energy investments. He has worked for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, analyzing the impact of oil and gas production on regional economies, as well as for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and California Independent System Operator (CAISO), analyzing the design and operation of the newly “deregulated” California wholesale electricity market. Before arriving at Amherst College in 2007, he taught at the University of California, Irvine, and was an affiliate of the University of California Energy Institute.

DEAN MALOUTA P’12 is an independent consultant in Houston, Texas, and is an independent consultant in conventional and unconventional oil and gas exploration, as well as alternative and renewable energy. He received his undergraduate degree with top honors, in geology/earth and environmental sciences at Queens College, CUNY and did his graduate work at the University of Southern California. Malouta worked for Shell Oil Company, Exploration and Production from 1977 until 2010. Most recently, he was head of technology for Shell E&P Western Hemisphere, leading a staff of more than 450 scientists and engineers.

PAUL MCDERMOTT ’76, P’12 is a managing partner at Cadent Energy Partners, LLC. He is responsible for strategic analyses, managing deal origination and investor relations as well as overall Cadent management. He has been involved in the energy business since 1979, primarily as an investor of private equity capital on behalf of institutional investors. His experience extends through many sectors of the energy industry including oil and gas exploration and production, oilfield services, natural gas transmission, petroleum products distribution, and electric power generation and related service companies. He is currently a director of Argos Utilities Corporation, Logan International, Inc., Nytis Exploration Company, NuCore Energy, LLC, and SustainX Inc.

ANNE MARIEL PETERS is an assistant professor of government at Wesleyan, where she teaches courses in comparative politics, the politics of the Middle East, and political Islam. Peters conducts research on the political economy of foreign aid to U.S. geopolitical allies, the domestic origins of U.S. hierarchy in the Middle East, and the durability of Middle Eastern authoritarianism. Her book manuscript, entitled Aid for Allies: State Building and Hierarchy in the Middle East, examines the four major recipients of Middle East “peace aid”: Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority.
PHILLIP RESOR is an assistant professor of earth and environmental sciences at Wesleyan. Prior to completing his PhD at Stanford University, he worked for several years as an exploration geologist in the oil and gas industry. A specialist in structural geology, his research focuses on a range of topics related to the geometry and mechanics of fault zones. This work has applications to oil exploration and production as well as to earthquake and planetary science. His findings have been published in international journals including Geology and Earth and Planetary Science Letters.

KATHERINE HARDIN ’90 is senior director of Russian and Caspian energy research at Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA). She has worked extensively in Russia and the Former Soviet Union (FSU) since 1990, and focuses on energy sector development in Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. Her expertise includes the oil and gas industry in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region, and she has authored CERA reports on oil and gas production and export routes from the Caspian region, regional gas pricing across the CIS, and the current wave of Asian investment in Central Asia, among other topics.

MARY ALICE HADDAD is an associate professor of government at Wesleyan. Her publications include Politics and Volunteering in Japan and Building Democracy in Japan, and articles in journals such as Comparative Political Studies, Democracy Journal, Asian Studies, and Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly. She has received numerous grants and fellowships from organizations such as the Institute of International Education (Fulbright), Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, Japan Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, Mellon Foundation, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, and East Asian Institute. She is currently working on a project about environmental politics in East Asia.

MATTHEWroe ’05 is planning and research manager at the New York City Department of Transportation. He oversees citywide safety planning and NYCDOT’s safety research program, and he has served as project manager and co-author of the 2010 New York City Pedestrian Safety Study and Action Plan and other safety studies. After attending Wesleyan, he received a master’s degree in urban planning from Columbia University, concentrating in transportation and geographic information systems.

DAVID WORK ’68, P’93 (former board trustee) retired from BP Amoco Corporation in 2000 where he was regional president. In this position, he was the senior BP Amoco representative in the Gulf Coast, Southwest, and Rocky Mountain states. He was previously a group vice president in BP Amoco’s Exploration and Production stream and a member of its Executive Committee. Prior to the merger between BP and Amoco, he had been Amoco Corporation’s senior vice president of shared services and a member of the company’s Strategic Planning Committee. Work is currently a board member of Cody Resources, CGGVeritas Inc., and WPXEnergy.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF OIL

GENERAL INFORMATION: The Shasha Seminar on The Political Economy of Oil opens on Thursday, April 19 with a reception and dinner for all registrants, presenters and special guests, followed by the keynote address delivered by Daniel Esty, the commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The program runs April 19 to 20 and takes place on campus. Space is limited and registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Upon receipt of your registration, we will send you a confirmation letter, directions to campus, the schedule, and other pertinent information.

FEES: The registration fee for the Shasha Seminar is $200 per person. This fee includes all sessions, receptions, meals, and conference materials. The fee does not include overnight accommodations. Limited partial scholarships are available for the Shasha Seminar. Requests for scholarship assistance must be received by March 19. Applicants will be notified whether scholarship assistance has been granted no later than April 9. Please contact Kathy Macko at kmacko@wesleyan.edu or (860) 685-2737 for information on scholarship assistance.

MEALS: All receptions and meals will be served on Wesleyan’s campus and are included in your registration fee. Vegetarian options are available at all meals. If you have dietary restrictions, please note them on your registration form.

ACCOMMODATIONS: While accommodations are not included in your registration fee, Wesleyan has blocked rooms at the Inn at Middletown, 70 Main Street, Middletown, CT at $130 per night for those attending the Shasha Seminar. Please call the Inn at Middletown at (860) 854-6300 no later than March 22 to make your reservation for Thursday and Friday, April 19 and 20. Be sure to mention you are attending Wesleyan’s Shasha Seminar to receive the special block rate.

TRANSPORTATION: Free shuttle service will be available from the Inn at Middletown to campus locations and back.

QUESTIONS/INFORMATION: If you have specific questions, please contact Kathy Macko at kmacko@wesleyan.edu or (860) 685-2737.

MODERATORS

CHRISTIANA HOGENDORN is an associate professor of economics at Wesleyan and co-editor of Information Economics and Policy. His research focuses on market structure and competition in deregulated infrastructure industries. He is currently working on projects studying network neutrality, ownership structure in two-sided markets, and the prospects for wired versus wireless competition in broadband.

PHILLIP RESOR is an assistant professor of earth and environmental sciences at Wesleyan. Prior to completing his PhD at Stanford University, he worked for several years as an exploration geologist in the oil and gas industry. A specialist in structural geology, his research focuses on a range of topics related to the geometry and mechanics of fault zones. This work has applications to oil exploration and production as well as to earthquake and planetary science. His findings have been published in international journals including Geology and Earth and Planetary Science Letters.

MATTHEWroe ’05 is planning and research manager at the New York City Department of Transportation. He oversees citywide safety planning and NYCDOT’s safety research program, and he has served as project manager and co-author of the 2010 New York City Pedestrian Safety Study and Action Plan and other safety studies. After attending Wesleyan, he received a master’s degree in urban planning from Columbia University, concentrating in transportation and geographic information systems.

DAVID WORK ’68, P’93 (former board trustee) retired from BP Amoco Corporation in 2000 where he was regional president. In this position, he was the senior BP Amoco representative in the Gulf Coast, Southwest, and Rocky Mountain states. He was previously a group vice president in BP Amoco’s Exploration and Production stream and a member of its Executive Committee. Prior to the merger between BP and Amoco, he had been Amoco Corporation’s senior vice president of shared services and a member of the company’s Strategic Planning Committee. Work is currently a board member of Cody Resources, CGGVeritas Inc., and WPXEnergy.