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Perception and Misperception in U.S.-China Relations

Guest Lecture by

Dr. Andrew Scobell

The United States Institute of Peace

3:30 - 5 p.m. EDT, Wednesday, October 11, 2023

1750 Sangren Hall



Dr. Andrew Scobell is Distinguished Fellow for China at the United States Institute of Peace and an adjunct professor in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Born and raised in Hong Kong, Dr. Scobell earned a doctorate in political science from Columbia University. His previous positions include Senior Political Scientist at the RAND Corporation; Donald Bren Chair in Non-western Strategic Thought in the Krulak Center for Innovation and Future Warfare at Marine Corps University; Associate Professor of International Affairs at the George

H. W. Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. Dr. Scobell's publications include *Crossing the Strait: China's Military Prepares for War with Taiwan* (National Defense University Press, 2022); *PLA Influence on China's National Security Policymaking* (Stanford University Press, 2015); *China's Search for Security* (Columbia University Press, 2012); and *China's Use of Force: Beyond the Great Wall and the Long March* (Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Abstract: In 2023, relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China are characterized by a climate of high drama and confrontation. Tensions have escalated across a range of military, economic, and technology issues to the point that each side portrays the other in stark adversarial terms. Indeed, the temperature of U.S.-China relations has plunged to its lowest point in decades and seems unlikely to improve any time soon. What explains the current dire condition of full-blown great-power rivalry? While this rivalry has been building for decades with many tensions submerged and simmering, it burst to the surface in recent years seemingly coming out of nowhere. Attention to cognitive factors and images helps account for the turbulent trajectory of U.S.-China relations.