

*“The United States and Northeast Asia”*  
*Dr. Thomas Fingar*

In a keynote address setting the stage for the following panels on U.S.-South Korean relations and North Korea, Dr. Thomas Fingar, the Payne Distinguished Lecturer at Stanford University’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, will discuss the report *Global Trends 2025* and the implications of its conclusions for Northeast Asia and the United States’ role in the region.

As then-Chairman of the U.S. National Intelligence Council, Dr. Fingar was responsible for the production of *Global Trends 2025*, the latest in a widely noted series. CNN wrote that the report “was drafted by the National Intelligence Council to better inform U.S. policymakers—starting with the incoming administration of President-elect Barack Obama—about the factors most likely to shape major international trends and conflicts through the year 2025.”

Dr. Fingar will discuss the goals of the report, the process of preparing it, and its significance, as well as its main conclusions. The report identifies a number of trends likely to shape international developments during the next fifteen years. It anticipates that globalization will continue to generate unprecedented levels of prosperity while widening the gap between rich and poor; that U.S. preeminence will continue to decline because of the rise of China, India, and many other nations; and that demographic change (aging populations in Europe and Northeast Asia, and youth bulges in many of the world’s poorest countries) will constrain and drive national policy options. These and other trends examined in the report will affect all regions and every country, but the projected developments are neither inevitable nor immutable. Indeed, the purpose of the study was to help political leaders to prepare for, take advantage of, and shape future possibilities.

Dr. Fingar will examine a number of other challenges facing political leaders in Northeast Asia. Although there are many reasons to be optimistic about the future of the region, not least of which are the education and energy of its people and the generally high quality of governance in most countries, there are also reasons to question the future efficacy of arrangements that have worked very well in the past. The combination of trends at the global level examined in *Global Trends 2025* and specific developments in Northeast Asia suggest that it is time to begin thinking about—and building—new institutions to ensure continued peace and prosperity well into the 21st century. Dr. Fingar’s presentation will stimulate new ways of thinking about shared challenges and opportunities.

About Dr. Thomas Fingar: <http://cisac.stanford.edu/people/thomasfingar/>

Text of *Global Trends 2025*:

[http://www.dni.gov/nic/PDF\\_2025/2025\\_Global\\_Trends\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.dni.gov/nic/PDF_2025/2025_Global_Trends_Final_Report.pdf)