

“Providing Humanitarian Aid in North Korea and Other Authoritarian Settings”

Thursday, November 29, 2018
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Room 505, Elliott School of International Affairs
The George Washington University
1975 E St NW, Washington, DC 20052

GW Institute for Korean Studies

Increasingly, international and domestic aid workers provide humanitarian aid in countries with authoritarian governments. One of the many dilemmas is ensuring that the most vulnerable receive the allocated aid while concurrently liaising and coordinating with national and local government entities who often do not prioritize the needs of their at-risk populations. They may have little interest in channeling program outputs to populations targeted by the project, or else perceive of the aid as an opportunity to divert funding or commodities to their allies – whether that be their family, tribe, business partners, members of the military, influential persons/entities, or others. Finally, they will often establish regulations to ensure that aid workers have limited opportunities to visit project sites. Despite these obstacles, aid organizations should make every effort to ensure that they can be physically present in the country over the life of the project. The potential benefits to be gained by both the aid organization and the population that aid workers come in contact with can potentially exceed the obstacles and frustrations experienced by the NGO.

Speaker

Christy Gavitt



Christy Gavitt began her overseas career as a Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea from 1974-76, followed by a year-long internship with CARE-Korea. She then worked overseas in international relief and development programs for 32 years, 19 of those years with CARE-USA. Her assignments included emergency programs in Pakistan, Somalia, Chad, Mozambique, Somaliland and Rwanda. She subsequently did a six-month consultancy during the famine in North Korea. From 2000, she managed HIV/AIDS and mother-child health programs in Mali, Togo, Namibia and Tanzania. After returning to the US, she worked for over five years as the Senior Health Coordinator with the American Red Cross in Washington DC. She is currently a global health consultant. Christy received her Masters in International Administration from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont, and her Masters in Public Health from Tulane University in New Orleans.

Moderator

Gregg Brazinsky



Gregg A. Brazinsky works on U.S.-East Asian relations and East Asian international history. He is interested in the flow of commerce, ideas, and culture among Asian countries and across the Pacific. He is proficient in Mandarin Chinese and Korean. He is the author of two books: *Winning the Third World* (2017), which focuses on Sino-American Rivalry in the Third World and *Nation Building in South Korea* (2007), which explores U.S.-South Korean relations during the Cold War.