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Speaker Bio

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Dr. J. Peter Pham

Director, Africa Center, Atlantic Council

J. Peter Pham is the Director of the Atlantic Council's Africa Center. Dr. Pham was previously Senior Vice President of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, and editor of its bimonthly journal, *American Foreign Policy Interests*. He was also a tenured Associate Professor of justice studies, political science, and Africana studies at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where he was Director of the Nelson Institute for International and Public Affairs. He has served on the Senior Advisory Group of the US Africa Command since its creation.

Dr. Pham is the author of more than 300 essays and reviews and the author, editor, or translator of over a dozen books, including, most recently, *Somalia: Fixing Africa's Most Failed State* (Tafelberg, 2013; coauthored with Greg Mills and David Kilcullen). Dr. Pham also contributes to a number of publications including *The National Interest* and *Foreign Policy,* and regularly appears as a commentator on broadcast and print media outlets including CBS, PBS, VOA, CNN, the Fox News Channel, MSNBC, NPR, the BBC, Reuters, the Associated Press, Agence France-Presse, the *Wall Street Journal,* the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Washington Times*, *USA Today*, *Newsweek*, *US News & World Report*, *The Times of London, New Statesman, Maclean's, Le Monde,* and *Le Temps*.

Dr. Pham is the incumbent Vice President of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA), an academic organization which represents more than 1,300 scholars of Middle Eastern and African Studies at more than 300 colleges and universities in the United States and overseas, and is Editor-in-Chief of ASMEA's *Journal of the Middle East and Africa*.

A staunch advocate of robust American engagement with Africa, Dr. Pham served as member of the USAID-funded International Republican Institute (IRI) delegation monitoring the national elections in Liberia in 2005. He also served on the IRI pre-election assessment (2006) and election observation delegations to Nigeria (2007, 2011) and Somaliland (2010). He is also a frequent guest lecturer on African affairs at the Foreign Service Institute, the US Army War College, the Joint Special Operations University, and other US government professional educational institutions. The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) for Defence and Security Studies, the Brenthurst Foundation, and the Nelson Mandela Foundation awarded Dr. Pham the 2008 Nelson Mandela International Prize for African Security and Development for his study "Imagining Congo Secure and Stable."

In April 2015, the Smithsonian Institution Board of Regents elected Pham to a three-year term on the Advisory Board of the National Museum of African Art.