



IBC BANK & COMMERCE BANK 2018-2019 KEYNOTE SPEAKER SERIES

“Hegemony and the Hemisphere: An Historical Perspective on Inter-American Trade Relations”



PRESENTED BY:

Craig VanGrasstek, Ph.D.

Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy

John F. Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019

TAMIU Student Center Ballroom (SC 203)

Reception 5:30 p.m. | Lecture 6 p.m.

Open to the public. Free of charge.

For additional information,
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Texas A&M International University
5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, TX 78041

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“Craig VanGrasstek,” according to *The Economist* (January 22, 2000), “keeps a sharp eye on the politics of trade.” His areas of expertise include trade negotiations and the policymaking process, the history and structure of the international trading system, and the relationships between trade, power, and development. Dr. VanGrasstek teaches courses on trade policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, both in its degree program and in executive education. He previously taught courses on international economic relations in the American University’s School of International Service (1994-2001), the University of Bern’s World Trade Institute (2007-2016), and the International Economic Law and Policy program in the University of Barcelona (2008-2017), and also delivered an innovative course on the fiction of foreign policy in Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service (2006-2009). He has lectured in the diplomatic academies and training programs of the United Kingdom, the United States, and 10 other countries.

Dr. VanGrasstek has been a trade consultant since 1982. He has worked in over four dozen countries on five continents, with his clients including government agencies, corporations, and such international organizations as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization.

He received his doctorate in Politics from Princeton University in 1997, holds the degree of Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University (1983), and earned a bachelor’s degree in International Relations from the University of Minnesota (1981). Dr. VanGrasstek is the author of *The History and Future of the World Trade Organization* (WTO: 2013) and *Trade and American Leadership: The Paradoxes of Power and Wealth from Alexander Hamilton to Donald Trump* (Cambridge University Press: 2019), as well as numerous other books, chapters, journal articles, and monographs.





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TRADE and AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

The Paradoxes of Power and Wealth
from Alexander Hamilton to Donald Trump



Craig VanGrasstek

CAMBRIDGE

“Hegemony and the Hemisphere: An Historical Perspective on Inter-American Trade Relations”

From Alexander Hamilton through Donald Trump, U.S. economic relations with Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean have been shaped by broader struggles between great powers. Hegemonic stability theory posits that the shape of the international trading system relies critically on the global distribution of power and wealth, such that markets tend to be closed unless one especially powerful country is willing and able to lead. That willingness stems from the country’s economic efficiency, while its ability rests on political and military strength. London provided hegemonic leadership in the 19th Century, and Washington played this role in the 20th Century. The latter half of that century saw the United States fend off challenges from one rival that was powerful but not wealthy (the Soviet Union) and another that was wealthy but not powerful (Japan), but the 21st Century is dominated by a full-spectrum competition between the United States and China. This talk will review how these successive battles for hegemony have shaped inter-American trade relations, with special emphasis on how we arrived at our present predicament and where we may be headed.

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