

## CORPORATIONS TO THE RESCUE? SEMINAR SERIES



### Virginia Haufler

Associate Professor of Government and Politics  
University of Maryland College Park

Chair: Ann Florini  
Professor and Director, Centre on Asia and Globalisation  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Date: Tuesday, 3 November 2009

Time: 12.15 p.m. - 1.30 p.m.

Venue: Seminar Room 3-5, Level 3  
Manasseh Meyer  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy  
469C Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259772

For those interested in attending, please contact Siti at 6516 4202/ 5357 or email [spps@nus.edu.sg](mailto:spps@nus.edu.sg)

This is a brown bag seminar and you are most welcome to bring your own packed lunch

## Governing Corporations in Zones of Conflict: Issues, Actors and Institutions

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Virginia Haufler (Ph.D., Cornell 1991) is an Associate Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland College Park. She has taught at Cornell, UCLA, and Tianjian University in China. She is currently a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for International and Global Studies at the University of California Irvine, and a Visiting Non-Resident Fellow at the USC Center on Public Diplomacy. Her research focuses on the relationship between global governance and the private sector, focusing in particular on industry self-regulation and corporate social responsibility. Currently, she is working on two projects: one on the emergence and institutionalization of the business and conflict prevention agenda; and one (with Deborah Avant) on the security planning strategies of corporations and non-governmental organizations. She is affiliated with the Harrison Program on the Future Global Agenda and the Center for International Development and Conflict Management, and is on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt and the UN Global Compact Expert Group on Responsible Investment. Her books include *Process, Product, and Politics: Evaluating the Role of Business in Conflict* (ed., forthcoming); *A Public Role for the Private Sector: Industry Self-Regulation in the Global Political Economy*; *Private Authority in International Affairs* (ed., with Claire Cutler and Tony Porter), and *Dangerous Commerce: Insurance and the Management of International Risk*.

### SYNOPSIS

The idea that business has to be integrated into conflict prevention efforts gained power and momentum in the last ten years. Both activists and policymakers seek to bring business into voluntary governance regimes to manage the impact of economic activity on conflict dynamics. Since governments are the traditional providers of peace and security, we have to ask why this shift in perspective occurred. Why shift responsibility for something normally reserved for public authorities to the private sector? The agenda was set by the emergence of a broader corporate social responsibility agenda, and efforts by governments to delegate authority over conflict prevention to others. This agenda was institutionalized in a variety of innovative public-private governance mechanisms.