US PUBLIC DIPLOMACY & DEMOCRATIZATION:
From the Spanish Case to the Arab Spring

The Portuguese revolution of April 1974, the end of the Greek dictatorship in July of that year, and the Spanish transition to democracy in 1975 drove the “Third Wave of Democratization.” Samuel P. Huntington coined this term right after the fall of the Berlin Wall and likewise used it to explain the transition to democracy in the former European satellites of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. More recently, some scholars have argued that the riots and demonstrations in the Middle East (Arab Spring) could be understood as an “emerging fourth wave.”

U.S. Public Diplomacy efforts to promote and spread the American political model may have played an important role in these events. This conference aspires to be a platform for an interdisciplinary dialogue between historians of the U.S. Information Agency, U.S. educational exchange programs, and political scientists. Scholars will discuss the connections, consequences, and weakness of that supposed causality.

Panel 1: US PUBLIC DIPLOMACY & TRANSITIONS TO DEMOCRACY
9:30-10:45

US PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES
Nickolas CULL (Director of the Masters Program in Public Diplomacy at USC)

US (PUBLIC) DIPLOMACY & THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION
Rosa M. PARDO SANZ (Universidad Nacional Educación a Distancia)

US PUBLIC DIPLOMACY & THE END OF THE GREEK DICTATORSHIP
Evangelos LIARAS (George Washington University)

Panel 2: THE SPANISH CASE
11:00-1:00

Opening Presentation:
Guillermo Corral, Cultural Counselor (Spanish Embassy, Washington, D.C)

U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND THE ROAD FROM FRANCO TO DEMOCRACY
Lorenzo DELGADO (Instituto de Historia, CCHS-CSIC)

U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND THE SELLING OF “DEMOCRACY” IN SPAIN
Pablo LEÓN AGUINAGA (Visiting Researcher, Georgetown University)

U.S. EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND AMERICAN STUDIES IN SPAIN
REFLECTIONS OF A FORMER FULBRIGHTER & U.S. CULTURAL CENTER DIRECTOR
Mark ASQUINO (Executive Assistant, Office of the Under Secretary For Democracy and Global Affairs, U.S. Department of State.)

Panel 3: NEW CHALLENGES, OTHER WAYS TOWARD DEMOCRACY
2:00-3:50

VOICE OF AMERICA: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE
Robert COONROD (InterMedias CEO & Former Deputy Director of the VOA)

US PUBLIC DIPLOMACY & SOCIAL NETWORKS
Sean ADAY (Director, Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication-GWU)

US PUBLIC DIPLOMACY & THE “ARAB SPRING”
Mary JEFFERS (U.S. Department of State & Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communications)

U.S CULTURAL DIPLOMACY WITH THE MIDDLE EAST & SOUTHEAST ASIA
Ambassador Cynthia P. SCHNEIDER (Georgetown & Brookings Institution)

View the full program at http://tinyurl.com/diplomacyprog

Monday, November 14, 2011
9:30am-3:50pm
Lindner Family Commons
1957 E Street NW, Room 602

Please RSVP at http://tinyurl.com/publicdiplomacygwu

This event is on the record

Co-sponsored by: CCHS-CSIC; The Millar Family Fund; Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication, GWU; Instituto Franklin-Universidad de Alcalá.