

BYUPAS
POLITICAL AFFAIRS LECTURE SERIES

Public Affairs Lecture Series: Practical Politics and Policymaking

Career Reflections: International Strategy and Diplomacy

James Patton

Executive vice president and COO, International Center for Religion & Diplomacy



Thursday, 6 November
4:00 p.m.
238 HRCB

James Patton brought management skills and expertise in conducting conflict dynamics analysis, mediation, and conflict transformation programming to the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy (ICRD). Patton has worked designing, implementing, and monitoring multi-stakeholder programs to promote economic development and mitigate violent conflict since 1994 in nine countries on three continents. Previous to ICRD, he was assigned to support the work of USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation in Washington, having spent seven months in Sudan as a Foreign Affairs officer with the Special Envoy, as one of the first members of the expeditionary diplomacy teams sent to analyze potential conflict and to support stability in southern Sudan. For four years in Colombia he coordinated human rights and conflict transformation efforts throughout the Andean region as Deputy Regional Director for the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Quaker organization, the American Friends Service Committee, where he worked closely with indigenous, Afro-Andean, youth, military, security, and governance representatives to build and expand programs to reduce violence and human rights violations in an area of ongoing armed conflict. Patton has worked in Bolivia assessing the impact of drug policies and military responses on rural indigenous communities and has conducted analysis and trainings with Buddhist monks in Cambodia on post-conflict and human rights issues. His work abroad began as a Peace Corps volunteer, conducting beekeeping and other sustainable development programs in rural Paraguay. Patton received an MA in law and diplomacy from Tufts University's Fletcher School and an MDiv from Harvard Divinity School. He is fluent in Spanish with practical experience in other languages.

Lecture will be followed by a Q&A session.

This series is sponsored by the BYU Political Affairs Society, the Political Science Department, the College of Family, Home, and Social Science, and the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies.