

# The Challenge of Global Governance and Japan's Role

2020-2021

**IJS**  
LECTURE  
SERIES

Monday, February 22

5:00-7:00 pm

Online



## Christina Davis

Harvard University

With Discussants Mitch Lerner, Alexander Thompson, and William Chou

Nationalist populism pushes against liberal internationalism even while economic and health crises demand international cooperation. The core pillars of Japanese foreign policy -- multilateralism, the US-Japan alliance, and engagement in Asia -- remain central to how Japan can contribute to global governance. First, Japan must reinforce multilateralism. International organizations support cooperation when peer pressure and enforcement mechanisms uphold compliance. Japan's experience as a member of international organizations offers lessons for how to use multilateralism to induce reforms. Second, strong U.S.-Japan relations defend principles of free markets and democracy. New leaders in the US and Japan must rebuild confidence in these ideals both at home and in their alliance. Finally, Japan lies at the hub of the trade regime complex. It can balance US and Chinese rivalries through skillful diplomacy with other states in Asia to set a middle path for open engagement.

**Christina L. Davis** is a Professor of Government in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at the Radcliffe Institute. She is the Director of the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and serves as co-executive editor of the Japanese Journal of Political Science.

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