

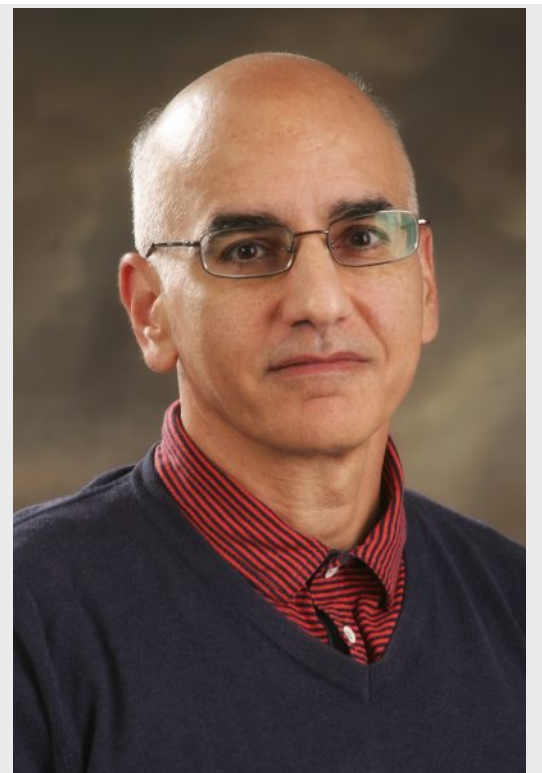
# The *Department of Political Science* invites:

## Guest Lecture:

**Robert Pirro**

Georgia Southern University

## *Transatlantic Blockbuster Cinema in the Nineties and Aughts: German Hollywood and American Babelsberg*



West German film directors Wolfgang Petersen and Roland Emmerich became A-list Hollywood directors in the wake of a succession of blockbuster hits of the Nineties including *In the Line of Fire* (1993), *Independence Day* (1996), and *Air Force One* (1997). In channeling patriotic storylines of American bravado in the face of overwhelming odds, they won the broad approval of American critics and widespread criticism from German ones. What critics and filmgoers on either side of the Atlantic missed was how memory of Nazi Germany's catastrophic attempt at geopolitical ordering infiltrated and gave a special energy to these cinematic celebrations of American exceptionalism.

Pirro will preview the main thesis of his forthcoming book, *German Wartime Memory, American Exceptionalism, and Post-Cold War Blockbuster Cinema* (Routledge, September 2025) and analyze select clips from the blockbuster successes of Petersen and Emmerich.

*Robert Pirro is a professor of Political Science and International Studies covering political theory and philosophy.*

**Tuesday, June 17**

**6 - 8 pm in R340**

**At the John F. Kennedy Institute  
Lansstraße 7-9, 14195 Berlin**