“It’s the economy, stupid” – Bill Clinton’s famous catchphrase from his 1992 campaign underlines the conventional wisdom that presidential elections are not won on foreign policy. In other words, the U.S. electorate cares more about the state of the economy and their own financial well-being than about America’s engagement abroad. However, certain international developments do increase the voters’ interest in foreign affairs. Ever since 9/11, national security and the fight against terrorism have been ranking high in presidential debates, and so have candidates’ strategies to end the U.S.’s seemingly endless military engagements. And although the COVID-19 pandemic adds a lot of uncertainty to the presidential race, President Trump and his “America first”-guided foreign policy may well result in a more prominent role for foreign policy in the 2020 elections.

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Please note: The lecture will only be streamed via Zoom. For more info, see https://www.nas.uni-bonn.de/Events.