



Center for European and Eurasian Studies
International Studies and Programs
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MONDAY,

NOVEMBER 17,

2025

5:30 PM (EST)

115

INTERNATIONAL

CENTER

**427 N SHAW LN,
EAST LANSING, MI**

48824

CEES Distinguished Lecture Series

*“The Rise and Persistence of Authoritarianism:
Is Democracy in Peril?”*

THE NECESSITY OF AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

BY

BRIDGET BRINK

U.S. AMBASSADOR

TO SLOVAKIA (2019-2022) AND UKRAINE (2022-2025)

SPONSORED BY:

**MSU CENTER FOR
EUROPEAN AND
EURASIAN STUDIES**

**MSU DEPARTMENT
OF HISTORY**

**MSU DEPARTMENT
OF POLITICAL
SCIENCE**

**MSU JAMES
MADISON COLLEGE**



Biography: BRIDGET BRINK is a proud Michigander who served her country over a 28-year career as a U.S. Foreign Service officer, including serving as the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine during Russia’s full-scale invasion. She is a national security expert who dedicated her life to the fight for freedom and democracy in Europe after the fall of the Iron Curtain of Communism. She began her career during the Balkan Wars and

was the junior-most member of the U.S.-led peace negotiations in Rambouillet and Paris in 1999. She went on to serve in Georgia and Uzbekistan, in multiple jobs in the State Department, and as a Director in President Obama’s National Security Council. She was a two-time Ambassador: first to Slovakia (2019 to 2022) and then to Ukraine (2022 to 2025) and was twice confirmed unanimously by the Senate. While Ambassador to Ukraine, Bridget executed the U.S. effort to keep Ukraine free and was awarded the Ryan Crocker Award for Outstanding Achievement for Expeditionary Diplomacy in 2024.