



World Affairs Council  
*of Western Michigan*

## Great Decisions Global Discussions

**Monday, Feb. 19: “The Right Bang for our Bucks: The U.S. Defense Budget”**  
**Dr. Stephanie Young**, defense budget expert, RAND Corporation

What will be the role of the military in the years to come? Some argue for a large military to protect our interests. Others urge for greater cooperation with our allies to share the cost of global security. Regardless of approach, what size force or what kind of weaponry is appropriate for the nature of today’s conflicts? Are we spending responsibly? And will American interests at home and abroad be effectively maintained?

Dr. Young is a political scientist at the RAND Corporation, where she conducts research and analysis on a broad range of foreign policy and national security related issues. Her primary interests relate to defense budgeting and resource allocation, but other recent work has focused on security cooperation and building partner capacity, the U.S. military transition in Iraq, special operations, and counterinsurgency in Afghanistan.

In 2012 she spent three months as an analyst embedded with the Special Operations Joint Task Force – Afghanistan, in Kabul. She is a core faculty member of the Pardee RAND Graduate School, where she teaches a Ph.D. level course on the U.S. Defense Budget.

Dr. Young was educated at the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned a B.A. in physics and astrophysics, and a Ph.D. in history.

Two options to attend:

**12-1 p.m.:** Recital Hall in the Covenant Fine Arts Center at Calvin College

**6-7:15 p.m.:** Aquinas College Performing Arts Center

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