Ralph Bunche (1904-1971) was an American scholar, civil-rights campaigner and diplomat. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950. During his nearly quarter century as a UN official, Bunche aided decolonization and helped to invent peacekeeping. He enjoyed and encouraged vigorous debate.

Wrong Turn
America’s Deadly Embrace of Counter-Insurgency

Colonel Gian Gentile
US Military Academy at West Point

Austin Long, discussant
Columbia University

Colonel Gian Gentile directs the Military History Program at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He has served in command and staff positions on four continents. In 2003 he was a Brigade Combat Team Executive Office in the 4th Infantry Division in Tikrit. In 2006 he commanded a Cavalry Squadron in the 4th Infantry Division in west Baghdad. He is a graduate of the Army’s School of Advanced Military Studies and holds a doctorate in history from Stanford University. His forthcoming book – Wrong Turn: America’s Deadly Embrace of Counterinsurgency (The New Press) – has been described by critics as an “exceptionally courageous” reevaluation at the United States’ turn to counterinsurgency (COIN) in Iraq and Afghanistan. Join Colonel Gentile and Austin Long (Assistant Professor, SIPA, Columbia University) for a critical discussion of the origins and impacts of COIN.