Dr. Lee Schwartz  
Geographer  
Director, Office of the Geographer and Global Issues, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State

Dr. Lee Schwartz is the Geographer of the Department of State and the Director of its Office of the Geographer and Global Issues in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

Schwartz is the Department’s 9th Geographer, a position that was established in 1921 and that, according to federal regulations, is responsible for providing guidance to all federal agencies on questions of international boundaries and sovereignty claims.

Previously, he held positions in the State Department as Division Chief for Global Issues and for United Nations and Humanitarian Concerns. Prior to joining the Office of The Geographer, Dr. Schwartz was a member of the faculty of The American University’s School of International Service.

At the Department of State, he has directed research and analysis on global issues primarily related to complex humanitarian emergencies and has coordinated related fieldwork and applied geography projects overseas, in particular in the Balkans, Central Asia, Russia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, and the Horn of Africa. His recent work has focused on ethnic conflict, refugee flows, peacekeeping operations, strategic warning, and conflict mitigation and response – with an emphasis on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing information coordination, as well as Participatory Mapping. He was the State Department’s 2005 winner of the Warren Christopher Award for Outstanding Achievement in Global Affairs.

Lee earned his Ph.D. in geography from Columbia University, with a focus on political and population geography.