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Jeffrey Payne joined the NESACenter in 2012, after serving for five years as an Instructor of Political Science at Butler University. While at Butler, he taught classes on Asian politics, social movements, international relations, and political economy. Mr. Payne has also served as a consultant for the World Bank and as a faculty member for DePauw University.

As a Research Fellow at the NESACenter, Mr. Payne conducts analysis on Chinese foreign policy, South Asian security affairs, maritime security, and transnational movements. In his role as Academic Affairs Manager, Mr. Payne serves the Dean of the NESACenter by managing academic products produced by the NESACenter. Presently, he serves as the NESACenter's lead for engagements in the People's Republic of China. He also serves as the director of the Next Generation Seminar, an ongoing NESACenter program devoted to the rising generation of leaders in the Middle East and the impact of the Arab Awakening. Additional NESACenter programs in which he is a part include Energizing Peace, a program devoted to energy security in the Levant, and the Strategic Studies Network.

Mr. Payne received his Master's Degree from Indiana University. Originally hailing from the Midwest, he has lived in China and travelled extensively throughout Asia. He and his wife live in the Northern Virginia.

