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Dr. Johnston joined the School in 2025 after serving as Senior Director of Research at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University. He was previously CEO of the Eurasia Group and Managing Director of its Energy, Climate and Resources practice.

Johnston is a counselor for the Canada-U.S. Trade Council and the Trilateral Commission. He holds a doctorate in international relations from American University, a master's in political science from McMaster University, and a degree in political studies from Bishop's University.