Professor Antonia Chayes will explore the question of why nations – through international organizations and individually – enter into serious commitments of post-conflict reconstruction. Is there an obligation to reconstruct a war torn society after intervention? Or is there a humanitarian impulse at play regardless of intervention? If there is an obligation, what is its nature? Is it legal, or moral, or simply a practical necessity for self-protection? Because of the tremendous open-ended nature of any such “obligation,” it is important to understand what might be the basis for it – as well as when and how it ever ends.