



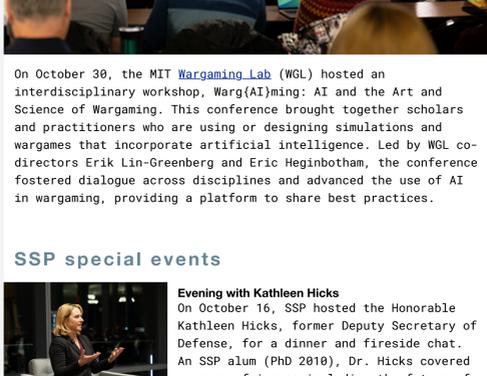
## SSP celebrates 15 years of Stanton Fellowship with conference in DC



MIT [Center for Nuclear Security Policy](#) (CNSP) hosted the annual Stanton Nuclear Security Fellows Seminar in Washington, DC in November. The 13 current Stanton Fellows presented their research projects for feedback and discussion. The seminar also featured keynotes from current and former US government officials.

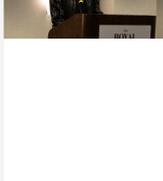
CNSP also welcomed back all former Stanton Fellows to celebrate the success of the Stanton Foundation over the past 15 years and mark the sunset of the Foundation.

## Wargaming Lab hosts AI conference



On October 30, the MIT [Wargaming Lab](#) (WGL) hosted an interdisciplinary workshop, Warg(AI)ming: AI and the Art and Science of Wargaming. This conference brought together scholars and practitioners who are using or designing simulations and wargames that incorporate artificial intelligence. Led by WGL co-directors Erik Lin-Greenberg and Eric Heginbotham, the conference fostered dialogue across disciplines and advanced the use of AI in wargaming, providing a platform to share best practices.

## SSP special events



**Evening with Kathleen Hicks**  
On October 16, SSP hosted the Honorable Kathleen Hicks, former Deputy Secretary of Defense, for a dinner and fireside chat. An SSP alum (PhD 2010), Dr. Hicks covered a range of issues including the future of warfare, improving military innovation and acquisition, China's nuclear modernization, and civil-military relations. Thank you, Dr. Hicks, for an engaging conversation on this crisp autumn evening in Cambridge!



**Annual Jack Ruina Nuclear Age Dinner**  
SSP held its annual Ruina Dinner on November 12 at the Royal Sonesta in Cambridge. The dinner featured the Honorable Lisa Gordon-Hagerty whose career spans over 40 years in the US-nuclear enterprise, including Under Secretary for Nuclear Security of the US Department of Energy and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration. Thank you, Ms. Gordon-Hagerty, for sharing your experience in public service at the intersection of science and security!

## European Security Policy Fellowship

The Security Studies Program at MIT invites post-doctoral or junior faculty scholars of European security to apply for a one-year residential fellowship, the [European Security Policy Fellow](#), for the 2026-2027 academic year. We interpret European security broadly to include the defense and security policies of one or more NATO and/or European Union member states, Russia, or Ukraine. Projects that focus on NATO or EU security policy as a whole are also of interest.

This residential fellowship is a ten-month appointment from September 1, 2026-June 31, 2027. Stipends will be competitive and commensurate with experience.

Applications will be reviewed starting January 1, 2026.

[Info + Application](#)

## Sofia Limperis named SSP Events and Administrative Coordinator

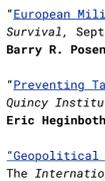


Since joining the team last summer, Sofia has been a star performer and the reason SSP has been able to host so many fabulous events. With the hard launch of CNSP, the number of events Sofia organizes has greatly increased and she hasn't backed down from any challenges thrown at her while consistently exceeding expectations. This promotion recognizes Sofia's dedication, increased responsibilities, and commitment to SSP. Congratulations, Sofia!

## New Books



**Retrench, Defend, Compete: Securing America's Future Against a Rising China**  
Senior Fellow Charles L. Glaser, Cornell University Press  
Glaser advances a thought-provoking strategy for securing vital US interests in the face of China's rise.  
[Available now](#)



**The Remote Revolution: Drones and Modern Statecraft**  
Associate Professor Erik Lin-Greenberg, Cornell University Press  
Greenberg demonstrates how drones are rewriting the rules of international security—but not in ways one would expect.  
[Available now.](#)

## Publications

["The North Korean Way of Proliferation: What Aspiring Nuclear Powers Learned From Israel's Strikes on Iran"](#)  
*Foreign Affairs*, September 5, 2025  
Vipin Narang (Faculty) & Pranay Vaddi (Senior Nuclear Fellow)

["European Military Autonomy: What Comes First?"](#)  
*Survival*, September 29, 2025  
Barry R. Posen (Faculty)

["Preventing Taiwan War: Is Strategic Ambiguity Still Working?"](#)  
*Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft* (QI), October 21, 2025  
Eric Heginbotham (Faculty)

["Geopolitical Uses of Organized Forced Migration"](#)  
*The International Migration*, November 19, 2025  
Kelly M. Greenhill (Affiliate)

["Why Trump's Madman Act Doesn't Work"](#)  
*Lawfare*, November 2, 2025  
Caitlin Talmadge (Faculty) & Samuel Seitz (Former Stanton Fellow)

["Bombing Venezuela Won't Solve the Maduro Problem"](#)  
*The National Interest*, November 3, 2025  
Caitlin Talmadge (Faculty) & Michael O'Hanlon

## Multimedia & Talks

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty) made a radio appearance in *The World's* episode: ["Are the US and China in a new arms race?"](#) hosted by Matthew Bell on September 3, 2025.

Kelly M. Greenhill (Affiliate) interviewed with Ntv, ["Wie Migration zur Waffe wird"](#) on September 8, 2025.

Mariya Grinberg (Faculty) [discussed her new book](#) *Trade in War* in an episode of The University of Texas at Austin's "Horns of Dilemma" on September 9, 2025.

Caitlin Talmadge (Faculty) & Charles L. Glaser (Senior Fellow) joined *Strategic Simplicity's* episode on ["Variable MADness: A Summary Critique of the Theory of the Nuclear Revolution"](#) on September 23, 2025.

Jim Walsh (Senior Research Associate) was featured on an NPR episode of ["Trump changes his mind on Ukraine"](#) on September 24, 2025, and was a guest on *CNN* on October 27, 2025 to discuss ["Federal agency overseeing US nuclear stockpile hit with furloughs."](#)

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty) & Caitlin Talmadge (Faculty) appeared in 2 *Strategic Simplicity* episodes: ["Part I of a \(more\) definitive conversation about China"](#) on September 12 and ["Part II of the China conversation"](#) on October 16, 2025.

Charles L. Glaser (Senior Fellow) was featured on a two-part series hosted by Strategic Simplicity Podcast on ["Debating Damage Limitation,"](#) aired October 30, 2025 and ["Debating Damage Limitation Again \(Pt. II in a series\)."](#) aired on November 13, 2025.

Barry R. Posen (Faculty) joined *DW News* to discuss ["Saudi Arabia to invest trillion dollars in US, up from 600 billion"](#) on November 18 2025.

## News

Richard J. Samuels (Faculty) On October 30, 2025 the [United States-Japan Foundation\(USJF\)](#) named its annual dissertation award in honor of Richard J. Samuels. The prize recognizes excellence in social science research on Japan and reflects Samuels's lifelong contributions to the study of Japan and to USJF's mission of deepening understanding between the United States and Japan.

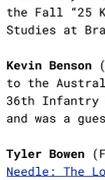
Caitlin Talmadge (Faculty) was featured in *MIT News'* ["Studying war in the new nuclear age"](#) October 28, 2025.

Mariya Grinberg (Faculty) & Erik Lin-Greenberg (Faculty) both presented at the Czech Security Forum on ["A New Cold War"](#) on October 22, 2025.

Carol R. Saivetz (Senior Fellow) participated in three speaking engagements: "The Ukraine War: Why and What Now?" for *MIT Naval ROTC* in October, 2025; then in November 2025, "Putin's Determination and Ukraine's Resilience" for the Westwood Senior Center and "How Russia is Losing in the Post-Soviet Space" at the Association for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies in Washington, DC.

Erik Lin-Greenberg (Faculty) presented at a talk hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations on his new book, *The Remote Revolution*.

## Alumni Books



Francis J. Gavin (Affiliate)  
[Wonder and Worry: contemporary history in an age of uncertainty](#)  
Bokforlaget Stolpe, October 2025



Jennifer Lind (PhD)  
[Autocracy 2.0: How China's Rise Reinvented Tyranny](#)  
Cornell University Press, November 2025

## Alumni Highlights

Nick Ackert (MS) was promoted from Senior Associate and Deputy Director of Research to Associate Vice President with The Asia Group's Artificial Intelligence Team.

Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch (PhD) was appointed a non-Resident Fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University and moderated ["The Arab Public and the Gaza War"](#) for the Fall "25 Kick-Off Event" of the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University.

Kevin Benson (Former Military Fellow) presented a virtual lecture to the Australian Army Staff College, presented a talk to the 36th Infantry Division, Texas National Guard "Writers Circle," and was a guest speaker at a VA-sponsored veterans luncheon.

Tyler Bowen (Former Stanton Fellow) published ["Threading the Needle: The Logic of Conventional Coercion in Nuclear Crises"](#) in the *Texas National Security Review's* winter 2025/2026 edition.

Matthew Cancian (PhD) published ["What Wargames Reveal About Expanding the U.S. Nuclear Arsenal"](#) in the *Arms Control Association* in October 2025.

Paul Heer (Affiliate) published an article on ["How to Understand the Crisis in Japan-China Relations"](#) in the *National Interest* on November 21, 2025 and a commentary on ["How Trump's Improvisational China Policy Is Impacting Trade, Taiwan, and Strategic Competition"](#) for *Global Affairs* on November 19, 2025.

Laura Holgate (MS) was awarded the Dwight D. Eisenhower medal from the [American Nuclear Society](#) on November 10, 2025. This biennial award recognizes "outstanding leadership in public policy for nuclear science and technology or outstanding contributions to the field of nuclear nonproliferation."

Doreen Horschig (Former Stanton Fellow) published 2 items for the *Center for Strategic and International Studies*: ["Could the Pakistani-Saudi Defense Pact Be the First Step Toward a NATO-Style Alliance?"](#) with Diya Ashtakala & Bailey Schiff on October 6, 2025, and [2 chapters](#) with collaborating authors in the a report on *European Nuclear Armed States and Extended Nuclear Deterrence* on November 18, 2025. Additionally, Horschig wrote 2 items for *Lawfare*: ["What the Iran Strikes Mean for Nuclear Diplomacy"](#) on October 26, 2025 and ["What Europe and Non-Nuclear States Can Do to Reinforce Restraint on Nuclear Testing"](#) with Astrid Chevreuil on November 5, 2025.

Gregory Koblentz (PhD) was a guest on George Mason University, Schar School of Policy and Government's podcast ["Improving Pandemic Readiness With Michael Osterholm And Gregory Koblentz"](#) on November 18, 2025.

Peter Krause (Affiliate) ["When is Terrorism Successful?"](#) a chapter in *The Handbook of the Economics of Terrorism*, by Atin Basuchoudhary and Günther Schulze, eds, Cambridge University Press, 2025.

Alan Kuperman (PhD) was a guest lecturer at University of Bologna, Italy on ["How 'new nuclear energy' could increase risks of nuclear proliferation and terrorism"](#) on November 25, 2025.

Mariska Landau-Wells (PhD) published ["Inclusionary and Exclusionary Preferences: A Test of Three Cognitive Mechanisms"](#) in *Political Behavior*, on November 22, 2025.

Lauren Sukin (Former Stanton Fellow) published ["Atomic responsiveness: How public opinion shapes elite beliefs and preferences on nuclear weapon use"](#) with collaborating authors in the *European Journal of International Law* on November 11, 2025.

Jennifer Lind (PhD) wrote with Michael Mastanduno, ["Hard Then, Harder Now: CoCom's Lessons and the Challenge of Crafting Effective Export Controls Against China"](#) in the *Texas National Security Review's* Fall 2025 edition.

Andrew Miller's (PhD) book *Silencing Citizens: How Criminal Groups Create Vacuums of Justice* (Cambridge University Press, 2024) won the [Outstanding Book Award](#) from the American Society of Criminology's Division on International Criminology.

Aiden Milliff (PhD) published ["Estimating the Impact of Drone Strikes on Civilians Using Call Detail Records"](#) in collaboration with co-authors for the *British Journal of Political Science* on November 4, 2025.

Jeremy Pressman (PhD) spoke at Trinity College on "Israel and Palestine: Breaking the Downward Spiral."

Joshua Rovner (PhD) was recently appointed Visiting Fellow in the foreign policy program at the Brookings Institution. Rovner also published ["Sand in the Gears: Sabotage in World Politics"](#) with Rory Cormac and Lennart Maschmeyer in the *European Journal of International Security* on October 20, 2025.

Joshua Schwartz (Former Statecraft Fellow) ["The False Choice at the Heart of Netflix's Nuclear War Thriller, 'A House of Dynamite'"](#) on November 6, 2025.

Paul Staniland (PhD) published ["Why South Asia's Regimes Keep Falling"](#) for the *Journal of Democracy* in September 2025.

David Weinberg (PhD) testified before Oregon's Senate Judiciary Committee in support of legislation to protect Oregon voters from disenfranchisement by faithless presidential electors.

Tim Wolters (PhD) presented "The Evolution of the Combat Information Center (CIC), 1943-1945," at *Navigating the Past: Histories of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, 1775-2025*, hosted by the McNeill Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.