

# Early Warning

MIT Security Studies Program

Quarterly Newsletter | Spring 2025



## Pranay Vaddi joins the Center for Nuclear Security Policy as its first Senior Nuclear Fellow

In February 2025, Pranay Vaddi joined the Center for Nuclear Security Policy (CNSP) as the inaugural Senior Nuclear Fellow.

From May 2022 to January 2025, Vaddi served as special assistant to President Joe Biden and as senior director for Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation at the National Security Council. Prior to this, he served as a senior advisor in the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance at the Department of State, where he coordinated the department's inputs for the 2022 Nuclear Posture Review.



*Pranay Vaddi, Senior Nuclear Fellow CNSP*

“We are thrilled to have Pranay join the new Center for Nuclear Security Policy as the Senior Nuclear Fellow. His exemplary work on U.S. nuclear policy, extended deterrence, nuclear energy, nonproliferation, and arms control as President Biden’s Senior Director at the National Security Council brings an unparalleled breadth and depth of experience to CNSP,” said Frank Stanton Professor Vipin Narang, CNSP’s inaugural director.

Read the full [press release](#).

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## Military Fellows lead Independent Activities Period discussions during January



*Lt. Col. Thomas Duff, US Marine Corps, talks about his role as a Marine pilot*

Throughout the January Independent Activities Period (IAP), our National Security Fellows, also known as Military Fellows, led presentations and discussions related to national security through their branch of service. This year's IAP topics included Marine aviation; human spaceflight from a medical perspective; interoperability between NATO and US Armed Forces; US Army contracting support in Europe; US Air Force surveillance over the South China Sea; and naval surface warfare. Thank you to our Military Fellows for sharing your unique perspectives during IAP!

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## Military Fellow Alicia Burrows promoted to Colonel



*COL Alicia Burrows with her wife and their children*

Congratulations to our National Security Fellow Alicia Burrows on her recent promotion to Colonel!

Burrows enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in 2001, completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, and accepted an ROTC scholarship through the University of Maine–Orono. She holds a Master of Business Administration from the Mason School of Business at the College of William & Mary and a Master of Military Arts and Sciences from Command and General Staff College. Burrows has served near and afar, from Philadelphia, PA to Darmstadt, Germany, including combat deployments to Iraq and Kuwait.

On January 1, 2025, Burrows received a merit-based promotion to

Colonel. The pinning ceremony was held on January 11 at the Colonial Inn in Concord, MA with dozens in attendance and presided over by The Honorable Dr. Bruce Jette.

Currently, Burrows is a US Army 2024-2025 Fellow at MIT's Security Studies Program and Lincoln Laboratory.

Once again, congratulations Colonel Alicia Burrows!

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## Wargaming Lab hosts first UK Wargaming Institute



This February, the Wargaming Lab, in partnership with Brunel University of London, hosted its first UK Wargaming Institute, which provided training on wargame design to two dozen attendees from academia and government. The Institute featured three days of interactive seminars and hands-on, practical demonstrations of research, teaching, and policy analysis. [Read more](#) about the UK Wargaming Institute.

The Wargaming Lab will also host a Summer Wargaming Institute from July 20-24, 2025 at the Endicott House in Dedham, MA.

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## Elena Capuzzo promoted to Wargaming Lab Program Coordinator

In January Elena Capuzzo received a promotion to Program Coordinator for the Wargaming Lab.



*Elena Capuzzo, Program Coordinator  
Wargaming Lab*

“Since joining the team last summer, Elena has been instrumental to the Lab’s growth. She’s played a critical role in planning wargames, coordinating multiple institutes and conferences, and facilitating engagements with senior government officials. None of the Lab’s programming would be possible without her professionalism and exceptional program management skills,” said Eric Heginbotham and Erik Lin-Greenberg, Co-directors Wargaming Lab.

Elena joined SSP in September 2022 and previously served as Special Seminars & Administrative Assistant as well as Wargaming Lab Administrative Assistant.

This promotion recognizes Elena’s dedication, increased responsibilities, and commitment to SSP and the Wargaming Lab.

Congratulations Elena!

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Wednesday Seminars return

# The UN Summit of the Future: Reinvigorating Multilateralism

**Michèle Griffin**

United Nations

February 5, 2025

In person/livestream

12-1:30pm ET



Wednesday Seminar



**MIT SSP**  
SECURITY STUDIES PROGRAM



SSP's Wednesday Seminars returned to the Pye Room for the spring semester, kicking off with United Nations Summit of the Future Director Michèle Griffin on February 5. Griffin discussed her efforts to negotiate the historic Pact for the Future, a set of global agreements on artificial intelligence, nuclear disarmament, and Security Council reform, among other things. Bookmark upcoming seminars by subscribing to our [Wednesday Seminar YouTube page](#).

## Upcoming Wednesday Seminars

MAR  
19

**Michael O’Hanlon, Brookings Institution**  
To Dare Mighty Things: US Defense Strategy Since  
the Revolution

APR  
02

**Michael Mazarr, RAND**  
The Coming Strategic Revolution of Artificial  
Intelligence: The US-China contest and the  
Sources of Competitive Advantage

APR  
09

**Aaron Bateman, George Washington University**  
Global Space Infrastructure and US Grand  
Strategy

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## Publications

[“Wargaming Nuclear Deterrence and Its Failures in a U.S.–China Conflict over Taiwan”](#)

*Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)*, December 13, 2024

**Eric Heginbotham** (Faculty) with **Matt Cancian** (PhD Alumni) and Mark Cancian

[“Guns and butter: Measuring spillover and implications for technological competition”](#)

*Journal of Strategic Studies*, December 17, 2024

**Raymond Wang** (PhD Candidate)

[“The End of MAD?: Technological Innovation and the Future of Nuclear Retaliatory Capabilities”](#)

*Journal of Strategic Studies*, January 30, 2025

**Charles Glaser** (Senior Fellow)

["Putin's Preventive War: The 2022 Invasion of Ukraine"](#)

*International Security*, February 2025

**Barry Posen** (Faculty)

["Taiwan's Nuclear What-If: Implications for U.S. Strategy and Global Security"](#)

*Global Security Review*, February 2025

**Lt Col Ryan A. Fitzgerald** (Military Fellow) with Kira Coffey

["The Supply of Conspiracism in State-Controlled Media"](#)

*The Journal of Politics*, February 13, 2025

**Richard Nielsen** (Faculty)

["Nuclear Proliferation Will Haunt 'America First'"](#)

*War on the Rocks*, March 10, 2025

**Vipin Narang** (Faculty) in collaboration with Ankit Panda & **Pranay Vaddi** (Senior Nuclear Fellow)

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## Multimedia & Talks

**Charles Glaser** (Senior Fellow) gave a talk at the Naval War College, titled, "Really, No Nuclear Revolution?" in January 2025.

**Richard Nielsen** (Faculty) spoke on "Fighting War with Divine Help" at UC Berkeley in January 2025.

**Barry Posen** (Faculty) was a panelist on *Recanati-Kaplan Talks, The Dialogue Project*, "[America and the World: Barry Posen and Kristine Berzina in Conversation](#)," moderated by *PBS News Hour*'s Nick Schifrin on January 21, 2025.

**Jim Walsh** (Senior Research Associate) appeared on *Fox News: Fox Report Weekend* to discuss how "['a lot' will need to happen for](#)

[successful Russia-Ukraine peace talks](#)” on February 15, 2025.

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## News

**M. Taylor Fravel’s** (Faculty) book [Active Defense: China’s Military Strategy since 1949](#) made the USMC’s “2025 Commandant’s Professional Reading Program: Strategy” reading list.

**Suzanne Freeman** (PhD Candidate) accepted a Changemaker Postdoctoral Fellowship at American University’s School of International Service for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 academic years.

**Raymond Wang** (PhD Student) will join Columbia-Harvard China and the World as a Postdoctoral Fellow (2025-2026) and accepted the role of Assistant Professor of International Relations (Fall 2026), at Pardee School, Boston University.

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## Alumni Highlights

**Noel Anderson** (PhD) published his book [Wars Without End: Competitive Intervention, Escalation Control, and Protracted Conflict](#) (Oxford University Press, 2025).

**Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch** (PhD) wrote “[The State of Repair: The International Norm of Reparations between Aspirations and Expectations](#)” (with Jennifer M. Dixon), in *International Journal of Transitional Justice* on January 23, 2025.

**Kevin Benson** (Former Military Fellow) his book [Expectation of Valor Planning for the Iraq War](#) is a finalist for the “2024 Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Book Award.” Benson also contributed “Chapter 7: The Operational Level of War and Logistics” in [Professionals Talk Logistics](#) (Howgate Publishing, LTD) released on January 19, 2025.

**Shawn Creamer** (Former Military Fellow) retired from the U.S. Army as a Colonel on February 1st, 2025 after 29 years, 8 months of service. Creamer published a commentary "[The Indispensable Role of Exercises in National Preparedness](#)" with *The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR)* February 13, 2025.

**Fiona Cunningham** (Affiliate, PhD) released her first book [Under the Nuclear Shadow: China's Information-Age Weapons in International Security](#) (Princeton University Press) on January 7, 2025 and published "[China's Test of the Nuclear Revolution: Technology, Great Power Competition, and the Nuclear Balance](#)" in a special issue of *Journal of Strategic Studies* (2025).

**R. David Edelman** (CIS Affiliate) hosted book events for [Rethinking Cyber Warfare](#) (Oxford University Press, 2024) at the Embassy of Estonia, Embassy of the European Union, and more. He was a Brookings panelist on "[US-China climate relations: Innovation, competition, and global implications](#)" in January 2025. Additionally, he co-led a Munich Security Conference session on US/China AI and national security and participated in a series of US/China Track II dialogues.

**Thomas Fraise** (Former Stanton Fellow) published "[Nuclearization and de-democratization: security, secrecy, and the French pursuit of nuclear weapons \(1945-1974\)](#)" in *European Journal of International Relations* on December 10, 2024.

**Paul Heer** (Former Wilhelm Fellow) wrote "[China Is Not Seeking To Remake World Order](#)" for *The National Interest* on February 9, 2025.

**Laura Holgate** (MS) served three years as US Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (and other international organizations in Vienna, Austria).

**Doreen Horschig** (Former Stanton Fellow) published "[Emerging Tech and the Israel-Iran Nuclear Relationship](#)" in *The Washington Quarterly* on December 18, 2024.

**Gregory Koblentz** (PhD) Published "[Syria Still Has Chemical Weapons: How to Get the Country's New Rulers to Help Eliminate Assad's Deadly Arsenal](#)" (with Natasha Hall) on December 19, 2024 for *Foreign Affairs*. Koblentz also wrote two articles for *Bulletin*

of the Atomic Scientists: "[Memo to Trump: Create a new biosafety and biosecurity agency to oversee research](#)" (with collaborators) on January 17, 2025 and "[Tulsi Gabbard as US intelligence chief would undermine efforts against the spread of chemical and biological weapons](#)" on February 10, 2025.

**Eric Labs** (PhD) prepared the "[An Analysis of the Navy's 2025 Shipbuilding Plan](#)" report. Labs spoke at "[USNI's Defense Forum in December](#)." Then in January, he spoke at "Bank of America Defense Outlook Conference," and the "Surface Navy Association Annual Symposium."

**Marika Landau-Wells** (PhD) appeared on "[Berkeley Voices: We learn what to fear. Can we unlearn it?](#)," a podcast to discuss her two recent publications, on January 27, 2025.

**Peter Liberman** (PhD) wrote "[Russia's Costly Conquest in Ukraine: When Expansion Yields Few Gains](#)" (with Andrew Kosenko) in *Foreign Affairs* on February 5, 2025.

**Jennifer Lind** (PhD) testified before US Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the topic of "[China's Malign Influence](#)" on January 30, 2025.

**Philip Martin** (PhD) published [Strong Commanders, Weak States: How Rebel Governance Shapes Military Integration after Civil War](#) (Cornell University Press, 2025) and "[How wartime recruitment affects political engagement among civilians: Evidence from Côte d'Ivoire](#)" in *World Development*, March 2025.

**Miranda Priebe** (PhD) wrote "[Competing Visions of Restraint](#)" (with collaborators) in *International Security*, 2024.

**Joshua Rovner** (PhD) was appointed Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, in the Strobe Talbott Center for Security, Strategy, & Technology. Rovner published [Strategy and Grand Strategy \(Adelphi series\)](#) on January 14, 2025. Several other items Rovner wrote include: "[Trump's gamble](#)" in *Engelsberg Ideas*

on February 17, 2025, "[Start Making Sense: Strategy and Grand Strategy in the Trump Administration](#)" in *WOTR*, and he reviewed Janice Gross Stein's article "[Bringing Politics Back In: The Neglected Explanation of the Oct. 7 Surprise Attack](#)." *Texas National Security Review* for *H-Diplo* | *RJISSF* on January 23, 2025.

**Joshua Schwartz** (Former Statecraft Fellow) published "[Dracarys: Unleashing the Lessons of Nuclear Conflict from 'House of the Dragon'](#)" in *Journal of Political Science Education* on November 14, 2024. Additionally, Schwartz wrote two articles for *War on the Rocks (WOTR)*: "[Stealth and Scale: Quality, Quantity, and Modern Military Power](#)" on December 18, 2024 and "[Exploring the Implications of Precise Mass](#)," with collaborators on January 9, 2025.

**Paul Staniland** (PhD) recently joined the editorial team of the Cornell Studies in Security Affairs book series, alongside fellow MIT alum and current SSP faculty member **Caitlin Talmadge**.



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