

## SSP COVID-19 FACULTY ROUNDTABLE



On April 22nd, in place of the typical Wednesday Seminar, SSP hosted a special Faculty Roundtable with Taylor Fravel (as moderator and a panelist), Jim Walsh, Vipin Narang, Richard Samuels, and Barry Posen. The purpose of the Roundtable was to discuss the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has on the various dimensions of international politics, and what ongoing risks the pandemic poses for existing international crises and hotspots. Many other members of the SSP community were invited to join the conversation, making for a lively discussions of issues ranging from nuclear security and nonproliferation to contemporary East Asian politics, reflecting the broad regional and topical expertise of SSP faculty and graduate students.

## BIDDING FAREWELL TO SSP'S 2019-2020 FELLOWS

As the new Fall 2020 semester approaches with a new cohort of visiting scholars, SSP bids farewell and best wishes to its superb outgoing class of Stanton Nuclear Security Fellows, Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Fellows, Military Fellows, and visiting scholars. You can read more about the individual fellows and their programs below.

## ACADEMIC FELLOWS



The Stanton Nuclear Security Fellowship, the Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Fellowship, and SSP's research affiliates represent an important core of SSP's research efforts, and the programs bring together outstanding early-career scholars from across the world. The Stanton Nuclear Security Fellows typically focus on issues related to the security dimensions of arms control and nonproliferation, whereas Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Fellows focus on grand strategy and more general international security themes. This year's cohort produced considerable research published in several leading journals. While some fellows will be continuing onto the second year of their Fellowship at Harvard, all will be departing MIT, and all will be missed! You can read what our fellows' post-SSP plans are below.

**Alex Lee, Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow** — Alex will continue working on redrafting his dissertation into a book manuscript and expanding his research focus on Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

**Andrea Chiampan, Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow** — Following his time at SSP, Andrea will be returning to Italy to complete a manuscript for an upcoming book.

**Daniel Jacobs, Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Fellow** — After he leaves SSP, Daniel will begin a post-doctoral appointment at the University of Notre Dame.

**David Allen, Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Fellow** — After leaving MIT, David will be heading to the Harvard Kennedy School to complete the second year of his Fellowship.

**Ryan Musto, Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow** — Next year, Ryan will be a MacArthur Nuclear Security Fellow with the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) at Stanford University.

**Paul Van Hooft, Research Affiliate** — Paul will be moving onto a position as a Senior Policy Analyst at the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS) in the Netherlands, where he will be

working a program on trans-Atlantic relations and European grand strategy.

**Peter Dutton, Research Affiliate** – Peter will return to the Naval War College to continue his research.

**Jonathan (Yoni) Shimshoni, Research Affiliate** – Yoni will be returning to Israel to continue his research

## MILITARY FELLOWS



*(left to right):*  
**Tucker Hamilton**  
(Lieutenant Colonel, US Air Force), **Terry Hahn**  
(Lieutenant Colonel, US Army), **Evan Wright**  
(Commander, US Navy),  
and **Jonathan Riggs**  
(Lieutenant Colonel, US Marine Corps)

The SSP Military Fellows program represents a unique opportunity for both scholars and practitioners of international security to produce policy-relevant research and academic programming, all under the same roof. With representation from the four largest military service branches, this year's Fellows presented on a variety of perspectives from within the US Armed Forces on a range of technical, doctrinal, and strategic developments in the US military during MIT's Independent Activities Period. They also organized and implemented larger study trips for the SSP Community, such as a field trip focusing on naval history to the USS Constitution museum ship in Charlestown. Our Military Fellows were an important part of the SSP community this year, and we wish them the best of luck with their next endeavors, which you can find below.

**Terry Hahn, Lieutenant Colonel, US Army** – Following his fellowship, Lieutenant Colonel Hahn will serve as Provost Marshal for the U.S. Army V Corps in Kentucky.

**Tucker Hamilton, Lieutenant Colonel, US Air Force** – After leaving SSP, Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton will serve as Military Director for the MIT AI Accelerator, a new joint partnership

between the United States Air Force and MIT designed to solve Air Force issues using artificial intelligence.

**Jonathan Riggs, Lieutenant Colonel, US Marine Corps** — After departing SSP, Lieutenant Colonel Riggs will serve as Operations Officer for the Marine Forces Central Command in Florida.

**Evan Wright, Commander, US Navy** — After leaving MIT, Commander Wright will serve as Captain of the USS COOPERSTOWN based out of Florida.

## INTERVIEWS WITH DEPARTING SSP FELLOWS

The 2019-2020 fellowship year was truly an extraordinary one for the MIT Security Studies Program fellows. From war game exercises with professors Eric Heginbotham and Richard Samuels and after work meetups with other fellows, to the fascinating speakers at our Wednesday Seminar series and the novel coronavirus health pandemic that brought life to a standstill—this was a year for the memory books.

We asked the outgoing fellows of the Military, Stanton, and Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft fellowships to reflect back on their rollercoaster of a year. In the process of shedding light on their experiences, the fellows also remind us of the vital role they play in the Security Studies Program (“SSP”) community, as well as the wide-reaching impact they can have with the knowledge they’ve gained from their fellowships. The interview below has been edited for clarity and brevity.

### **What were some of the highlights of the fellowship year for you?**

*David Allen, Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Fellow*

"It's a real testament to SSP that this has been such a great year in general, but if forced to choose, I think Simon Miles' Wednesday Seminar was a real highlight for me, and of course the Ruina and Doolittle dinners were great evenings."

*Tucker Hamilton, Military Fellow- U.S. Air Force*

"The main highlight was working with and getting to know the amazing individuals that make up SSP. Both faculty and students are thought leaders: humble, kind, open minded, and wicked smart! Another was the class "field trip" to the USS Constitution. It was great spending time with everyone outside the classroom environment. The weekly seminars were another highlight—wonderful speakers discussing complex topics and as a community challenging each other to think critically and grow."

You can [continue reading the interview with SSP's Fellows on the main SSP site.](#)

**For more updates about SSP's Alumni and their recent activities, please see our [Alumni Profile page on the SSP website](#). Our featured alumnus for this issue is [Paul Staniland](#), Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, and a Nonresident Scholar in the South Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.**

## **Where We Spoke**

### **M. Taylor Fravel, faculty and Security Studies Program Director**

“Prospects of US-China Nuclear Competition,” National Defense University, June 2020

“Active Defense: China’s Military Strategy Since 1949” at Naval War College, June 2020, and INDOPACOM, May 2020

“U.S. Policy Toward China in the South China Sea,” George Washington University, May 2020

### **Eugene Gholz, SSP affiliate and alum, 2000**

“What Frightens Us? And Why? Threat Perception During and after COVID-19,” Panel discussion organized by the Cato Institute, April 22, 2020.

### **Eric Heginbotham, SSP Principal Research Scientist**

Eric Heginbotham and **Richard J. Samuels** made a presentation, “The Search for a “Plan B” in South Korea and Japan,” to the “Workshop on New Frontiers for U.S. Alliance Cooperation with Japan and the ROK,” sponsored by the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, Washington, DC. May 2020.

Eric Heginbotham and **Sadamasa Oue** presented on the “Japan-U.S. Security Treaty at 60: Cost Sharing and New Security Threats” for the Harvard Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, April 7, 2020.

Eric Heginbotham and **Richard Samuels** presented a paper on “Making the Case for the U.S.-Japan and U.S.-ROK Security Alliances” for a group assembled by the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, May 13, 2020.

Erik Heginbotham was the country lead for the Red Team on a series of three wargames produced by the Center for New American Security between April and June, 2020. Ph.D. students **Suzanne Freeman** and **Ben Harris** also participated.

**William James, Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft fellow**

'Grand Strategy and National Strategy: Past Conceptions and New Approaches', Centre for Grand Strategy, King's College London, June 2020

**Greg Koblentz, alum, 2004**

"Will COVID-19 Generate More Interest in Biological Weapons?" John J. McCloy Roundtable on Setting the National Security Agenda, Council on Foreign Relations, June 26, 2020.

["COVID-19: How the Pandemic Is Reshaping Our Government, Economy, and Society,"](#) Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University, May 28, 2020.

["Pandemic Preparedness and Social Resilience,"](#) Pandemic Webinar Series, Institute for a Sustainable Earth, George Mason University, May 12, 2020.

**Peter Krause, alum, 2011**

Peter Krause spoke at the MIT STARR FORUM "When Culture Meets COVID-19" on June 23, 2020.

**Alan Kuperman, alum, 2002**

"U.S. HEU Minimization Policy: A Success Based on No Exceptions," Panel on Use of LEU in Space, American Nuclear Society, Virtual Annual Meeting, June 11, 2020.

**Caglar Kurc, Fulbright Scholar 2012-13**

Panelist, Middle East Institute virtual event, June 4, 2020. Title of the event was "[Turkish-Russian Cooperation and Implications for Black Sea Security](#)"

**Erik Lin-Greenberg, alum and SSP faculty as of July 2020**

Podcast, The Global Cable: "[Building AI Armies](#)" (April 2020)

Podcast, War on the Rocks, Horns of a Dilemma: "[Keeping the Russians Out, The Americans In, and the Computers Down?](#)" (May 2020) (with Doyle Hodges)

**Michael Miklos, US Army, Retired, Military fellow 2004-2005**

Michael Miklos gave a presentation at the American Legion to Legionnaires, Knights of Columbus, Boy Scouts, and a Cadet from VMI on the significance of Flag Day and how it connects to US History from WWI forward. The presentation was on 14 June 2020.

**Rachel Esplin Odell, graduate student**

Panelist in a virtual discussion entitled, "[Is China the New Enemy? Confront or Cooperate?](#)" on June 22, 2020 as part of the Arena Civil Dialogue series.

Interviewed for the Things That Go Boom podcast hosted by Public Radio International, in a June 5 episode entitled, "[Was the US sleeping through China's rise?](#)"

Moderated a virtual panel hosted by the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft on May 14 entitled, "[Cooperation Or Cold War — Navigating U.S.-China Relations In Times of COVID and Climate Change](#)"

Interviewed on BBC World News on May 6 about U.S.-China relations amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

Interviewed for a USA Today article on May 5 entitled, “[‘Dangerous dynamic’: Coronavirus threatens new ‘Cold War’ between US and China](#)”

Panelist in the [Regional Spotlight: Asia-Pacific discussion](#) at the Foreign Policy–Quincy Institute Forum held February 26 at the Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, DC

### **Sara Plana, graduate student**

On May 28, 2020, Sara Plana spoke about diversity in academia in a panel entitled "[Enhancing Diversity and Strengthening Inclusion in Efforts to Bridge the Academia-Policy Gap](#)" put on by the Bridging the Gap Project.

From June 2-5, 2020, the third-annual conference series that Sara Plana co-founded and help organize, Future Strategy Forum, convened four virtual events with all-women-identifying speakers on the "[Future of Cooperation and Conflict in the Time of Covid-19.](#)"

### **Joshua Rovner, alum, 2008**

"The Intelligence Contest in Cyberspace," Office of the Secretary of Defense (Policy), April 16.

"What is an Intelligence Contest?" Texas National Security Review symposium, April 3.

"Covid-19 and National Security," American University School of International Service, June 10.

### **Carol Saivetz, Senior Advisor**

Carol Saivetz spoke at a Brandeis webinar—along with Gary Samore—entitled “US-Russian Relations in 2020” on May 26, 2020.

## **What We Wrote**

### **Dan Altman, alum, 2015**

"[The Evolution of Territorial Conquest After 1945 and the Limits of the Norm of Territorial Integrity](#)," iInternational Organization, June 2020.

### **Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch, alum, 2009**

Ben-Josef Hirsch, Michal and Miller, Manjari C. "[Otherness and resilience in bilateral relations: the cases of Israel–Germany, India–Russia, and India–Israel](#)". Journal of International Relations & Development (2020).

### **Kevin Benson, Military Fellow, 2001-2002**

Book review of “World War II Infographics,” by Jean Lopez, Nicolas Aubin, Vincent Bernard and Nicolas Guillerat, in the May 2020 edition of Army Magazine.

“Defining Defeat,” [posted on the Strategy Bridge web site](#), and in RealClearDefense on 13 April 2020.

**Eugene Gholz, SSP affiliate and alum, 2000 (with Harvey Sapolsky, SSP Faculty Emeritus)**  
Eugene Gholz and Harvey M. Sapolsky, "[The Many Lines of Defense: The Political Economy of U.S. Defense Acquisition](#)," Journal of Global Security Studies (2020)

**Paul Heer, Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow, 2015-16**

"[Why Donald Trump's 'Strategic Approach' to China is Wrong](#)," The National Interest, 15 June 2020

**M. Taylor Fravel, faculty and Security Studies Program Director**

"China's Sovereignty Obsession," Foreign Affairs, June 26, 2020

"Why are China and India skirmishing at their border? Here's 4 things to know," Washington Post, June 2, 2020

"Does the global pandemic open new South China Sea opportunities for Beijing? Not really," Washington Post, May 7, 2020

**William James, Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft fellow**

'Grandiose strategy? Refining the study and practice of grand strategy', The RUSI Journal (Vol. 165, No. 2, May 2020)

**Greg Koblentz, alum, 2004**

Saskia Popescu and Gregory D. Koblentz, "[Hear, see, and speak no COVID: Why the Trump administration is bungling the response to the pandemic](#)," Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, June 18, 2020.

Gregory D. Koblentz, "[Emerging Technologies and CBRN Terrorism](#)," The Washington Quarterly, 43:2 (Summer 2020), pp. 177-196.

Stefano Costanzi and Gregory D. Koblentz, "[Updating the CWC: How We Got Here and What Is Next](#)," Arms Control Today, Vol. 5, No. 3 (April 2020), pp. 16-20.

Gregory D. Koblentz and Michael Hunzeker, "[National Security in the Age of Pandemics](#)," Defense One, April 3, 2020.

**Peter Krause, alum, 2011**

Peter Krause co-edited a book that was published this month, in which 44 scholars tell their personal stories of field research to provide guidance and insight. *Stories From the Field: A Guide to Navigating Fieldwork in Political Science* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2020). It includes chapters from MIT professors Fotini Christia, Vipin Narang, Richard Nielsen, and Melissa Nobles, MIT alums Kristin Fabbe, Paul Staniland, and myself, and MIT PhD candidate Matthew Cancian.

**Alan Kuperman, alum, 2002**

"[America Shouldn't Restart Production of Weapons-Grade Uranium](#)," War on the Rocks, June 15, 2020,



[“US study of reactor and fuel types to enable naval reactors to shift from HEU fuel,”](#)  
International Panel on Fissile Materials, IPFM Blog, April 10, 2020, co-authored with Frank von Hippel

**Erik Lin-Greenberg, alum, and SSP faculty as of July 2020**

[“Integrating Emerging Technology in Multinational Military Operations,”](#) Texas National Security Review (Roundtable), 2 June 2020.

**Tim McDonnell, alum, 2019**

Timothy P. McDonnell. “Figuring it out the hard way: America, France, and the challenges of allied pursuit of nuclear weapons, 1958–63,” The Nonproliferation Review, DOI: 10.1080/10736700.2020.1778907

**Rachel Esplin Odell, graduate student**

[“Can the Democrats Avoid Trump’s China Trap?”](#) (with Stephen Wertheim), New York Times, May 10, 2020

[“Romney’s Reckless China Rhetoric Risks New Cold War,”](#) Deseret News, May 3, 2020

One of the principal drafters of the open letter, [“Foreign policy experts call for end to hate crimes against Asian American community,”](#) USA Today, April 15, 2020

[“Why Retribution Against China for Coronavirus Would Harm America and the World,”](#) War on the Rocks, April 9, 2020

[“The US must recognize that China is not a monolith to enable cooperation against COVID-19,”](#) Responsible Statecraft, April 3, 2020

[“Biden’s sensible China strategy,”](#) Responsible Statecraft, March 5, 2020

**Sara Plana, graduate student**

Sara Plana, [“Why Proxy Wars Endure & Why They End,”](#) on Proxy Wars Initiative, a Carnegie Corporation-funded project, May 8, 2020.

Sara Plana, [“War Isn’t \(Quite\) the Right Metaphor for COVID-19,”](#) with Sanne Verschuren in Political Violence at a Glance, May 20, 2020.

**Andrew Radin, alum, 2012**

Andrew Radin’s new book, [“Institution Building in Weak States: The Primacy of Local Politics,”](#) will be published by Georgetown University Press in July 2020.

**Joshua Rovner, alum, 2008**

[“An Attack on Inspector General Signals Something Much Bigger,”](#) War on the Rocks, April 22;

[“Has the United States Abandoned Arms Control?”](#) War on the Rocks, June 2;

**Harvey M. Sapolsky, Emeritus Faculty**

Harvey M. Sapolsky and Benjamin H. Friedman, “Defund the Europeans,” Defense One, June 19, 2020.

**Apichai W. Shipper, alum 2001**

Reactionary Nationalism and Democratic Development in Myanmar and Japan," Georgetown Journal of Asian Studies, Vol. 6 (June 2020), pp. 28-35.

"[Immigrants' Rights Activism in Sweden, the United States, and Japan](#)," The Sociological Review Blog (June 29, 2020)

**Kunal Singh, graduate student**

"[The message is clear: China pressing forward to create new buffer zones](#)," Hindustan Times, June 18, 2020.

**Paul Van Hooft, SSP Affiliate, and Stanton Fellow 2018-2019**

Land Rush: American grand strategy, NATO enlargement, and European fragmentation. International Politics 57, 530–553 (2020).

Eindtijden: trans-Atlantische betrekkingen 75 jaar na het einde van de oorlog. Atlantisch Perspectief 35, 2 (2020).

Review for Roundtable 11-17 on Atomic Assurance: The Alliance Politics of Nuclear Proliferation, Timothy Crawford, Alexander Lanoszka, Jeffrey W. Taliaferro, Paul van Hooft, Stéfanie von Hlatky. H-Diplo | ISSF. June 1, 2020.

**Sharon K. Weiner, alum, 1998**

"Reconsidering U.S. Pit Production Plans," Arms Control Today, June 2020, 6-13.

## **Awards and Scholarships**

**Sara Plana, SSP graduate student**, has won the Jeanne Guillemin Prize from the MIT Center for International Studies.

## **Notes from All Over**

**Faculty and SSP Director Taylor Fravel's** book Active Defense, about China's military strategy, has been named one of Book Authority's best new China histories for 2020.

**Paul Heer, Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow, 2015-16** has joined the Center for the National Interest as a "Distinguished Fellow."

**Sara Plana, graduate student**, will be starting in September as a Predoctoral Fellow at the International Security Program in the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School

**Trevor Thrall, alum '96, and Chris Savos, alum '93**

About a year ago Trevor and Chris started an online training company for national security and risk intelligence professionals called E38 Academy—named after the MIT building that housed the DACS programming the early 1990s. They recently sold E38 Academy to a training company in northern Virginia that Chris has joined as a VP and Trevor as a consultant to recreate the E38 idea through a new effort called Proficiency1. If you have a course--or even an idea for a course--that you'd like to offer in a self-paced online environment, get in touch with Chris and Trevor through Proficiency1.com and they'll help you make the transition.

**Paul Van Hooft, SSP Affiliate, and Stanton Fellow 2018-2019**

In September 2020, Paul Van Hooft will start a new position at the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS) in the Netherlands, where he will head the program on trans-Atlantic relations, with a focus on U.S. grand strategy and European strategic autonomy.