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Early Warning

MIT Security Studies Program



Fall 2021

Quarterly
Newsletter



New faculty member joins MIT SSP

We are happy to announce that Dr. Mariya Grinberg has joined MIT SSP as the newest member of our faculty. Learn more about Dr. Grinberg, her interest in crystal-clear definitions, and her work [on declinism](#).



Military Fellows arrive

MIT SSP has once again welcomed five fellows from the major branches of the U.S. Military. Click [here](#) to learn more about each of the 2021 Military Fellows.



Stanton Fellows for 2021

Please join us in welcoming this year's Stanton Nuclear Security Fellows, Doreen Horschig, David Logan and Tamara Patton. You can check out their backgrounds and research interests [here](#).



Statecraft Fellows arrive at MIT

Our 2021 Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Fellows arrived to MIT this month. Learn more about So Jin Lee and Robert Ralston [here](#).



Wargames are back in person

Prof. Dick Samuels and research scientist Eric Heginbotham are once again running MIT SSP's course [Simulating Global Dynamics and War](#) as an in person seminar. Many alumni fondly recall learning at SSP through wargames, and we're glad to have them back in our conference rooms. Those enrolled in the course include graduate students from MIT, Harvard Kennedy School and the Harvard Divinity School.



Wednesday Seminars are back in person for MIT affiliates

MIT affiliates covered by COVID Pass can attend SSP's Wednesday Seminar series in-person for the Fall semester. This series invites political science and security experts from around the country to share their research with our students and faculty. Each guest makes an hour-long presentation followed by a Q&A session, and a post-talk lunch in Cambridge. Visitors are [welcome to join our seminars on Wednesday at noon via YouTube livestream](#).

Wednesdays at noon | Sept. 15 to Dec. 1, 2021 | In person and streaming to YouTube

Wednesday Seminar Series

MIT Security Studies Program



Oct. 20



How to Prevent Coups d'Etat

Erica De Bruin
Hamilton College

Oct. 27



Military Innovation for Digital Age

Audrey Cronin
American U.

Nov. 3



The Networked Superpower

Carla Norrlöf
Univ. of Toronto

Nov. 10



Then what? Chinese control of Taiwan

Caitlin Talmadge
Georgetown U.

Nov. 17



Mexico's Nuclear Energy Project

Arturo C. Sotomayor
GWU

Publications

[“Wartime Commercial Policy and Trade between Enemies”](#) *International Security* Vol. 46, No. 1 (2021)

Mariya Grinberg

[“Private Eyes in the Sky: Emerging Technology and the Political Consequences of Eroding Government Secrecy”](#) *Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 65, No. 6 (2021)

Erik Lin-Greenberg

[“Strait of Emergency? Debating Beijing's Threat to Taiwan”](#) *Foreign Affairs*, Sept-Oct 2021.

Eric Heginbotham

[“The transatlantic relationship: Radical reform is in the US national interest”](#) The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, August 2021.

Barry Posen

[“Automation in nuclear weapon systems: lessons from the man who saved the world”](#) *International Affairs* blog, July 2021.

Nina Miller

[“Rocket Force Personnel in the Age of Xi Jinping,”](#) in *The People in the PLA 2.0* (National Bureau of Asian Research, 2021)

David C. Logan

Multimedia

Listen: [Erik Lin-Greenberg appears on “Conversation Six” to talk about satellite imagery in China.](#)

Erik Lin-Greenberg

Listen: [Jim Walsh appears on WBUR Boston to discuss Gen. Mark Milley’s call to Chinese counterparts.](#)

Jim Walsh

Listen: [Director M. Taylor Fravel appears on “China Power Podcast” to talk about the impact of COVID-19 on China’s military.](#)

M. Taylor Fravel

Listen: [Vipin Narang appears on “Conversation Six” podcast to discuss the AUKUS deal.](#)

Vipin Narang

Listen: [Last year’s Military Fellows speak about their ‘People Always’ approach on the “Manager Memo” podcast.](#)

Vipin Narang

Watch: [M. Taylor Fravel appears at the Fairbank Center for Asian Studies at Harvard University to discuss China’s military strategy in ‘the new era.’](#)

M. Taylor Fravel

Watch: [Carol Saivetz speaks on a panel discussion titled “Russian Influence in the Middle East: A New Era?” hosted by the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, April 2021.](#)

Carol Saivetz

News

Rich Nielsen won the "2021 APSA MENA Politics Section Award for Best Article" for his article "Women's Authority in Patriarchal Social Movements: The Case of Female Salafi Preachers," *American Journal of Political Science*, 64 (1) (2021): 52-66.

John Minnich received a grant, The Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, for \$14,585. It is administered by the APSA based on funding from the National Science Foundation.

PhD students **Apekshya Prasai** and **Aidan Milliff** were both named Peace Scholar

Fellows by the U.S. Institute for Peace in early October. The award recipients “demonstrated the greatest potential to advance the peacebuilding field and the strongest likelihood to inform policy and practice.”

[Read More](#)

Where are they now? Our recent graduates

Ben Chang

Andrew W. Marshall Fellow
Georgetown Center for Security and
Emerging Technology

Sara Plana

Post-Doctoral Fellow
Perry World House, University of
Pennsylvania

Mayumi Fukushima

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Belfer Center, Harvard University

Erik Sand

Assistant Professor
Strategic and Operational Research
Department
Naval War College

Andrew Halterman

Data Science Faculty Fellow
Center for Data Science, NYU
+
Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
Michigan State University

Rachel E. Tecott

Assistant Professor
Strategic and Operational Research
Department
Naval War College

Alumni News

Alumni Spotlight: Jennifer Lind, PhD '04

SSP faculty taught me to think about the quality of the *question*: life is too short, and there are too many profoundly important problems in the world, to dally



with trivial questions.

[Read more](#)

Alumni Highlights

Dan Altman (PhD 2015)

Altman won the Best Research Article on U.S. Foreign Policy and Grand Strategy award from Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at Johns Hopkins SAIS, 2021.

Paul Heer (Wilhelm Fellow 2015-16)

Heer published: "[China is Not Germany Before World War I](#)" in *The National Interest* on 28 August 2021.

Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch (PhD 2009)

Hirsch was named Senior Fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University.

Gregory D. Koblentz (PhD 2004)

Gregory D. Koblentz and Stevie Kiesel published "The COVID-19 Pandemic: Catalyst or Complication for Bioterrorism?" *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, July 14, 2021.

Jeremy Pressman (PhD 2002)

Dov Waxman & Jeremy Pressman published "[The Rocky Future of the US-Israeli Special Relationship](#)" in *The Washington Quarterly*.

Amanda J. Rothschild (PhD 2016)

Rothschild published "[A Morgenthau Moment for Afghanistan](#)" in *The Dispatch* on August 25, 2021.

Sharon Weiner (PhD 1998)

On June 16, Weiner testified to the Strategic Forces Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee on US nuclear strategy and deterrence.



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