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Early Warning

MIT Security Studies Program



Winter 2022

Quarterly
Newsletter



Ruina dinner featured Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins

The annual Jack Ruina Nuclear Age Dinner took place on November 1, 2022 at the Royal Sonesta Boston. The Nuclear Age Dinner was endowed by former SSP Director and MIT Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering, Jack Ruina. The guest speaker for the 2022 Ruina Dinner was **Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins**, the United States Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, who spoke about the past and enduring importance of non-proliferation and arms control in U.S. foreign policy.

SSP fellow wins prestigious dissertation award



Dr. Linde Desmaele, a Stanton Nuclear fellow at SSP, won the [2022 Global Strategy PhD Prize](#) for her dissertation: “Not Whether but How Europe Matters: A Neoclassical Realist Analysis of the Evolution of the Role of Europe in US Grand Strategy (2001-2020).”

This prize is awarded to dissertations that address a topic related to the foreign, security and defense policy of the EU. It is awarded by the Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations and the European Security and Defence College (ESDC).

7 months later: SSP experts on Russian invasion



On October 21, the MIT Security Studies Program held a talk at the National Press Club in Washington DC on “The War in Ukraine: Military, Political, and Economic Lessons for the United States.”

The discussion featured MIT SSP's **Barry Posen**, **Carol Saivetz**, **Mariya Grinberg**, and was chaired by SSP Director **M. Taylor Fravel**. Posen spoke about the military aspects of the war in Ukraine. Next, Saivetz spoke about strategic and political dynamics leading up to and during the war. Finally, Grinberg spoke about economic statecraft during the war. Each speaker shed light on the consequential and complex conflict.

[Watch video here](#)

Fall seminar recordings now available on YouTube



Our Fall 2022 Wednesday Seminars are now available to watch on our YouTube page.

[Lindsay Cohn](#)

[Rosella Capella Zielinski](#)

[Tamar Mitts](#)

[William Akoto](#)

[Tyler Jost](#)

[Susan Colbourn](#)

[Jennifer Lind](#)

[Andrew Kydd](#)

[Tong Zhao](#)

Save the date: SSP's ISA alumni reception

SSP will hold an alumni reception on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at the ISA Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada.

The reception will take place at the Drummond Centre Room at Le Centre Sheraton Hotel from 7 to 8 pm.

More details will follow closer to the event.



Publications

["The Pentomic Division: A Cautionary Tale"](#)

Thaddeus Drake, USMC Military Fellow

Marine Corps Gazette, December 2022 (republication)

["How Much Risk Should the United States Run in the South China Sea?"](#)

M. Taylor Fravel, faculty

International Security, Fall 2022 (with Charles L. Glaser)

["Managing the Risks of US-China War: Implementing a strategy of integrated deterrence"](#)

Caitlin Talmadge, affiliate

Brookings, September 2022 (with Michael O'Hanton and Melanie Sisson)

Commentaries

[“How to Avoid a War Over Taiwan: Threats, Assurances, and Effective Deterrence”](#)

M. Taylor Fravel, faculty

Foreign Affairs, October 2022 (with Thomas J. Christensen et al.)

[“The Rewards of Rivalry: US-China Competition can Spur Climate Progress”](#)

Nicholas Miller, affiliate

Foreign Affairs, Nov/Dec 2022 (with Jeff D. Colgan)

[“Attacking Russia in Ukraine means War”](#)

Josh Shifrinson, affiliate

Inkstick, November 2022 (with Patrick Porter)

[“What ever happened to our fear of Armageddon?”](#)

Jim Walsh, senior research associate

Responsible Statecraft, October 2022

News

Jennifer Erickson (affiliate) was named Managing Editor of H-Diplo's International Security Studies Forum (ISSF).

Erik Lin-Greenberg (faculty) was an organizer of [Emerging Technology and International Security: Challenges and Opportunities](#), a program held in Washington DC in November. It was supported by Bridging the Gap and New America.

Kelly M. Greenhill (affiliate) spoke at a [Tufts University panel](#) in November following the midterm elections.

Multimedia

Carol Saivetz (senior advisor) appeared as a commentator on a number of TV programs this quarter, including [WGBH's Greater Boston](#), [GBH News](#), and [NECN](#). Her appearances focused on the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Taylor Fravel (faculty) spoke at a Starr Forum event run by MIT CIS on the challenges facing [Xi Jinping during his third term as leader of China](#).

Eric Heginbotham (principal research scientist) spoke at a Cato Institute Livestream event, [“How Much Does China Really Spend on Defense?”](#) in December.

Alumni Profile: Dr. Christopher Twomey



This quarter's Alumni Profile features Christopher Twomey, a PhD graduate from SSP. He is an associate professor at the Naval Postgraduate School, and an expert in Asian security, Chinese foreign policy, and strategic deterrence.

[Read more](#)

Alumni highlights

Boaz Atzili (PhD) gave four academic talks this quarter, including one at the Fulbright Conference 2022 in New Delhi, India. The topic was “Indian Western Himalayas Borderlands Between the National and the International.”

Kevin Benson (Military Fellow) presented a seminar on critical thinking at the 11th Emergent Topics in International and Operational Law Course at the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School this quarter. He was also a senior advisor for the US Army Mission Command Battle Lab experiment.

Matthew Cancian (PhD) published an article, “[Infrastructure, Revenue, and Services: Non-State Governance in Iraq's Disputed Territories,](#)” in *Civil Wars* with Diana B. Greenwald.

Peter Dutton (former fellow) published the chapter “Conceptualizing China's Maritime Gray Zone Operations” in the book [Maritime Gray Zone Operations](#).

Thomas Homer-Dixon (PhD) published an Op-Ed in the *New York Times*, “[What Happens When a Cascade of Crises Collide?](#)” in November.

Gregory Koblentz (PhD) published two pieces this quarter: “[Controlling Novichok Nerve Agents after the Skripal and Navalny Incidents](#)” in *NCT Magazine* in October and “[A Plan B to Strengthen Biosafety and Biosecurity](#)” in *Think Global Health* in November.

Alan Kuperman (PhD) spoke in the podcast “[Libyan civil war continues after Gaddafi's Rule](#)” for KPFK-FM's Scholars' Circle in September.

Eric Labs (PhD) wrote “[An Analysis of the Navy's Fiscal Year 2023 Shipbuilding Plan,](#)” which is published as a statutory report by the Congressional Budget Office.

Andrew Miller (PhD) published “[#DictatorErdogan: How Social Media Bans Trigger](#)

Backlash” in *Political Communication* in August and “Without an army: How ICC indictments reduce atrocities” in *Journal of Peace Research* in October. He was also appointed to the Administrative Charging Committee for Anne Arundel County.

David Pendall (Military Fellow) was named Director of the Strategic Capabilities Office (SCO) European Command support team in August.

Miranda Priebe (PhD) published a research report “Does the U.S. Economy Benefit from U.S. Alliances and Forward Military Presence?” with RAND Corporation.

Andrew Radin (PhD) published “How Should the U.S. Military Share Secrets?” in *Lawfare* in October.

Robert Ralston (Grand Strategy Fellow)

published two items this quarter: An article, “Make Us Great Again: The Causes of Declinism in Major Powers” in *Security Studies* and an Op-Ed, “Liz Truss is trying to channel Margaret Thatcher. Why it’s not working.” in the *Washington Post*.

Tim Wolters (PhD) presented for Iowa State University’s Lecture Series in November. His presentation covered “The Spanish-American War 125 Years Later.”

Marsha Simon (PhD) published a legislative history on the Vaccines for Children Program with George Washington University.

Paul Staniland (PhD) wrote a piece for the *Lawfare Blog* titled “Great Power Competition and Internal Politics in Asia, Then and Now.”

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