

EARLY WARNING  
January 2020

## FEATURED STORIES

### 2019 RUINA DINNER



The Jack Ruina Nuclear Age Dinner, an annual event hosted by the MIT Security Studies Program, took place on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in the Samberg Conference Center. The dinner series was endowed by Professor Jack Ruina, MIT Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering and former Director of the MIT Security Studies Program. The dinner features a prominent speaker to present on one of Prof. Ruina's major professional interests: nuclear weapons strategy and policy. The guest for the 2019 Ruina Dinner was Ernest Moniz, the U.S. Secretary of Energy from 2013 to 2017 and emeritus faculty member in the MIT Department of Physics. In his remarks, Dr. Moniz reflected on a range of issues related to nonproliferation and arms control, and offered his insights on contemporary challenges and opportunities in nuclear policy.

### 2019 STATECRAFT DINNER



The Security Studies Program at MIT and the International Security Program at the Belfer Center for Science & International Affairs recently cohosted a presentation and dinner as part of its ongoing Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Speaker Series. The Speaker Series, which brings leading scholars and policymakers to MIT to discuss their work or research, most recently invited Steven Simon to present his talk, ‘The United States and Middle East: The Long View’, at MIT on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Mr. Simon, a Professor in the Practice of International Relations at Colby College, also previously held positions the State Department and National Security Council during the Obama and Clinton administrations, and is an expert on a wide range of Middle Eastern issues. In his presentation, he offered an analysis of the current policy landscape in the Middle East, and participated in a Q&A with attendees, before joining SSP Faculty and guests for a dinner at the Samberg Conference Center.

## USS CONSTITUTION FIELD TRIP



On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, MIT Security Studies Program staff, faculty, and students participated in a field trip to an important landmark in US naval history: The USS *Constitution*. The *Constitution* and its museum are located at the Charlestown Navy Yard, and offered the SSP community a chance to learn more about the oldest commissioned naval vessel in the world that is still seaworthy. Both museum staff and SSP’s own Military Fellows provided the guests with a guided tour and an extensive historical background of the *Constitution*, which made for a unique and enlightening outing for all.

## WHERE WE SPOKE

### Joshua Rovner, alum '08

“Cyberspace Competition as an Intelligence Contest,” keynote address, CENTRA Technology conference, The Future of Political Warfare, Arlington, VA, October 2019.

“The Future of Cross-Domain Deterrence Theory,” University of California, Washington Center, October 2019.

**Rachel Odell, graduate student**

"The Contest for the 'Free Sea': Variation and Evolution in the Global Maritime Order," Harvard Kennedy School's International Security Brown Bag Seminar Series, December 12, 2019.

**Richard Samuels, faculty**

Keynote speaker at a symposium on Japanese foreign policy at Indiana University, November 2019.

**Gregory Koblentz, alum '04**

"Smallpox and Synthetic Biology," panel at *Pacific Eclipse* Tabletop Exercise, PLuS Alliance, Arlington, VA, December 2019

"The Role of Sanctions in Countering Syria's Proliferation and Use of Chemical Weapons," *Sanctions and Illicit Flows*, Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TraCCC), George Mason University, Arlington, VA, November 13, 2019

**Barry Posen, faculty**

"Weaponized Interdependence and International Relations Theory," panel for the Conference on Weaponized Interdependence at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, October 11, 2019

**David Pendall, Army Fellow '12-'13**

Future of the Analytic Workforce, panel moderator at the Defence Geo-spatial Intelligence (DGI) Conference 2019 in London, January 2019

**Eugene Gholz, research affiliate**

"Contesting the Indo-Pacific: Military Technology and the Shifting Offense-Defense Balance," Presentation at the Stimson Center, Washington, DC, November 7, 2019.

"Lessons for the Next 60 Years of U.S. National Security Policy," Presentation at the 60th Birthday Conference for the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, October 25, 2019.

"The Many Lines of Defense: The Political Economy of U.S. Defense Acquisition," Paper presented at the Conference of the International Security Studies and International Security Sections of ISA and APSA, Denver, CO, October 19, 2019.

**Philip Martin, alum '19**

"Africa's Security Challenges: Is the Situation Improving?", as an invited speaker at the Schar School's Center for Security Policy Studies (CSPS) Distinguished Speaker Series, October 18 2019

"The Legacies of Rebel Governance: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Cote d'Ivoire" presented a research paper at the African Studies Association Annual Convention in Boston, MA, November 22, 2019

**Ryan Musto, Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow,**

"Latin America's Nuclear Governance: A Booster or Buster of the Liberal International Order?" Latin America in the Liberal International Order, Johns Hopkins University, November 15, 2019

**Phil Haun, alum and research affiliate**

Watson Institute Security Studies Series, "Contemporary Air Warfare: The Effectiveness of Air Power since the end of the Cold War", December 2, 2019

**Timothy Patrick McDonnell, alum '18**

"US nuclear posture and the transition to the post-Cold War global order—1989-1994", paper presented at the Nuclear Studies Research Initiative (NSRI) conference in Hamburg, December 2019

**Alan Kuperman, alum '02**

"The Libyan War in Retrospect: Did the West choose the right side?" University of Bologna, Italy, December 13, 2019.

"Nuclear Energy in Space: Nonproliferation Risks and Solutions," The Archer Center, University of Texas, Washington, DC, October 17, 2019

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

Several book talks for *Active Defense* in San Francisco, Chicago, Ann Arbor (Michigan), New York, and London, September-November 2019

**Jim Walsh, faculty**

Several appearances in media and at events, including talks at Harvard University and PopTech, as well as 20 national and international media appearances

**Kelly Greenhill, research affiliate**

Understanding Civil Wars: Causes and Consequences," at MIT SEMINAR XXI at Airlie House in VA

"Truthiness and Tribalism as Political Weapons: Fear, Cognitive Hacking and the Strategic Use and Abuse of Extra-factual Information," at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in MA.

"Political Science for Influence Operations (IOs) and the Weaponization of Migration," a brief for Swedish government officials in Stockholm, November 2019

## WHAT WE WROTE

**Jeremy Pressman, alum '02**

Jeremy Pressman, "The Science of Contemporary Street Protest: New Efforts in the United States," [Science of Advances](#), online: October 23, 2019.

**Joshua Rovner, alum '08**

Joshua Rovner, "Can the United States Deter Election Meddling?" *War on the Rocks*, November 8, 2019

Joshua Rovner, "Revisiting Iraq in the Shadow of Syria," *War on the Rocks*, October 10, 2019

Joshua Rovner, "Intelligence and Public Dissent," *Lawfare*, October 9, 2019

**Emily Martin, alum '05**

Emily Martin, "Supporters of Medicaid Transportation Coverage Seek Congress' Help," *Inside Health Policy*, November 22, 2019.

**David Pendall, Army Fellow '12-'13**

Published in the English and Chinese language editions of Air and Space Power Journal (ASPJ), "Semper Options: 21st Century Intelligence", Spring 2018

**Joyce Lee Malcolm, former SSP affiliate**

Prof. Malcolm's recent book, *The Tragedy of Benedict Arnold: An American Life*, received several awards following its publication last year.

**Gregory Koblentz, alum '04**

Stefano Costanzi and Gregory D. Koblentz, "Controlling Novichoks after Salisbury: Revising the Chemical Weapons Convention Schedules," [\*The Nonproliferation Review\*](#) (September 2019)

**Eugene Gholz, research affiliate**

Eugene Gholz and Llewelyn Hughes, "Market Structure and Economic Sanctions: The 2010 Rare Earth Elements Episode as a Pathway Case of Market Adjustment," *Review of International Political Economy* (forthcoming, 2020),

Eugene Gholz, Benjamin Friedman, and Enea Gjoza "Defensive Defense: A Better Way to Protect U.S. Allies in Asia," *The Washington Quarterly*, Winter 2019-2020

**Kevin Benson, Army Fellow, '01-'02**

Kevin Benson, "Bringing Back the Punitive Expedition", Modern War Institute, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Ryan Musto, Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow,**

"Antarctic Arms Control as Past Precedent", *Polar Record*, November 5, 2019.

"Antarctic Arms Control at 60: A Precedent or a Pole Apart?" Sources and Methods, History and Public Policy Program, the Wilson Center, December 2019

**Phil Haun, research affiliate**

"Attacking Fielded Forces: An Airman's Perspective From Kosovo", *Joint Forces Quarterly*, Winter 2019

**Alan Kuperman, alum '02**

"Rapporteur's Summary," Nuclear Energy in Space: Nonproliferation Risks and Solutions, The Archer Center, University of Texas, Washington, DC, October 17, 2019,

**Jennifer Lind, alum '04**

"The Future of America's Ailing Alliances" with the US & the Americas Programme at Chatham House, London, December 1, 2019

"Japan, South Korea, and the Politics of the Present", *The Diplomat*, November 2019

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

"Dangerous Confidence: Chinese Views of Nuclear Escalation," *International Security*, 2019 (with Fiona S. Cunningham)

**David Blum, alum '04**

"Machine Learning Classification and Segmentation of Forest Fires in Wide Area Motion Imagery," Volume 2 of the Proceedings of Future Technologies Conference. This paper was presented at the Future Technologies Conference in San Francisco, in November 2019

## NOTES FROM ALL OVER

**Leonard Samborowski, Army Fellow '98-99**

Samborowski has accepted a new position as Director of MBA Program at Nichols College, Dudley, MA.

**Rachel Odell, graduate student**

PhD candidate Rachel Esplin Odell has accepted a position as a Research Fellow in the East Asia Program at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft. She is on leave from the Quincy Institute until August 2020, while she completes her PhD dissertation and predoctoral fellowship in the International Security Program at Harvard Kennedy School.

**Nasir Almasri, graduate student**

Almasri testified at the Massachusetts Legislature's *Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight* Hearing on House Bills 1877, 2719, and 2722. He testified in opposition to H2719 and H2722 which attempt to make it illegal for individuals with state contracts to boycott other countries (primarily Israel, according to the bills' sponsor). He also testified in support of H1877 to change the state flag and seal due to its racist origin.

**Richard Samuels, faculty**

Richard Samuels launched his new book in Berlin in October (Freie Universität Berlin), in New York in November at the Japan Society, and in London in December at the Henry Jackson Society. He also presented the book to audiences at Portland State University and Harvard University.

Richard Samuels, *Special Duty: A History of the Japanese Intelligence Community* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2019)

**David Pendall, Army Fellow '12-'13**

Colonel Pendall served as the Executive Secretary for the Defense Science Board's Summer Study 2019, "The Future of US Military Superiority" He also assumed command of the European Cryptologic Center in Darmstadt, Germany in September 2018

**Joyce Lee Malcolm, former SSP affiliate**

Prof. Malcolm was recently sworn into the National Council on the Humanities

**Philip Martin, alum '19**

Dr. Martin started a new position as an Assistant Professor of International Security at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University

## AWARDS

**Jeremy Pressman, alum '02**

Pressman was awarded the UConn Provost's Award for Excellence in Community Engaged Scholarship, 2019 (tenured or tenure-track faculty).

**Jim Walsh, faculty**

Received grants from MacArthur Foundation and Carnegie Corporation of NY to explore what public communication about nuclear weapons in the digital and social media space might look like.

**Kelly Greenhill, research affiliate**

2020-21 Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professorship, designed to enable "outstandingly distinguished academics based in overseas universities to spend an extended period of time at a UK higher education institution." November, 2019