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Early Warning

MIT Security Studies Program



Winter 2020

Quarterly
Newsletter

Welcome Note

Welcome to the Winter edition of *Early Warning*, the newsletter of the Security Studies Program. Despite the pandemic, SSP has had a full fall semester. We hosted ten Wednesday seminars as well as the Ruina Nuclear Age talk, which featured former defense secretary William Perry. Read more below about recent publications, podcasts, news, and alumni highlights over the past few months.

As the year comes to a close, [please consider making a contribution](#) in support of the program. Gifts in any amount provide a crucial foundation for our future—from graduate training to producing and disseminating policy-relevant research. We are grateful for your continued support.

With best wishes for the new year,

M. Taylor Fravel
Director, MIT Security Studies Program





Rapid-Fire Thoughts: Looking Back & Ahead with MIT's SSP Faculty

[SSP faculty look back at 2020 and ahead to 2021 on national and international security issues.](#)



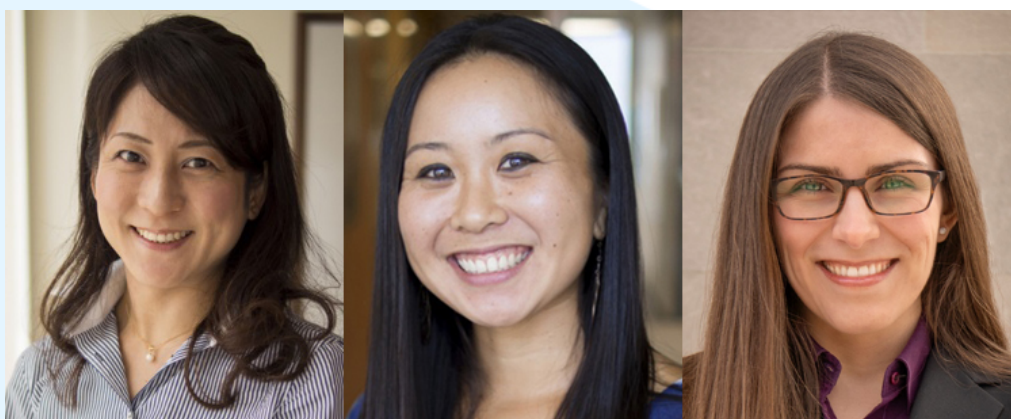
Simulating War with the MIT Wargaming Working Group

SSP faculty and students in the [MIT Wargaming Working Group](#) designed and refereed a [wargame](#).



Virtual Hallway Chat with SSP Fellows

Current SSP [Military, Stanton & Statecraft Fellows](#) discuss their fellowship experience.



Catching Up with SSP Graduates

Three recent [alums share updates and lessons learned from SSP](#).

Our Wednesday Seminar Series will resume on February 24, 2021 for the spring semester.

Publications

[*Active Defense: China's Military Strategy Since 1949*](#)

(Book: paperback edition)

M. Taylor Fravel

Princeton University Press, December 8, 2020

[*Seven Bad Options to Counter State Sponsorship of Proxies*](#)

[Emotions and Backlash in US Society and Politics](#)

Roger Petersen

The British Journal of Politics and International Relations, September 3, 2020.

[Europe Can Defend Itself](#)

Barry Posen

Survival: Global Politics and Strategy, December 3, 2020

[What the Nuclear Ban Treaty Means for America's Allies](#)

Heather Williams

War on the Rocks, November 5, 2020

Read More

Multimedia

Watch: [Public-Private Partnership and Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure](#)

Joel Brenner

MIT Center for International Studies,

December 9, 2020

Watch: [Will China Use Significant Force? A Debate](#)

M. Taylor Fravel

Center for Strategic & International

Studies, The China Power Project,

December 9, 2020

Watch: [The US Election's Impact on South Asia](#)

Vipin Narang

The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia

Institute, Harvard University, October 28,

2020

Watch: [Is it Time for A Grand Strategy of Restraint? A Debate](#)

Barry Posen

Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global

Affairs, Johns Hopkins School of

Advanced International Studies, October

22, 2020

Listen: [Is it Putin or is it Russia? The causes of today's bad vibes between Moscow and the West](#)

Carol Saivetz

Meduza, November 21, 2020

Listen: [Biden Says US Is Back At The Head Of The Table](#)

Jim Walsh

Here & Now (WBUR), November 26, 2020

News

Jonathan Caverley, SSP Research Affiliate, joined Peter Dombrowski as guest editor of the [Security Studies Journal's special Maritime Issue](#) for August 2020. The issue also

The Center for a New American Security wargame exercise spearheaded by Eric Heginbotham and others was featured in *Foreign Policy*: [“Slaughter in the East China Sea.”](#) by Michael Peck on August 7, 2020.

Vipin Narang’s interview was published in *The Diplomat*, [“Vipin Narang on the Global Nuclear Landscape: Hype and Reality.”](#) by Abhijan Rej on October 13, 2020.

Richard Samuels spoke on “Japanese Security” at a seminar organized at the University to Toronto in the memory of Yukio Okamoto, a distinguished diplomat and CIS Wilhelm Fellow who passed away earlier this year of COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

Alumni News

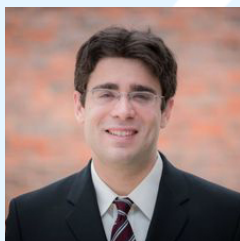


Alumni Spotlight: Gregory Koblentz

Gregory Koblentz is an Associate Professor and Director of the Master's and PhD in Biodefense programs at George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government.

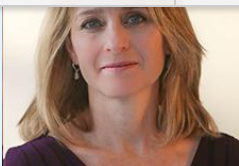
[Read more](#)

Alumni Highlights



Dan Altman won the *Foreign Affairs & University of Pennsylvania's* [Perry World House Emerging Scholars Global Policy Prize](#) in October 2020.

Kathleen Hicks (2010) was [selected to serve as the Team Leader for President-Elect Joseph Biden's Department of Defense Agency Review Team](#). Hicks is currently the Senior



Tara Maller (2011) was interviewed for Bloomberg on Election Day regarding the potential for election-related violence.

Eric J. Labs, Senior Analyst for Naval Forces and Weapons at the Congressional Budget Office, published [“The Costs of the Navy’s New Frigate”](#) in October 2020.

Andrew C. Miller’s (2020) op-ed, [“Make witnesses feel safe to help solve crimes.”](#) was published in the Baltimore Sun on October 1, 2020.

Sam Perez (2001; Military Fellow) was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Ocean Infinity America, a marine biotics company, in Texas.

Jeremy Pressman (2002) published [“Gender Imbalance in Expert Testimony at U.S. Senate Hearings”](#) in *The Forum* 18:2 (2020).

Russell Rumbaugh’s (2004) [“The Fragmentation of DOD: Changing Role of the Services and What it Means for Space Force.”](#) was published in the Center for Space Policy and Strategy’s *Aerospace*, in October 2020.



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