

# Early Warning

## MIT Security Studies Program



Winter 2021

Quarterly  
Newsletter



## PhDs named USIP Peace Scholars

Two of SSP's PhD students, Apekshya Prasai and Aidan Milliff, were named 2021-22 Peace Scholars by the U.S. Institute of Peace. They both received grants to continue their dissertation research. Ms. Prasai's research is on [female rebel involvement in the Nepali Civil War](#). Mr. Milliff's research regards the strategies people pursue to keep themselves safe [during complex, violent political events](#).



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## 2021 Ruina Dinner

Rose Gottemoeller, former Deputy Sec. Gen. of NATO, and the United State’s chief negotiator of the New START nuclear agreement with the Russian Federation, was the featured speaker at this winter’s Jack Ruina Nuclear Age Dinner. She spoke on “The Advent of Second-Strike Vulnerability and Options to Address It,” [an article she published in Texas National Security Review this year.](#)

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## Treaty of Tlatelolco makes its way to MIT

During a Wednesday Seminar in November, Prof. Arturo Sotomayor, of George Washington University, spoke on Mexico's nuclear power projects (and the problems they suffer from) and brought in an original copy of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which called for nuclear non-proliferation in North and South America. He is pictured here with Military Fellow Pete Atkinson.



## Thank you, Lynne

Please join the rest of us at SSP in wishing Lynne Levine a very happy retirement! After more than 30 years supporting our institute, Lynne will be moving on to the next stage in her life, one we are certain will be filled with the joy of singing and travel.



## Military Fellow field trip

Faculty, fellows, grads and staff from SSP all visited Minuteman National Park in November, part of a tour organized by this year's cohort of Military Fellows. Events included a musket demonstration and discussion of Colonial era tactics at battle sites in Lexington and Concord.

## Publications

["China's nuclear arsenal is growing. What does that mean for U.S.-China relations?,"](#) *The Washington Post: Monkey Cage*, Nov. 2021.

**M. Taylor Fravel**

["Private Eyes in the Sky: How Commercial Satellites Are Transforming Intelligence."](#) *Foreign Affairs*, Sept. 2021.

**Erik Lin-Greenberg**

["Trilateral Arms Control: A Realistic Assessment of Chinese Participation,"](#) The Stimson Center, Aug. 2021.

**David Logan (Stanton Fellow)**

["Facts Shape Feelings: Information, Emotions, and the Political Consequences of Violence."](#) *Political Behavior*, Vol. 43, Oct. 2021.

**Aidan Milliff**

[“A new transatlantic division of labor could save billions every year!”](#) *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, Sept. 2021.

**Barry Posen**

[“More deferential but also more political: How American’s views of the military have changed over 20 years.”](#) *War on the Rocks*, Oct. 2021.

**Robert Ralston (Statecraft Fellow)**

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## Multimedia

**LISTEN:** Olga Oliker (Alumni) appeared on [“The Week Ahead in Russia”](#) produced by Radio Free Europe.

**WATCH:** Taylor Fravel [joined Tong Zhao for a conversation on rising nuclear tension](#) between the U.S. and China. The talk was sponsored by the National Committee on US-China Relations.

**WATCH:** Eric Heginbotham presented on [Roles and Missions in the U.S.-Japan Alliance](#) for Sasakawa Peace Research Institute on Nov. 9.

**WATCH:** Davic C. Logan was a panelist for the event [“The U.S., China, and Nuclear Deterrence in the Hypersonic Era.”](#) hosted by the Jamestown Foundation on Dec. 1, 2021.

**WATCH:** Barry Posen participated in a debate on [“US Alliances: Fit for Purpose?”](#) at the “Realism and Restraint” Conference in DC on Nov. 3.

**WATCH:** Jim Walsh joins CBS’s Elaine Quijano to [discuss the future of the Iran Nuclear Deal.](#)

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## News

**Vipin Narang**

The first copies of Professor Narang’s new book are coming off the presses. Look out for “Seeking the Bomb” on January 11 from Princeton University Press. It is the first systematic look at the different strategies that states employ in their pursuit of nuclear

weapons.

### **Erik Lin-Greenberg**

Professor Lin-Greenberg is teaching wargames in one of his undergrad course: National Security Policy. For Fall 2021, the undergrads prepared and undertook a simulated NSC Principals Committee meeting where a massive cyberattack has turned the lights out in Guam and a ransomware attack has shut down key ports along the United State's West Coast.

Lin-Greenberg also presented two talks this fall, both based on research called "Cheap Tweets: Crisis Signaling in the Age of Twitter. The first was held at the University of Oslo in October, and the second was held at Georgetown University in November.

### **Eyal Hanfling** (PhD Student)

Hanfling was awarded a Human Rights & Technology Fellowship from MIT CIS.

### **Barry Posen**

Posen was an invited speaker at the Royal United Services Institute and Royal Navy Conference On Maritime Power and NATO. He spoke by Zoom on Nov. 15.

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## **Alumni News**



### **Alumni Spotlight: Tim Wright**

Tim Wright is the Director for Western Europe on the National Security Council, and a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army

[Read more](#)

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# Alumni Highlights

## **Rachel Esplin Odell** (PhD '20)

Now: U.S. State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research

Odell began a new position as a China analyst in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the State Department in August.

## **Dan Altman** (PhD '15)

Now: Georgia State University

Altman was awarded Best International Security Article, International Security Section, by the American Political Science Association. He won for [“The Evolution of Territorial Conquest after 1945 and the Limits of the Territorial Integrity Norm.”](#) *International Organization*, Vol. 74, Issue 3, Summer 2020, p. 490 - 522.

## **Tom Gordon** (Military Fellow 2011)

Now: Commandant of Cadets at The Citadel

[Gordon’s first book was released on Nov. 20, 2021.](#) *Marine Maxims* is a collection of fifty principled based leadership lessons acquired by commanding Marines for over 30 years.

## **Thomas Homer-Dixon** (PhD '89)

Now: Cascade Institute, Royal Roads University

Homer-Dixon released a new book, [Commanding Hope: The power we have to renew a world in peril.](#) He makes an argument for “reinvigorating our cognitive strengths and belief systems to affect urgent systemic change.”

## **Rachel Elizabeth Whitlark** (Stanton Fellow 2012-2013)

Now: Georgia Institute of Technology

Whitlark’s new book was released recently: [All Options on the Table: Leaders, Preventive War, and Nuclear Proliferation.](#) Cornell University Press, Studies in Security Affairs Series, 2021.

## **William James** (Grand Strategy Fellow 2018-2019)

Now: University of Oxford

[“Grand strategy and the challenge of change.”](#) *The Oxford Handbook of Grand Strategy*, ed. Ronald R. Krebs and Thierry Balzacq, Sept 2021.

## **Peter Krause** (PhD '11)

Now: Boston College

A book co-edited by Krause, [“Stories from the Field: A Guide to Navigating Fieldwork in](#)

[Political Science,](#) was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2021.

**Alan J. Kuperman** (PhD '02)

Now: University of Texas at Austin

["Bomb-grade uranium for Australian submarines?"](#) *Kyodo News*, op-ed, Nov. 11, 2021.

**Eric Labs** (PhD '94)

Now: Congressional Budget Office

["An Analysis of the Navy's Fiscal Year 2022 Shipbuilding Plan,"](#) Congressional Budget Office, Sept. 16, 2021.

**Andrew Miller** (PhD '20)

Now: United States Naval Academy

[Miller's dissertation](#) (chaired by SSP Faculty Roger Petersen) received the 2021 Best Dissertation award from the International Association for the Study of Organized Crime.

**Rachel Esplin Odell** (PhD '20)

Now: U.S. State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research

Odell began a new position as a China analyst in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the State Department in August.

**Reid Pauly** (PhD '19)

Now: Brown University

Cullen Nutt and Reid Pauly, ["Caught Red-Handed: How States Wield Proof to Coerce Wrongdoers,"](#) *International Security*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (Fall 2021).

**Jeremy Pressman** (PhD '02)

Now: UConn

["The False Promise of the Abraham Accords,"](#) *ForeignAffairs.com*, Sept. 15, 2021.

**Andrew Radin** (PhD '12)

Now: RAND Corporation

["China-Russia Cooperation: Determining Factors, Future Trajectories, Implications for the United States."](#) RAND Corporation, 2021

**Paul Staniland** (PhD '10)

Now: University of Chicago

Staniland released a new book in December: ["Ordering Violence: Explaining Armed Group-State Relations from Conflict to Cooperation."](#) Cornell University Press, (December



2021).

**David Weinberg** (PhD '12)

Now: Anti-Defamation League

[\*Peace and Tolerance Education in the Arab World Two Decades After 9/11\*](#). Tony Blair  
Institute for Global Change and ADL, September 2021.



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