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Early Warning

MIT Security Studies Program



Spring 2023

Quarterly
Newsletter

Don't miss SSP's reception at ISA!

SSP will hold a 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.

Alums and affiliates are welcome and may invite friends of the program. No RSVP is necessary. Contact Laura Kerwin with questions or concerns.



New Video Series:

'Strategic Advice' for PoliSci grad students



SSP has a brand new video series out! Written and produced by alum **Phil Haun**, "Strategic Advice" features interviews with SSP alumni offering advice to graduate students in political science and other related fields. Keep your eyes on Twitter and YouTube, where new episodes will be released every week.

[Watch on YouTube](#)

Seminar guest: Microchips are the new oil

On February 15th, Tufts Professor **Chris Miller** visited SSP for a Wednesday Seminar lecture. His talk focused on his popular new book: *Chip Wars*, which details the rise of microchips as a major strategic resource of the 21st Century.

[Watch on YouTube](#)



Catherine McArdle Kelleher (PhD '67)



January 19, 1939 — February 15, 2023

Catherine McArdle Kelleher was a groundbreaking scholar-practitioner in the international relations field. The founding president of Women in International Security, she was one of the first three women in the United States to earn PhDs in Security Studies, which she earned at MIT.

[A full remembrance is available here](#)

Save the Date: 2023 Doolittle Dinner



The 2023 Doolittle Dinner is almost here! This year's speaker will be Dr. Brian Weeden, Director of Program Planning for Secure World Foundation. Dr. Weeden has more than 20 years of experience in space operations and policy.

April 25th in Cambridge

Movie Nights are back at SSP

MIT SSP faculty, staff, students, and alumni are invited this spring to Movie Nights hosted by the **17.S952 Coercion & Deterrence Course**.

All are welcome and food and drink provided. Movies will be shown in the **Pye Conference Room**. Even if you've seen the movies before it's better watching them with people who understands what's going on. The next film will be shown:

May 3, Wednesday, 6:00 pm (Pye)

Wargames (1983)



Publications

"The Pentomic Division: A Cautionary Tale"

Thaddeus Drake (USMC Military Fellow)

Marine Corps Gazette, December 2022 (republication)

"Demystifying the 'gold standard' of arms export controls: US arms exports to conflict zones"

Jennifer Erickson (Affiliate)

Global Policy, February 2023

[“Crossing a Virtual Divide: Wargaming as a Remote Teaching Tool”](#)

Suzanne Freeman & Ben Harris (PhD Candidates)

PS: Political Science & Politics, February 2023

[“The First Battle of the Next War: Wargaming a Chinese Invasion of Taiwan”](#)

Eric Heginbotham (Principal Research Scientist) & Matthew Cancian (Alumni) (With Mark F. Cancian)

CSIS Report, January 2023

[“Review of *The Long Game: China’s Grand Strategy to Displace American Order* by Rush Doshi”](#)

Samuel Leiter (PhD Candidate)

H-War journal, November 2022

Commentaries

Interview: [“What’s behind the Chinese spy balloon?”](#)

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty)

The New Yorker, February 2023

[“The Dawn of Drone Diplomacy”](#)

Erik Lin-Greenberg (Faculty)

Foreign Affairs, December 2022

[“Russia’s Rebound: How Moscow Has Partly Recovered From Its Military Setbacks”](#)

Barry Posen (Faculty)

Foreign Affairs, January 2023

[“Preventative War”](#)

Barry Posen (Faculty)

Defense Priorities symposium, February 2023

[“The United States and Ukraine”](#)

Steve Van Evera (Faculty)

Defense Priorities symposium, February 2023

News

Linde Desmaele (Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow) [won the 2022 Grand Strategy PhD Prize.](#)

Joshua Schwartz (Grand Strategy Fellow) accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position in international relations at Carnegie Mellon University.

Mina Pollmann (PhD Candidate) was selected as a Presidential Management Fellowship finalist [by the Office of Personnel Management](#).

Barry Posen (Faculty) was the keynote speaker at “Reassessing America’s Alliances in a Changing World,” in February at William and Mary College.

Multimedia

Thaddeus Drake (Military Fellow) was featured on the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group podcast this quarter, in an episode titled “[The Fantasy of MCDP-1](#).”

Barry Posen (Faculty) was featured on the None of the Above podcast by the Eurasia Group Foundation. “[Episode 13: Defending Europe](#).”

Carol Saivetz (Senior Advisor) appeared in two MIT CIS Starr Forum events this quarter: “[Ukraine and Russia One Year On](#)” and “[An Update on Russia’s War Against Ukraine](#).”

Dr. Jim Walsh (Senior Research Associate) appeared on the [Chalk Talk Podcast](#) from MIT Open Courseware to talk about nuclear war.

Alumni highlights

Dan Altman (PhD) published “[The Psychology of Coercion Failure: How Reactance Explains Resistance to Threats](#)” with Kathleen E. Powers in the *American Journal of Political Science*.

Boaz Atzili (PhD) published “[Buffer Zones and International Rivalry: Internal and External Geographic Separation Mechanisms](#)” with Min Jung Kim in *International Affairs*.

Kevin Benson (Military Fellow) published “[Executive Compensation, Tech Transfer and National Security](#)” with Sanjai Bhagat and Brig. General Michael Brogan (USMC Ret.) in *Small Wars Journal*.

Matthew Cancian (PhD) released [a report about a series of wargames on a Chinese invasion of Taiwan](#) with fellow alumni Eric Heginbotham and Mark Cancian.

Gregory Koblentz (PhD) published “[Understanding Biosafety and Biosecurity in Ukraine](#)” in *Health Security* with Ryan S. Houser and Filippa Lentzos. He also published an op-ed in the New York Times with Rocco Casagrande titled: “[Biology is Dangerously Outpacing Policy](#).”

Peter Krause (PhD) published “The Strategies of Counter-Secession: How States Prevent Independence,” in *The Routledge Handbook on Self-Determination and Secession*.

Rachel Tecott Metz (PhD) published “[The Cult of the Persuasive: Why U.S. Security Assistance Fails](#)” in *International Security*.

Aidan Milliff (PhD) published “[What Indians think about China, and the border clashes](#)” in the Washington Post with fellow alum Paul Staniland. He also received the 2022 Award for Best Paper within the APSA Conflict Processes Section for “[Making Sense, Making Choices: How Civilians Choose Survival Strategies During Violence.](#)”

Rachel Esplin Odell (PhD) published “‘Struggle’ as Coercion with Chinese Characteristics: The PRC’s Approach to Nonconventional Deterrence” in [Modernizing Deterrence: How China Coerces, Compels, and Deters](#).

Reid Pauly (PhD) published “[The Psychology of Nuclear Brinkmanship](#)” in *International Security* with Rose McDermott, and spoke about the article on Brown University’s [Trending Globally Podcast](#). He also published “[Don't Be So Confident in Nuclear Decision-Making](#)” in Lawfare.

David Pendall (Military Fellow alum) assumed a new role as Government Advisor for the Defense Science Board.

Sara Plana (PhD) was selected as the 2023 CNAS Shawn Brimley Next Generation National Security Fellow. She was also selected for the Aspen Security Group Rising Leaders Program Class of 2023.

Jeremy Pressman (PhD) published “[Profile: The Diffusion of Global Protests after George Floyd’s Murder](#)” in *Social Movement Studies* with Elannah Devin.

Paul Staniland (PhD) published “[Strategy, Secrecy, and External Support for Insurgent Groups](#)” in *International Studies Quarterly* with Avinash Paliwal.

David Weinberg (PhD) recently finished serving as a Senior Professional Staff Member at the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, drafting several major sections of the Committee’s final report. He is now a policy advocate at [Protect Democracy](#), where his work focuses on ensuring that federal elections are free, fair, and secure.

Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch (PhD) published “[Democracy at Risk? Assessing Israel’s Democratic Backsliding](#)” in Middle East Brief 150, published by the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University.

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