



Fall 2024 Quarterly Newsletter



### SSP announces transformative gift

MIT's Security Studies Program has received a \$45 million gift from The Stanton Foundation to expand its leading work on the vital issue of global nuclear security.

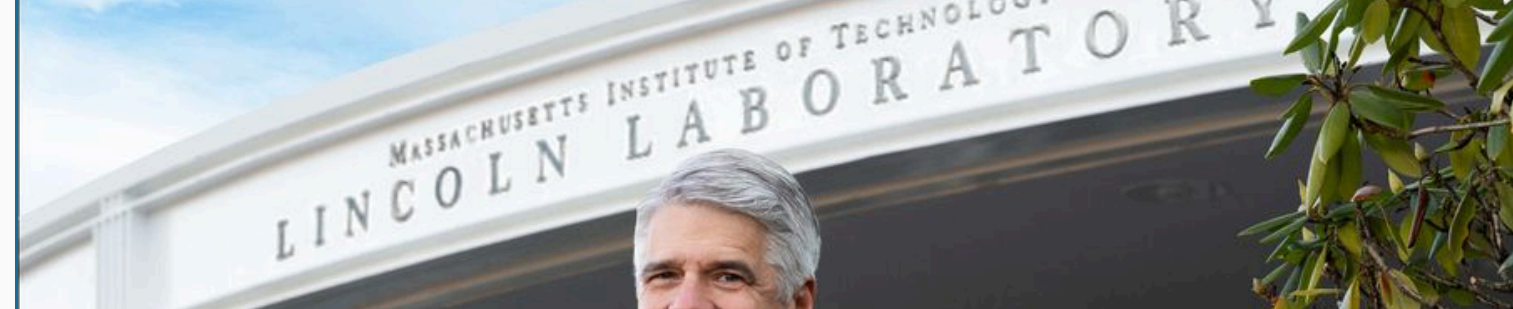
Read the full MIT News story



### Wargaming Lab hosts first Summer Institute and Nuclear game

In June 2024, the MIT Wargaming Lab organized a wargame that modeled a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

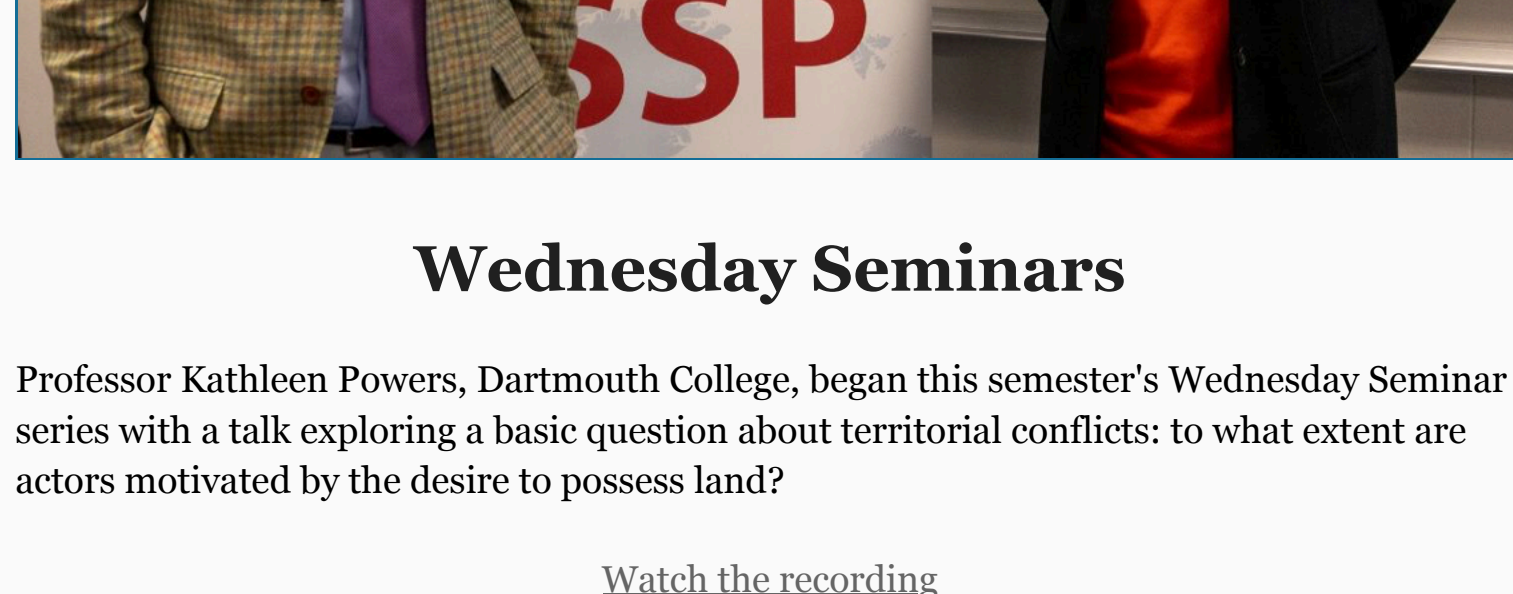
The Wargaming Lab also hosted its first Summer Wargaming Institute in July/August 2024, providing training on wargame design to two dozen attendees from academia and government.



### Eric Evans joins SSP as senior fellow

Eric Evans joins SSP as a senior fellow after stepping down as director of MIT Lincoln Laboratory on July 1, 2024, after 18 years.

Read his full bio



### Wednesday Seminars

Professor Kathleen Powers, Dartmouth College, began this semester's Wednesday Seminar series with a talk exploring a basic question about territorial conflicts: to what extent are actors motivated by the desire to possess land?

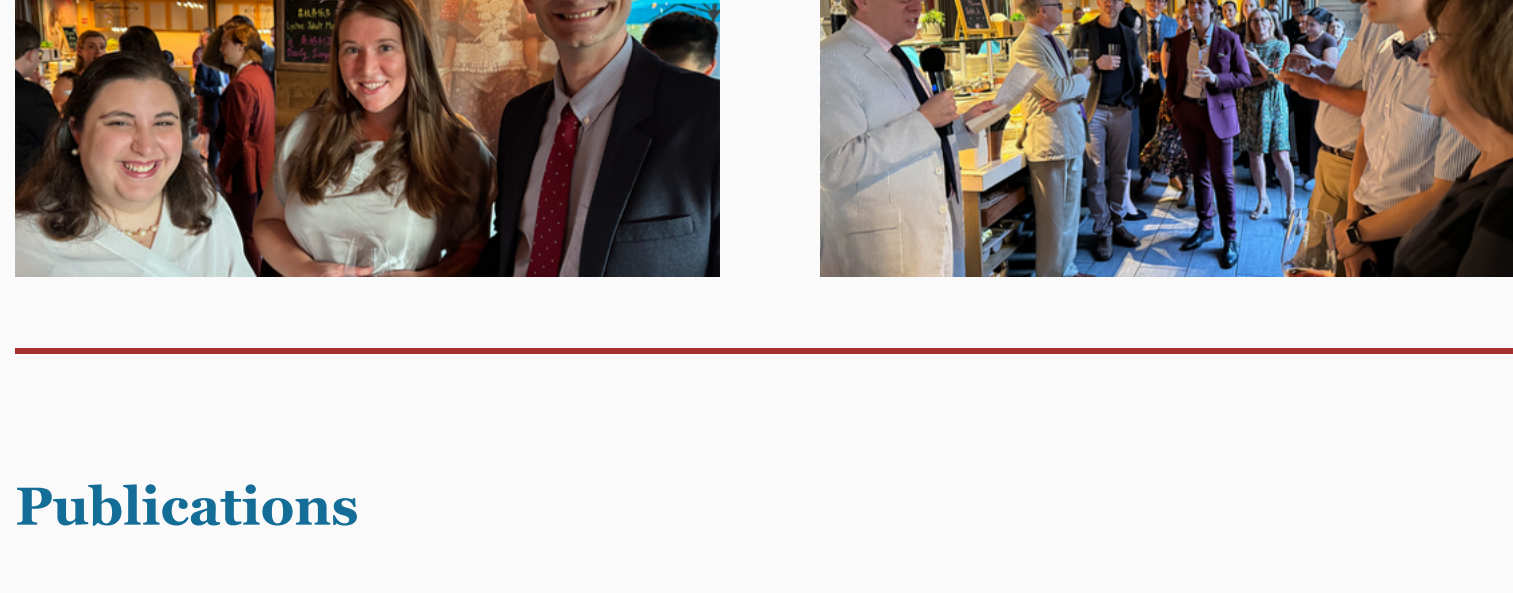
Watch the recording

The full schedule of seminars can be found here and will be broadcast live on our YouTube channel at 12:05pm.



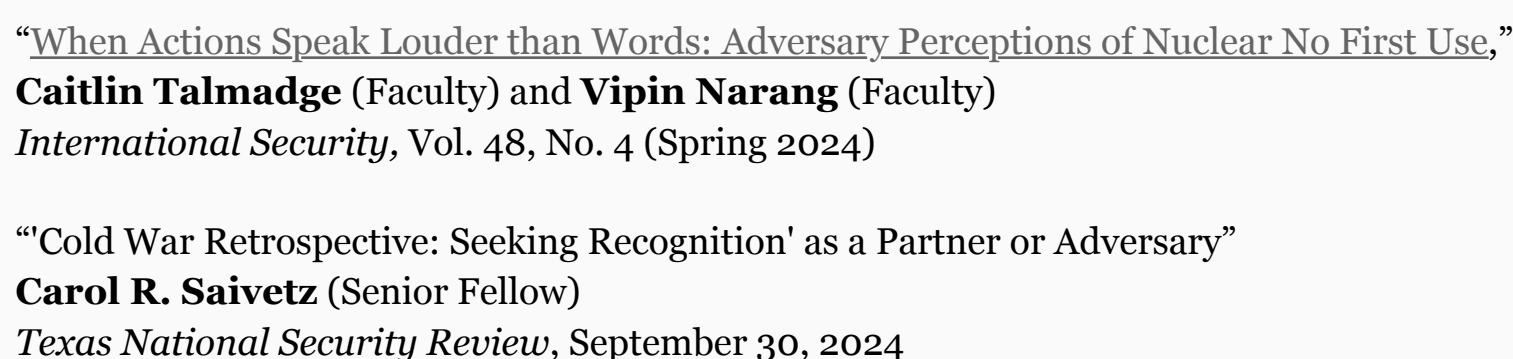
### Where Are They Now?

- Nicholas Ackert, Senior Associate and Deputy Director of Research and Analytics, The Asia Group
Nasir Almasri, Postdoctoral Scholar, Society of Fellows, Affiliate of the Department of Political Science, Boston University
John Minnich, Assistant Professor of International Relations, London School of Economics
Apekshya Prasai, Postdoctoral Research Associate in International and Public Affairs, Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs (AY 2024-2025), Assistant Professor in Political Science, Boston University (July 2025)



### Welcome to the 2024-25 academic year!

SSP welcomed its faculty, fellows, students, staff, and affiliates back to campus for the fall semester with a celebration lunch and then a dinner at Sumiao restaurant in Cambridge.



### Publications

'Organized Forced Migration, Past and Present: Gaza, Israel-Palestine and Beyond' Kelly Greenhill (PhD/Affiliate), POMEPS Studies, vol. 51: The War on Gaza and Middle East Political Science, April 2024

'China's Global Security Initiative at Two: A Journey, Not a Destination' M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty), China Leadership Monitor No. 80, Summer 2024

'Estimating China's Military Budget: How to Get it Wrong (and Right)' M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty), Eric Heginbotham (Faculty) and George J. Gilboy (CIS Affiliate), Texas National Security Review, Vol. 7, No. 3, Summer 2024

'When Actions Speak Louder than Words: Adversary Perceptions of Nuclear No First Use,' Caitlin Talmadge (Faculty) and Vipin Narang (Faculty), International Security, Vol. 48, No. 4 (Spring 2024)

'Cold War Retrospective: Seeking Recognition' as a Partner or Adversary' Carol R. Saivetz (Senior Fellow), Texas National Security Review, September 30, 2024

### Commentary

Kelly Greenhill (PhD/Affiliate) with Hugo Brady published 'Arriving at a Crossroads: Can Europe Avoid Replaying the Migration Policy Failures of The 2014-16 Migration Crisis?' in the Georgetown Journal of International Affairs in March 2024.

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty), Eric Heginbotham (Faculty) and George J. Gilboy (CIS Affiliate) published 'China's Defense Spending: The \$700 Billion Distraction' in War on the Rocks on September 2, 2024.

Caitlin Talmadge (Faculty) published 'How would Trump and Biden handle US nuclear policy upon reelection?' through Brookings Institution Election Explainer on July 8, 2024.

### Multimedia & Talks

Kelly Greenhill (PhD/Affiliate) gave a talk at MIT Lincoln Laboratory titled 'Wicked' Challenges in Migration Management: Weaponization, Politicization, and Hostile Influence Operations,' in May 2024 and at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting in Denver, CO in June 2024.

Peter Krause (Affiliate) is giving a three-part lecture series at MIT titled 'Israeli, Palestinian, and American relations: Now and in the future' which started on September 11, 2024.

Erik Lin-Greenberg (Faculty) gave a talk titled 'Canadian Defense and Security Network' in Ottawa, Canada on August 19, 2024.

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty) appeared on the Horns of a Dilemma podcast with Eric Heginbotham (Faculty), George Gilboy (CIS Affiliate), and Rick Landgraf for the episode titled 'Estimating China's Defense Spending: How To Get It Wrong (And Right)' on August 23, 2023.

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty) also spoke on the RSIS at NTU 'In Conversation Podcast' for the episode 'RSIS In Conversation with Professor Taylor Fravel' on September 2, 2024.

Carol R. Saivetz (Senior Fellow) gave a talk on June 21, 2024, titled 'The Impact of Ukraine on Russia's Policy in the Middle East' at the State Department for the Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

Richard J. Samuels (Faculty) appeared on a panel titled 'Japan's Intelligence Capabilities,' organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

### News

Eric Evans (Senior Fellow) was awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service on May 31, 2024, at a ceremony held at Lincoln Laboratory.

Kelly Greenhill (PhD/Affiliate) has been appointed as a Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow at the Niskanen Center in Washington, DC, effective August 2024.

Nick Blanchette, Eyal Hanfling, and Eleanor Freund (PhD Candidates) were all awarded a 2024-25 Peace Scholar Fellowship from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP).

Phil Haun (Affiliate) is the inaugural director of the US Naval War College Rosenberg Deterrence Studies Institute.

### Alumni Highlights

Nick Ackert (MS) gave a talk on potential areas of U.S.-China cooperation at the 21st China-U.S. Young Scholars' Dialogue co-hosted by the Stimson Center and the China Institute of International Studies.

Kevin Benson (Military Fellow) published 'Operational Level of War and Logistics,' with Jon Klug and Steve Leonard in Professionals Talk Logistics, and 'Expectation of Valor,' in Casemate Publishing.

Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch (PhD) published 'Rethinking Norm Change: Content and Structure in Norm Development, in Contesting the World: Norm Research in Theory and Practice,' in Cambridge University Press, and 'As Hamas war drags on, Israeli democracy weakens further' in The Conversation.

John Black (Military Fellow) completed Heroes & Horses 41-Day Program in Montana and Wyoming and participated on a panel by the Asia Pacific Security Innovation Forum titled 'Strategic Approaches: Balancing Support for Taiwan while Neutralizing China's Influence.'

Emma Campbell-Mohn (MS) gave a talk at the NATO Youth Summit in Miami, Florida. She also started a new position with the Architecture and System Engineering team with the Air Force C3BM PEO at HAFB.

Andrew Cesare Miller (PhD) published 'Silencing Citizens: How Criminal Groups Create Vacuums of Justice,' in Cambridge University Press, and 'Ukraine's Double-Edged Sword? The Dangers of Using Criminal Groups for National Defense,' in Journal of Illicit Economies and Development.

Thaddeus Drake (Military Fellow) was selected to Colonel within the United States Marine Corps. He also published with Derrick McClain (Military Fellow) 'Deviance and Innovation: Change in a "Society of Saints" in Joint Force Quarterly.'

Mayumi Fukushima (PhD) started a new position as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Politics (IR) at Bates College in August, and will teach two courses in the fall, Nuclear Politics and International Politics of East Asia.

James D. Kim (Stanton Fellow) was selected as a U.S.-Korea NextGen Scholar by the CSIS Korea Chair and the USC Korean Institute for 2024-2025.

Gregory Koblentz (PhD) with David Harnum and Rebecca Moritz published 'The Risky Researcher Act' Would do More Harm than Good' through STAT News. He appeared on CNN News for a section titled 'How it Really Happened: Anthrax Terror by Mail' and spoke to the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee on COVID-19, with a talk titled 'COVID-19 Origins: Examination of the Available Evidence.'

Alan Kuperman (PhD) gave a talk titled 'Muscular Mediation in Hagorno-Karabakh' at the PSA RC Colloquium in Chisinau, Moldova and a talk titled 'How 'Muscular Mediation' Ended Liberia's Long-Running Civil War' at the ASN World Convention co-hosted by Columbia University.

Eric J. Labs (PhD) testified on the Cost of the Coast Guard's Polar Security Cutter before the House Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security.

Cullen G. Nutt (PhD) published 'Vital and irreplaceable facilities: explaining leverage when states host great powers' spying operations' in Intelligence and National Security.

Paul van Hooft (Stanton Fellow) joined RAND Europe as a Research Leader in Defense and Arms Control. He published 'Deter, Compete, and Engage: Europe's Responsibility within the Arms Control Regime after Ukraine, with or without the United States' in The Future of Nuclear Arms Control: 75, and 'Anti-satellite warfare, proliferated satellites, and the future of space-based military surveillance' in Journal of Strategic Studies: 1-24 with Ivan Oehlich and Steve Biddle.

Sara Plana (PhD) assumed the role of Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense in June 2024. In this role, she advises the Deputy Secretary of Defense on defense policy, Combatant Commands, and intelligence matters.

Jeremy Pressman (PhD) published 'A Saudi Accord: Implications for Israel-Palestine Relations' in Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft and had several appearances: 'Bear Vision' for the episode 'The two-state solution - A way forward or more of the same,' 'Farallax Views w/ J.G. Michael' for the episode 'Israel/Palestine & the Myths and Realities of the 2000 Camp David Summit,' and 'The Nextest Normand Show' for the episode titled 'A ceasefire agreement won't solve the problems in the Middle East, but it would be a great first step.' He also gave a virtual panel with the Quincy Institute titled 'Will a Saudi-Israeli Normalization Deal Undermine Israeli-Palestinian Peace Efforts?'

Joshua Schwartz (Statecraft Fellow) published 'When Foreign Countries Push The Button' in International Security, 'The Nuclear Taboo Is a Myth' in Lawfare, 'What Iran's Drone Attack Portends for the Future of Warfare' in the Modern War Institute at West Point, and 'House of the Dragon Tells Us to Worry About More Than Dragons' at Good Authority with Nadiya Kostyuk.

Paul Staniland (PhD) published 'Stabilizing Civil Wars without Peacekeeping: Evidence from South Asia' in International Security.

Ketian Zhang (PhD) published 'Just Do It: Explaining the Characteristics and Rationale of Chinese Economic Sanctions' in Texas National Security Review.

