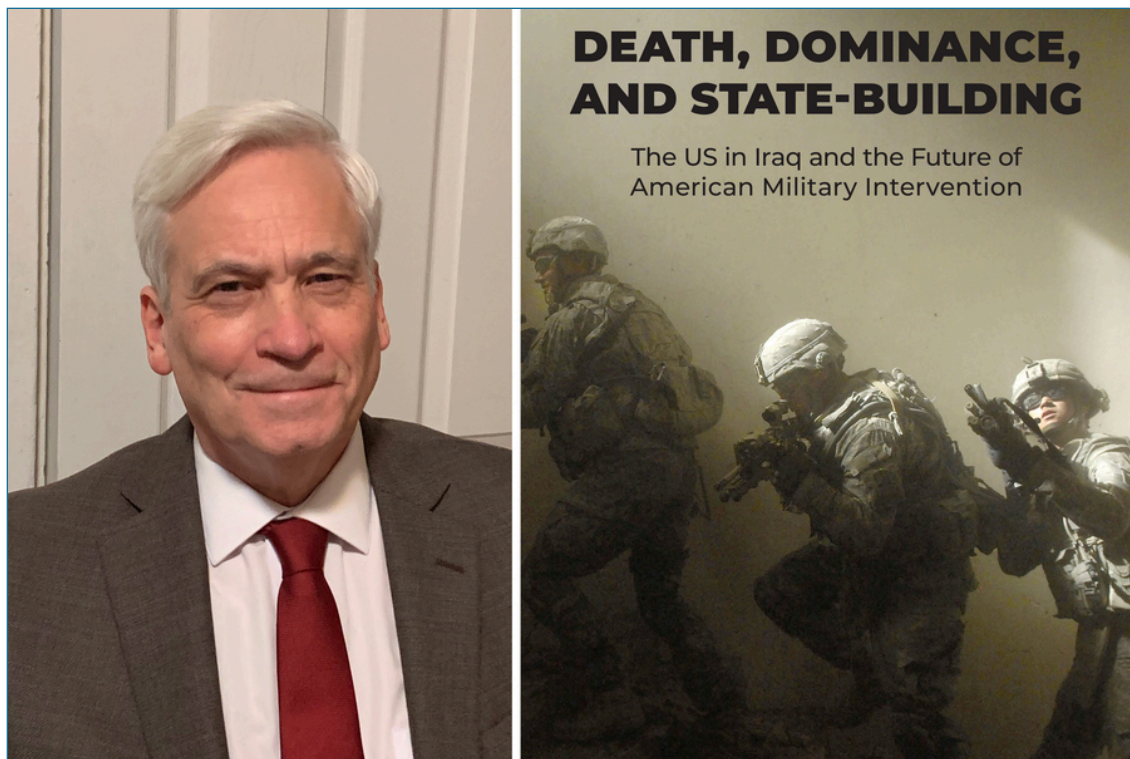


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Professor Roger Petersen's new book is a 'careful rethinking' of the Iraq War

MIT SSP faculty member Roger Petersen recently released a new book, published by Oxford University Press, on the US invasion and occupation of Iraq. *Death, Dominance, and State Building: The US in Iraq and the Future of American Military Intervention* dives into the sectarian tensions, ethno-religious dynamics, and local security developments that characterized this tumultuous period of Iraqi history and US foreign policy. Drawing on extensive field research and interviews with Iraqi and American personnel, Petersen illuminates many new sides of the occupation and explores how it

affected the prospects of future American efforts at counter-insurgency and state-building.

[Read more on MIT News](#) or [watch Petersen talk about his new book](#)



SSP's ISA Reception

SSP will hold an alumni reception on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at the ISA Annual Conference in San Francisco, California.

The reception will take place at the Cyril Magnin 1 room at the Parc 55 hotel from 8:00-9:00pm.

We hope to see you there!



SSP Wargaming Lab goes to Washington DC

The SSP Wargaming Lab hosted panelists Jude Blanchette (CSIS), Brad Martin (RAND), Emily Kilcrease (CNAS), and discussant Arthur Kroeber, along with SSP co-director Eric Heginbotham, for a discussion on wargames and economic statecraft. The event was held at the National Press Club on January 24th, and covered topics related to sanctions and economic competition.



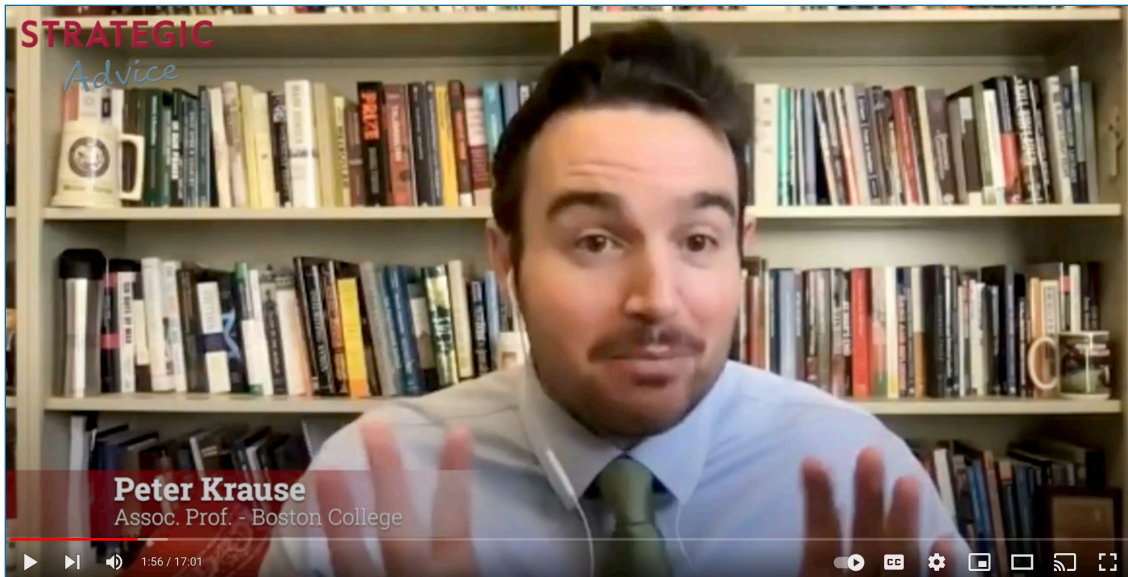
Join our Summer Wargaming Institute in 2024



SSP's Summer Wargaming Institute is a four-day "bootcamp-style" program hosted by the MIT SSP Wargaming Lab. The goal is to teach practitioners and scholars how to design and run wargames for research, training and analysis.

Applicants must be PhD candidates or junior faculty in international relations, political science or a related field, OR early-to-mid-career foreign policy/national security professionals.

[More information](#)



New episodes of Strategic Advice available

New episodes of Phil Haun’s web series, “Strategic Advice,” are now available on our YouTube page. Featuring alumni of SSP, each episode gives advice for newly-minted PhDs on everything from syllabus creation to one’s first job talk. Check out episodes, like the one above featuring alum Peter Krause, on our YouTube page.

[Click here to watch](#)

Publications

Death, Dominance, and State-Building: The US in Iraq and the Future of American Military Intervention

Roger Petersen (Faculty)
Oxford University Press, 2024

Death Dust: The Rise, Decline, and Future of Radiological Weapons

Sarah Bidgood (Stanton Fellow)
Stanford University Press, 2024
(with William C. Potter, Samuel Meyer and Hanna Notte)

“U.S. Military Theories of Victory for a War with the People's Republic of China”

Zachary Burdette (PhD Candidate)
RAND Research Report, 2024
(with Jacob L. Heim, Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga)

“Managing Escalation: Lessons and Challenges from Three Historical Crises Between Nuclear-Armed Powers”

Zachary Burdette (PhD Candidate)
RAND Research Report, 2024
(with Alexandra T. Evans, Emily Ellinger, Jacob L. Heim, Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga, and Lydia Grek)

[“Travel to allies or adversaries? A Compositional Analysis of U.S. Diplomatic Visits”](#)

James D. Kim (Stanton Fellow)

Social Science Quarterly, February 2024

(with Jonghoon Lee)

Multimedia & Commentary

Polina Beliakova (Brophy Fellow) wrote [“Security Sector Governance and Reform in Ukraine”](#) for the London School of Economics, Conflict and Civiness Research Group (with Sarah Detzner).

R. David Edelman (Affiliate) appeared on *Financial Times’ Tech Tonic* for a program titled [“AI with Military Characteristics.”](#)

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty) wrote [“China’s Misunderstood Nuclear Expansion”](#) in *Foreign Affairs* in November 2023 (with Henrik Stålhane Hiim and Magnus Langset Trøan).

Barry Posen (Faculty) wrote [“The Devastation of Gaza Was Inevitable”](#) in *Foreign Policy* in February 2024.

Carol Saivetz (Senior Fellow) joined Gautam Mukunda to discuss [“Can Ukraine keep up the fight against Russia, two years after the invasion?”](#) on GBH News on February 23, 2024.

Caitlin Talmadge (Faculty) contributed to [“The Israel-Gaza crisis”](#) for the Brookings Institution (with Jeffrey Feltman et al.).

Chikako Ueki (Visiting Scholar) presented at a Stimson Center Webinar titled [“Japan’s National Security Strategy: The Role of Alliance and Partnerships.”](#)

Jim Walsh (Senior Research Associate) was a guest on WBUR's *Here and Now* to discuss [“War in Israel: Military and diplomatic analysis”](#), [“What does the Israel-Hamas War mean for global stability?”](#), and [“Pakistan and Iran launch airstrikes at each other, raising regional tensions.”](#)

News

Sarah Bidgood (Stanton Fellow) presented [“Preparing for the Uncertain Future of U.S.-Russia Arms Control: A Food for Thought Paper”](#) at the Perry World House on January 19, 2024.

James D. Kim (Stanton Fellow) announced that he will be joining the Department of Political Science at the University of Washington as an Assistant Professor in September 2024.

Peter Krause (Affiliate) delivered a series of webinars on the Israel-Hamas War to the MIT Community, now available on YouTube: [Israel-Hamas War Series](#).

Alumni highlights

Kevin Benson (Former Military Fellow) appeared on Brian Sullivan and Scott Adams' *The Cure*, presenting "[Leadership and Planning](#)," as well as *General Planning Podcast* with COL Mark Lavin, presenting "[Fifth Army General Planning](#)," both in January 2024. Benson also wrote *Expectation of Valor: Planning for the Iraq War* for Casemate Publishers, to be published in July 2024.

David Burbach (PhD) has been named as Director of the new Space Studies Group at the Naval War College.

Daniel Byman (PhD) was quoted on NPR's *All Things Considered* on January 15, 2024, for a discussion of Israel's operations in the Gaza Strip.

Neta Crawford (PhD) was featured in *MIT News* on January 4, 2024, in an alumni profile discussing her research on the prevention of war, the costs of war, and strategies for peace and conflict resolution.

Thaddeus Drake (Former Military Fellow) wrote "[The Danger of Excessive Regulations](#)" in U.S. Naval Institute's *Proceedings*, published in March 2024.

R. David Edelman (Affiliate) wrote *Rethinking Cyber Warfare: The International Relations of Digital Disruption* for the Oxford University Press, to be published in April 2024.

Vanda Felbab-Brown (PhD) and Diana Paz García wrote "[Russia, Ukraine, and organized crime and illicit economies in 2024](#)" for the Brookings Institution, published on February 6, 2024.

Eugene Gholz (Research Affiliate) wrote "[The US Military Role in the Red Sea - Now Turning Offensive - Is a Bad Deal](#)" for the Cato Institute, published on January 12, 2024.

Se Young Jang (Former Stanton Fellow) has been selected as an EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow for her research project on the history between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the two Koreas.

Rachel Tecott Metz (PhD) and **Erik Sand** (PhD) wrote "[Defending Taiwan: But...What Are the Costs?](#)" in *Washington Quarterly*, published December 2023.

Aidan Milliff (PhD) wrote "[Making Sense, Making Choices: How Civilians Choose Survival Strategies during Political Violence](#)" in the *American Political Science Review*, and "[How do Civilians Respond to Political Violence](#)" in *Lawfare*, both published in November 2023.

Sara Plana (PhD), transitioned to a new role in January 2024 as Chief of Staff to the

Director of Defense Intelligence for Operational Support and International Partnerships at the Office of the Secretary of Defense. She also wrote “[Beyond Uniforms: The Case for a Defense Civilian Reserve Corps](#)” for the Aspen Institute, published November 2023.

Joshua Rovner (PhD) published “[History is Written By the Losers: Strategy and Grand Strategy in the Aftermath of War](#)” in the *Journal of Strategic Studies* in February.

Chuck Samaris (Former Military Fellow) has been called to serve as a Coach/Trainer for the Leader Training Program (LTP) supporting the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) in Hohenfels, Germany.

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