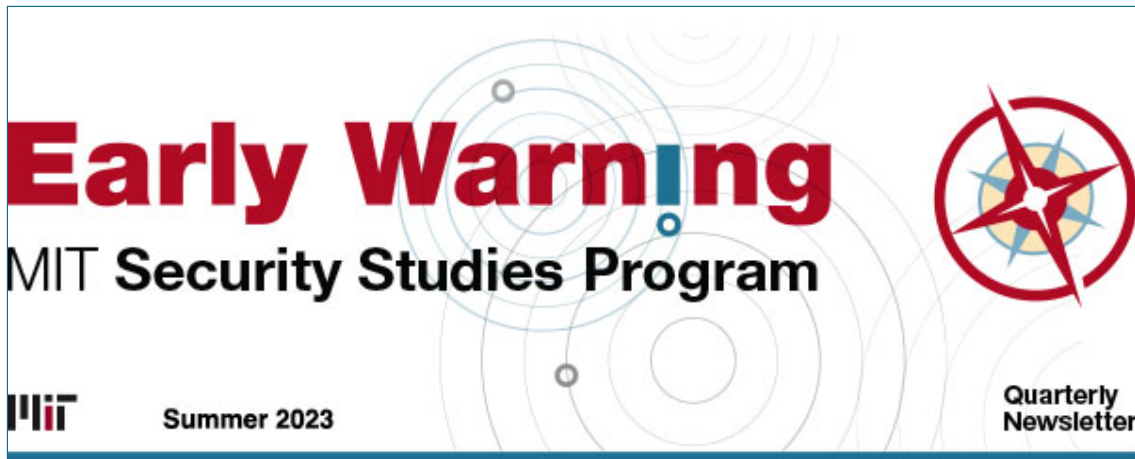


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Brian Weeden is 2023 Doolittle awardee



In April, SSP welcomed **Dr. Brian Weeden** as this year's recipient of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award. Weeden is the Director of Program Planning for the Secure World Foundation.

SSP presents the award every year thanks to **Pierre (MIT SB 1988) and Amy Chao's** generous support. It recognizes a person who has made significant contributions to the advancement of U.S. air power.

[Weeden's lecture on the "sustainability of space" is available here](#)

A thoughtful series of lectures on US-China relations



Recent lectures by five distinguished guests of SSP, including alumni **Jennifer Lind**, cover a wide-range of topics under the umbrella of US-China relations.

“Chinese internal security & Grand Strategy” – Sheena Greitens

“Chip War: The Fight for the World’s Most Critical Technology” – Chris Miller

“Chinese innovation and the global balance of power” – Jennifer Lind

“The technological 'de-coupling' of the US and China” – Jon Bateman

“Political Obstacles in the US-China Nuclear Relationship” – Tong Zhao

SSP field trip heads to the desert



SSP's 2023 field trip to the West Coast included a stop at the 3rd Fleet HQ at Naval Base Point Loma where they engaged with Vice Admiral Michael Boyle. They also toured the USS Somerset, an amphibious transport dock ship, visited Camp Pendleton, toured the USS Midway museum, and made a stop at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego (MCRD). The last adventure included a day at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, where Brigadier General Curt Taylor, the commanding officer of the NTC, briefed the group about the battle of Razish that they observed.



Excellence in Graduate Advising award

SSP faculty member **Professor Erik Lin-Greenberg** was awarded the Frank E. Perkins Award for Excellence in Graduate Advising in May.

This award, named in honor of Frank E. Perkins, Dean of the Graduate School from 1983-1995, is presented to one faculty member from each MIT school who, as a graduate student advisor, demonstrates unbounded compassion and dedication towards students.



Freeman awarded Guillemin prize



SSP PhD candidate **Suzanne Freeman** was one of two recipients of this year's Jeanne Guillemin Prize at the Center for International Studies (CIS). Her co-winner was **Mariel Garcia-Montes**.

The prize provides financial support to women studying international affairs, a field that has long been dominated by men. Guillemin, a veteran colleague at CIS, endowed the fund before her death in 2019. An authority on biological warfare, she exposed the Soviet Union's role in the 1979 lethal anthrax outbreak in the city of Sverdlovsk, now Yekaterinburg.

[Read more](#)

New YouTube series features alums with advice

A new video series created by SSP's Phil Haun is now live on our YouTube page!

Strategic Advice features conversational interviews with SSP alumni, who give advice to current and prospective PhD students focusing on political science.

[Watch here](#)



Publications

"The Argentella scandal: why French officials did not make Corsica a nuclear test site in 1960"

Austin Cooper (Stanton Fellow)
Nonproliferation Review, April 2023

"The Dynamics of an Entangled Security Dilemma: China's Changing Nuclear Posture"

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty)
International Security, Spring 2023
(with H. Stålhane Hiim and M.L. Trøan)

"Managing United States-China university relations and risks"

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty)
Science, April 2023
(with R. Lester, L. Tsai, S. Berger, P. Fisher, D. Goldston, Y. Huang, & D Rus.)

"Lessons in Sanctions-Proofing from Russia"

Caileigh Glenn (Statecraft Fellow)
The Washington Quarterly, April 2023

"Evaluating Escalation: Conceptualizing Escalation in an Era of Emerging Military Technologies"

Erik Lin-Greenberg (Faculty)
The Journal of Politics, ahead of print online

"The Decision for War (DfW) Game: The Role of Information on War Onset"

Phil Haun (Visiting Professor)
Journal of Political Science Education, March 2023
(with Michael O'Hara)

"Near-catastrophic victory: disregarded lessons from the six-day war"

Phil Haun (Visiting Professor)
Defence Studies, April 2023

“Madman or Mad Genius? The International Benefits and Domestic Costs of the Madman Strategy”

Joshua Schwartz (Statecraft Fellow)

Security Studies, May 2023

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.”

Taylor Fravel (Faculty) appeared on a panel organized by the Center for a New American Security. The panel was convened to discuss the center’s report on India-China border tensions.

Roger Peterson (Faculty) appears in a video recording of “The Iraq Invasion: Twenty years Later” at an MIT CIS Starr Forum.

Carol Saivetz (Senior Advisor) appeared on GBH News for a segment on Ukraine’s chances of succeeding at taking back Russian occupied territory.

News

Nick Ackert (PhD Candidate) received the 2023 Levitan Prize for excellence in teaching.

Zachary Burdette, Eleanor Freund, and Jung Jae Kwon (PhD Candidates) each received a pre-doctoral fellowship from the Harvard Belfer Center on International Security.

Nicholas Blanchette, Samuel Leiter, and Nina Miller (PhD Candidates) have accepted positions as summer associates at the RAND Corporation. **Blanchette** also received the Henry Morgenthau pre-doctoral fellowship from Notre Dame University, and **Leiter** received a fellowship from the Blakemore Freeman Foundation for a 10-month language program at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Studies.

Roger Peterson (Faculty) participated in two talks this quarter: “Iraq: 20 Years On” in Baghdad, Iraq, and “The Iraq Invasion: Twenty years Later” at an MIT CIS Starr Forum.

Barry Posen (Faculty) gave four lectures this quarter titled “The 2022 National Defense Strategy of the Biden Administration as Grand Strategy.” He presented the talks at: MIT Hillel in April; at the Dartmouth College and Stimson Center Conference in Washington DC in May; at MIT Lincoln Lab in May; and as an online talk for the MIT Alumni of Northern California in May.

Richard Samuels (Faculty) delivered the John W. Hall Memorial Lecture at Yale

University. The title of the lecture was "The Cost of 'Normalcy': Updating Japan's National Security."

Alumni highlights

Dan Altman (PhD) Received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor of Political Science at Georgia State University.

Noel Anderson (PhD) published "Pressed to Prolong: Conscription, the Costs of Military Labor, and Civil War Duration" in *International Studies Quarterly*.

Sean Atkins (PhD) became a non-resident fellow with the Atlantic Council's Cyber Statecraft Initiative.

Boaz Atzili (PhD) published "Buffer Zones and International Rivalry: Internal and External Geographic Separation Mechanisms" in *International Affairs*.

Kevin Benson (Former Military Fellow) published three pieces this quarter: "War in 2050: The Army's Operating Concept after Next" and "How will the war end? Thoughts on Ukraine, Russia and a theory of victory," with Modern War Institute; and "Executive Compensation, Tech Transfer, and National Security" in *Small Wars Journal*.

Eugene Gholz (PhD) was a guest on CATO's Power Problems podcast discussing "market adjustment and foreign policy failure," and had thoughts featured in the *Christian Science Monitor*.

William James (Former Statecraft Fellow) published "What is the British Army for?" in Engelsing Ideas and "Tailored, tokenistic, or too much? Assessing the Royal Navy's presence in the Indo-Pacific" for the Hague Center for Strategic Studies.

Gregory Koblentz (PhD) published "Global BioLabs 2023" as a report from King's College London, and "Understanding Biosafety and Biosecurity in Ukraine" in *Health Security*, among many other publications this quarter.

Peter Krause (PhD) published "The Strategies of Counter-Secession: How States Prevent Independence" in The Routledge Handbook on Self-Determination and Secession, and wrote "How Israel's New Government Will Challenge the Status Quo in Jerusalem" for the Middle East Brief.

Alan J. Kuperman (PhD) published "How Humanitarian Intervention Can Succeed: Liberia's Lessons for the R2P" in *Civil Wars*, and "Fixing a fatal, nuclear flaw in AUKUS" in Breaking Defense.

Jennifer Lind (PhD) was a guest on the "Power Problems" podcast at the CATO Institute, discussing "The Politics of the China Threat in East Asia." She also published "South Korea's Nuclear Options" in *Foreign Affairs* and "Japan Can't Pass the Buck Anymore" in the *New York Times*.

Rachel Tecott Metz (PhD Alumni) published "[Why Security Assistance Often Fails](#)" in *Lawfare Blog*.

Reid Pauly (PhD) published "[The Psychology of Nuclear Brinkmanship](#)" in *International Security*.

Jeremy Pressman (PhD) appeared on ABC (Australia) radio on Nightlife: "[How did the state of Israel come into being?](#)"

Josh Rovner (PhD) published "The Meaning of China's Nuclear Modernization," with Caitlin Talmadge in *Journal of Strategic Studies* (forthcoming). He also published two book chapters: "The Elements of an Intelligence Contest," [Deter, Disrupt, or Deceive: Assessing Cyber Conflict as an Intelligence Contest](#) and "Strategy and Grand Strategy in New Domains" in [New Makers of Modern Strategy](#).

Brian Taylor (PhD) Published "[Putin's War of Recolonization](#)" in *Journal of Democracy*.

David Weinberg (PhD) gave a lecture jointly hosted by MIT's Security Studies Program and MIT's Election Data and Science Lab regarding the national security implications of election fraud conspiracy theories.

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