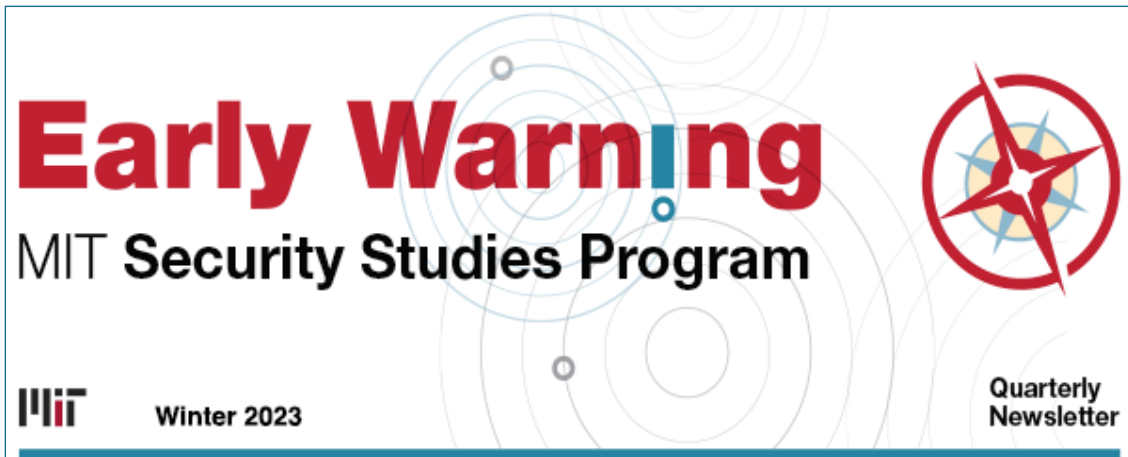


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Students, alums and colleagues celebrate ‘Posenfest’

SSP was honored to host a “Celebration of Barry Posen’s Scholarship and Contributions to Security Studies” in late September. Over 100 alumni, students, and colleagues gathered in Cambridge for a full day of programming dedicated to Professor Posen’s wide-ranging academic interests.



**Fall field trip features historical wargame and staff
ride of Lexington & Concord**



Students, faculty and SSP staff had their military decision-making skills put to the test by this year's cohort of Military Fellows in Lexington and Concord. The fellows planned the fall field trip around a wargame focused on those historic battle sites and then followed the wargame with a staff ride of the area.

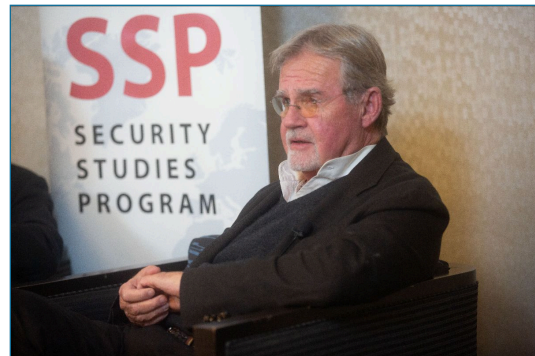


Ruina Dinner features ‘Oppenheimer’ author



Kai Bird, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and journalist, was the featured speaker at this year's Jack Ruina Nuclear Age Dinner.

He spoke on the relationship between the book *American Prometheus* and Nolan's film *Oppenheimer*, as well as the future story of the nuclear bomb, the changing role and stature of scientists, and the process of historiography.





Two staff members join Wargaming Lab

We're excited to welcome two new staff members to MIT SSP, where they will be supporting the new SSP Wargaming Lab. **Rodney Walkes** (left) is the lab's new administrative assistant. **Michael Aspinall** (right) is the lab's wargaming analyst and modeler.

MIT Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

POLICY ROUNDTABLE

January 24, 2024
National Press Club
Washington, D.C.
9:15am-12:30pm

The poster features a background image of a globe, stacks of gold coins, and a tank. The MIT logo is in the top left corner. The text 'POLICY ROUNDTABLE' is written diagonally across the left side. The event details are listed in the bottom left corner.

Roundtable: 'Gaming Economic Coercion'

Using wargames to understand economic statecraft

How will economic competition affect US - China relations? Under what conditions can economic statecraft escalate into military conflict? To what extent can sanctions and other economic measures shape state behavior and affect state power?

To explore these important questions, an expert panel will draw insights from recent wargames and crisis simulations, showing the valuable role of simulations in understanding contemporary economic issues.

Panelists:

Eric Heginbotham (MIT)

Jude Blanchette (CSIS)

Brad Martin (RAND)

Emily Kilcrease (CNAS)

Discussant: Arthur Kroeber

Seating is limited. Guests are required to RSVP.



Save the Date: 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.

More details will follow closer to the event - we hope to see you there!

Publications

“The Impact of Professional Training in Public and Policy Engagement”

Kathryn Urban (PhD Candidate)

Political Science & Politics, December 2023

(with J. Tama and M. R. Rublee)

“Europe's Evolving Role in US Grand Strategy: Indispensable or Insufferable?”

Linde Desmaele (Postdoctoral Fellow)

Routledge, 2023

“China's Potential Lessons from Ukraine for Conflict over Taiwan”

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty)

The Washington Quarterly, October 2023

“Tactical Air Power and the Vietnam War: Explaining Effectiveness in Modern Air Warfare”

Phil Haun (Affiliate)

Cambridge University Press, December 2023

“The Long-run Impact of Childhood Wartime Violence on Preferences for Nuclear Proliferation”

James D. Kim (Stanton Fellow)

Journal of Conflict Resolution, March 2023

“Presidential Hawkishness, domestic popularity, and diplomatic normalization”

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Presidential Studies Quarterly, November 2023

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“China's Potential Lessons from Ukraine for Conflict over Taiwan”

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty)

The Washington Quarterly, October 2023

[“Two Paths: Why States Join or Avoid China’s Belt and Road Initiative”](#)

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty)

Raymond Wang (PhD)

Nick Ackert (Alum)

Global Studies Quarterly, July 2023

(with Eleanor Atkins, Sihao Huang)

[“Tactical Air Power and the Vietnam War: Explaining Effectiveness in Modern Air Warfare”](#)

Phil Haun (Affiliate)

Cambridge University Press, December 2023

[“The Long-run Impact of Childhood Wartime Violence on Preferences for Nuclear Proliferation”](#)

James D. Kim (Stanton Fellow)

Journal of Conflict Resolution, March 2023

[“Presidential Hawkishness, domestic popularity, and diplomatic normalization”](#)

James D. Kim (Stanton Fellow)

Presidential Studies Quarterly, November 2023

Multimedia & Commentary

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

Charles Glaser (Senior Fellow) published [“The U.S. Nuclear Arsenal Can Deter Both China and Russia: Why America Doesn’t Need More Missiles”](#) in *Foreign Affairs* in October (with James M. Acton and Steve Fetter).

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

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

Jim Walsh (Senior Advisor) was a guest on WBUR’s *Here and Now* a few times to discuss [“War in Israel: Military and diplomatic analysis”](#) and [“What does the Israel-Hamas War mean for global stability?”](#)

News

Suzanne Freeman (PhD Candidate) participated in a Vilnius University event called “Popular Participation in Authoritarian Governance in the USSR” with her talk titled “First

Directorate on the Fringe: KGB Monitoring of the Lithuanian Diaspora” in October.

Eyal Hanfling (PhD Candidate) received the Schmidt Futures International Strategy Forum PhD Research Fellowship, which is awarded to candidates who engage in research and writing of a policy-relevant dissertation or paper related to the intersection of technology and foreign policy.

James D. Kim (Stanton Fellow) won the 2024 Patricia Weitsman Award for Outstanding ISSS Graduate Paper by ISA with his paper titled “Leaders' Childhood War Trauma and the Initiation of Militarized Disputes.”

Alumni highlights

Mark S. Bell (PhD) published “[The End of Inhibition? Why U.S. Nonproliferation Policy is Becoming Less Effective](#)” in *The Washington Quarterly* (with Kelso R. Anderson and Cheyenne Tretter).

Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch (PhD) moderated a panel discussion “[Can Arab-Israeli Peace be Expanded Despite an Intensifying Palestinian-Israeli Conflict](#)” and contributed to “[After the Israel-Hamas War: Likely Scenarios and Outcomes for Israelis and Palestinians](#)” (with Shai Feldman) at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University. She was also appointed as a Research Fellow for her sabbatical year at the International Security Program, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University.

Daniel Byman (PhD) published several articles in *Foreign Policy* and *Foreign Affairs* including “[Are Ukraine's Airstrikes in Russia Effective](#),” “[What Israel Will Face in Gaza](#),” and “[The Israel-Hamas War Has Entered a 'New Phase.' Here's What to Expect.](#)”

Jonathan D. Caverley (Affiliate) published “[Horses, Nails, and Messages: Three Defense Industries of the Ukraine War](#)” in *Contemporary Security Policy* and “[AUKUS: When naval procurement sets grand strategy](#)” in *International Journal*. He also wrote an article for *War on the Rocks* “[One Size Fits None: the United States Needs Multiple Defense Industrial Strategies](#)” (with Ethan Kapstein and Jennifer Kavanagh), appeared on the *Sea Control Podcast*, and was quoted in *Forces News*.

Rachel Esplin Odell (PhD) received the U.S. Department of State’s Superior Honor Award.

Eugene Gholz (Affiliate) participated in a plenary debate, “U.S. Foreign Policy and Strategy,” at the Mont Perlerin Society annual meeting in New Hampshire in November. He also presented the keynote address to the 2023 Republic of Korea Army Forum in Seoul, South Korea, speaking on “The Military Response to Technological Innovation.”

Paul Heer (Former Wilhelm Fellow) wrote two pieces for *The National Interest*: “[Hostility Between the United States and China Looks Increasingly Inescapable](#)” and “[Washington's Willful Blind Spot on China](#).”

Renanah Joyce (Affiliate) published “[The Market for Foreign Bases](#)” in *Security Studies*

(with Brian Blankenship).

Gregory D. Koblentz (PhD) published “[Beyond Gain of Function: Strengthening Oversight of Research with Potential Pandemic Pathogens](#)” in *Pathogens and Global Health* (with Rocco Casagrande). He also appeared as a panelist on “[Advancements and Challenges in Biosafety and Biosecurity Oversight in the United States](#)” with the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

Alan J. Kuperman (PhD) published “[AUKUS Submarine Revelations Compel a Rethink](#)” with the Australian Institute of International Affairs and “[U.S. Plan to Put Weapons-Grade Uranium in a Civilian Reactor Is Dangerous and Unnecessary](#)” in *Scientific American*.

Eric J. Labs (PhD) published a report with the Congressional Budget Office, “[An Analysis of the Navy's Fiscal Year 2024 Shipbuilding Plan](#).” He also appeared on “[Reviewing the U.S. Navy's Current Shipbuilding Plan](#)” on the *Cavasships Weekly Podcast*.

Jennifer Lind (PhD) published “[Japan's Nuremberg: The Toyko Trial and the Birth of Postwar Liberalism](#)” in *Foreign Affairs*. She also spoke at the Mt. Fuji Dialogue, a forum in Tokyo for American and Japanese scholars and policymakers.

Aidan Milliff (PhD) published “[Descriptive Representation and Conflict Reduction: Evidence from India's Maoist Rebellion](#)” in *Journal of Peace Research* (with Drew Stommes) and “[How Do Civilians Respond to Political Violence?](#)” in *Lawfare*.

Kacie Miura (PhD) published two articles: “[Strongman Politics and China's Foreign Policy Actors: Explaining Maritime Assertiveness Under Xi Jinping](#)” in *International Affairs* and “Agents of Punishment? Local Leaders and Economic Coercion in China” in *International Security*.

Olga Oliker (PhD) was a guest on *The Week Ahead in Russia* on RadioFree Europe to discuss “['Stalemate' and Upheaval](#).” She also was a guest on *Hold Your Fire* with the International Crisis Group to discuss “[Gaza, Ukraine and An Inflection Point in World Politics](#).”

Jeremy Pressman (PhD) published a piece for *Informed Comment*, “[Israelis and Palestinians: It will be Worse Next Time](#),” where he discusses his forthcoming article with Ehud Eiran: “US recognition of Israeli territorial claims in the Golan and Jerusalem: Implications for the norm against acquisition of territory by force.” He also presented two talks on Israel and Palestine at UConn-Hartford and Central Connecticut State University.

Joshua Shifrinson (PhD) published “[The Long Unipolar Moment? Debating American Dominance](#)” in *Foreign Affairs* (with Anne-Marie Slaughter, Bilahari Kausikan, Robert Keohane, Stephen G. Brooks, and William C. Wohlforth). He also wrote a piece on “[What Washington Got Wrong About NATO expansion in the 1990s](#)” for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Ketian Zhang (PhD) published a book “[China's Gambit The Calculus of Coercion](#)” with Cambridge University Press.

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