

Center for International Studies

The [Center for International Studies](#) (CIS) has been a leading venue of global research and education since its founding in 1951. The center emphasizes knowledge creation and real-world experience to solve global problems, and it has excelled in problem solving on issues of national security, international political economy and technology, the Middle East, South Asia, East Asia, and other areas. The work and expertise of CIS-affiliated scholars inform public opinion, government decision makers, international organizations, and the MIT community. Dozens of programs, projects, and the individual output of faculty, staff, and graduate students are reflected in research, public outreach, and publications. The Security Studies Program (SSP) is widely recognized as a leader in its field, generating important insights into international security issues and training graduate students for influential careers in academia, government, business, and civil society organizations. The MIT Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI), the center's international education program for MIT students, is a pioneering effort that has brought the world to 2,500 students through laboratory internships abroad and educational events on campus. Several other research and education programs contribute to MIT's long-standing emphasis on creation of knowledge for the public good.

Richard J. Samuels, Ford international professor of political science, has directed the center for 14 years with the active participation of about 20 faculty and researchers and 40 staff, along with numerous distinguished affiliated scholars, graduate students, and practitioners. Political science professor Stephen Van Evera is associate director, and John Tirman is executive director.

CIS's innovative exploration of international issues enriches MIT, the nation, and the world. Several of the year's highlights follow.

- The inaugural year of the Stanton chair in the Department of Political Science brought professor Francis Gavin to the Security Studies Program. Gavin became the first holder of the Stanton chair in January. The Stanton Foundation has provided the endowment for the chair and for postdoctoral fellowships to support scholars working on nuclear weapons issues.
- A major conference on East Asian security, sponsored by Japan's Foreign Ministry, was convened by Professor Samuels and associate professor Taylor Fravel at Endicott House in late winter.
- In a ceremony in Washington, DC, in November, MISTI was presented the Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award for Campus Internationalization by NAFSA: Association of International Educators.
- CIS hosted Peter Mauer, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and colleagues for an open seminar on the new technologies of war and recovery and how they affect civilians. Presenting were professor emeritus Harvey Sapolsky; Marc Zissman, associate director of Lincoln Laboratory's Cyber Security and Information Sciences Division; and Lena Andrews, an SSP doctoral student.

- A Starr Forum convened leading analysts on the “Snowden effect,” the revelations about National Security Agency (NSA) activities and their implications for global security. Speakers included ambassador Chas Freeman, New York Times editor Susan Chira, and former NSA chief counsel Joel Brenner.
- Ford international professor of political science Barry Posen published a major work, *Restraint: A New Foundation for U.S. Grand Strategy* (Cornell University Press), and made numerous media appearances to discuss the book’s themes.
- Ranil Wickramasinghe, former prime minister of Sri Lanka and current opposition leader in parliament, served as a Robert Wilhelm Fellow in the spring. Yukio Okamoto, former adviser to Japan’s prime minister, continued as a Wilhelm Fellow throughout the year.
- CIS began work on the International Policy Lab, which seeks to bring the fruits of research to a broad public policy audience. Associate professor of political science Chappell Lawson is directing this groundbreaking effort.
- MISTI’s Global Seed Funds program expanded again, offering new funds through MIT-Chile and MIT-Mexico. A total of 17 funds are now available.

We note, with sadness, the passing of two long-time colleagues. Sharon Stanton Russell, who earned her PhD at MIT under the late Myron Weiner, was director of the Inter-University Committee on International Migration, hosted by CIS, for many years and was a leading migration scholar. JoAnn Carmin, associate professor in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning since 2003, was the founding director of the center’s Program on Environmental Governance and Sustainability. She consulted widely on environmental issues and was recognized as an exceptionally innovative scholar and practitioner. Both will be missed.

Security Studies Program

The Security Studies Program is a graduate-level research and education program; its senior research and teaching staff includes social scientists and policy analysts. A special feature of the program is the integration of technical and political analyses of national and international security problems. Security studies is a recognized field of study in the Department of Political Science, where courses emphasize grand strategy, causes and prevention of conflict, military operations and technology, and defense policy. Professor Posen is director of the program.

Two new books were published by SSP faculty: Barry Posen’s *Restraint: A New Foundation for U.S. Grand Strategy* and Vipin Narang’s *Nuclear Strategy in the Modern Era: Regional Powers and International Conflict* (Princeton University Press).

SSP held its fifth Ruina Nuclear Age Speaker Series dinner in March, with guest speaker Robert Jervis, the Adlai E. Stevenson professor of international politics at Columbia University. Professor Jervis spoke on the topic “Why We Should Be Puzzled About Nuclear Weapons.”

SSP held its 21st James Doolittle Awards Dinner in April, in memory of General James “Jimmy” Doolittle SM ’24, PhD ’25, an American war hero and aviation pioneer. The 2014

recipient of the James H. Doolittle award for contributions to the study of US air power was General Janet C. Wolfenbarger, commander, Air Force Materiel Command. General Wolfenbarger's acceptance speech was titled "Embrace Challenges as Opportunities."

SSP held a special seminar series on Central and South Asia (*After 2014: What Next for Central and South Asia?*) focusing on the complex geopolitics of Central and South Asia as the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) withdraw their troops. The speakers and topics in the series were as follows:

- Matthew Waldman, research fellow, Belfer Center, Harvard University: "Fatally Flawed? Deconstructing US Policy-Making on Afghanistan" (October 13)
- Stephen Blank, senior fellow, American Foreign Policy Council: "The Future of Russo-Chinese Competition in Central Asia" (November 19)
- Vipin Narang, assistant professor of political science, MIT Security Studies Program: "The Impact of U.S. Drawdown on India-Pakistan Relations" (February 18)
- Pauline Jones Luong, professor, Political Science Department, University of Michigan: "Prospects for Political (In)Stability in Central Asia" (March 6)
- Bakyt Beshimov, CIS research affiliate: "Strength of the Weak: How Central Asian States Manipulate Great Powers Rivalry" (April 10)

Sustaining a long tradition, SSP continued the Wednesday Seminar Series, which offers talks on topics relevant to national defense and international relations, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Russian energy policies, Iranian nuclear policy, terrorism, radicalization of Muslims in Europe, the problem of religion and war, the defense industry, humanitarian intervention, military technology and transformation, and military history. Speakers included academics, military officers, government officials, and journalists. Brigadier General Michael Wehr, an SSP military fellow alum, was the final speaker in the series. He spoke on the topic "'Secure, Hold, Build' – What's the Impact of Building Infrastructure during Ongoing Evolution of Diplomatic, Informational, Military and Economic Conditions in Afghanistan?"

SSP publishes an annual report; a seminar summary series (SSP Wednesday Seminars); a quarterly digital newsletter, *Early Warning*; and a working paper series. Program research is built around the interests of the faculty, the dissertations of the graduate students, and occasional commissioned projects. Key research areas are the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, change and stability in Asia, US foreign and defense policy, and internal conflict.

Researchers working in the area of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are exploring the underlying logic of current nonproliferation strategies, particularly with regard to Iran and North Korea and in terms of resource allocation and counterproliferation policies.

Those studying change and stability in Asia are examining how China will manage active territorial disputes. Particular issues include the role of nationalism in shaping China's foreign policy, the implications of China's growing engagement within the Asian region, and securing Japan.

Those working in the area of US foreign and defense policy are examining the US strategy for global engagement and states at risk. Topics include the nature and limits of US military power, the future of conventional warfare, reassessments of the US grand strategy, and the US resource allocation process.

Researchers focusing on internal conflict are examining identity politics, particularly with regard to political violence, civil war, counterinsurgency, and postconflict reconstruction.

The program has added new visiting fellows in addition to the military fellows who rotate annually from the US armed services. The Stanton Foundation has awarded funds to support several scholars on nuclear issues and a chair in political science. The program just completed its second year of the fellowship, which included one junior faculty fellow and two postdoctoral fellows. As noted, Francis Gavin joined SSP as the first holder of the Stanton chair in January.

The program receives major support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Stanton Foundation, and the Frankel (MIT) Global Policy Fund, among other foundations and donors. In January, the program received one-year awards from Lincoln Laboratory and Draper Laboratory.

MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives

MISTI creates international opportunities for MIT students and faculty through student internship, research, and teaching programs; faculty seed funds; international events on campus; and partnerships with companies, research institutions, universities, and government agencies around the world.

MISTI continued to expand geographically this year by creating new pilot internship programs in Australia and New Zealand, Canada, and Portugal and new faculty seed funds for Chile and Mexico.

As noted above, MISTI was presented the Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award for Campus Internationalization in a November 2013 ceremony in Washington, DC.

MISTI Student Programs

MISTI offers MIT undergraduate and graduate students opportunities to intern, research, or teach abroad. These experiences are provided at no cost to the students. Students prepare for their placements through MIT courses in the language, history, and politics of the host country and predeparture sessions organized by MISTI staff.

In 2013–2014, MISTI placed 799 students abroad, a 21.8 percent increase over the previous period. Of these placements, the majority (67 percent) were internships or research opportunities in companies, research institutions, or university laboratories. Another 102 students (12.7 percent) taught science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects to foreign high school students in Independent Activities Period (IAP) Global Teaching Labs, while 47 students (5.8 percent) taught STEM subjects and entrepreneurship during the summer through the China Educational Technology Initiative (CETI) and the Global Startup Labs (GSL) program. Fifteen students had

been placed with the Middle East Education through Technology (MEET) program when MISTI canceled the program due to heightened security concerns in Israel. Five students received MISTI 2.0 grants to build on their earlier MISTI internships through subsequent short-term projects abroad over IAP. The remaining placements were various opportunities made possible through MISTI. Overall, 2013–2014 MISTI student placements were as follows:

- 538 internships
- 102 Global Teaching Labs
- 62 summer teaching opportunities (CETI, MEET, Accelerating Information Technology Innovation)
- 5 MISTI 2.0 projects
- 54 short-term research projects
- 33 workshops
- 3 study abroad projects
- 1 graduate school placement
- 1 full-time placement

MISTI now offers these student experiences abroad through 18 country programs, five country-program pilots, and several cross-MISTI initiatives.

MISTI Global Seed Funds

The MISTI Global Seed Funds program enables MIT faculty and research scientists to launch early-stage international projects and collaboration with colleagues abroad. Through an annual call for proposals, the program awards funds that can be used for international travel and meetings with international colleagues. Grantees are expected to involve MIT undergraduate and graduate students in their projects. The program comprises a general fund for projects in any given country and several country funds for projects in a particular country.

In 2013–2014, MISTI created new funds for Chile and Mexico, bringing the total number of funds available to 17. MISTI received 166 applications from faculty and research scientists in 24 MIT departments and awarded 67 projects a total of \$1.5 million.

Other Programs

In partnership with the Office of Digital Learning, MISTI created the MISTIx ambassador program. During their internships, MISTIx ambassadors reach out to the individuals, institutions, and companies they work with to promote and gather feedback about MITx and edX. Twenty-one MISTIx ambassadors were named in 2013–2014.

MISTI's country programs this year offered dozens of events on international topics in politics, culture, science, technology, history, industry, and the humanities for the MIT community. As a part of its predeparture training programs for outgoing students, MISTI created three MISTI-wide training sessions open to the MIT community:

Building Cross Cultural Awareness (in partnership with the Anthropology program); Health, Safety and Security (in partnership with MIT Medical and the Program for Violence Prevention and Response); and Understanding Global Innovation Economies (in partnership with the MIT Innovation Initiative). MISTI furthered its collaboration with the MIT Innovation Initiative by promoting a summer independent study course facilitated by the initiative.

In addition to programs for MIT students and faculty, MISTI continues to develop the Empowering the Teachers program, which brings junior African computer science and electrical engineering faculty to MIT to study pedagogical approaches in their discipline that might be adapted in their home countries. MISTI hosted 13 Empowering the Teachers fellows in 2013–2014.

Personnel Notes

MISTI welcomed three new program managers: Ema Kaminskaya, MIT-Russia; Erika Korowin, MIT-Chile, and Molly Schneider, MIT-France.

Yasheng Huang, international program professor in Chinese economy and business at the Sloan School of Management, was named faculty director of the MIT-China Program.

Program on Emerging Technologies

The multidisciplinary Program on Emerging Technologies (PoET) examines the nature and effects of emerging technologies, conducts research on key areas of uncertainty on these issues, and offers recommendations for improving the capacity of public and private institutions to address risks in the face of irreducible uncertainty. The program applies theories and methods from the discipline of political economy to issues in science and technology policy. It is headed by Kenneth Oye, former CIS director and associate professor of political science and engineering systems.

PoET was launched with funding from a National Science Foundation (NSF) Integrative Graduate Educational and Research Training (IGERT) grant to integrate research and training for doctoral students from the Department of Political Science, the Engineering Systems Division, and the Program in Science, Technology, and Society. Over the past five years, PoET has focused on advanced biotechnologies. One set of projects centers on addressing environmental and security implications of synthetic biology in partnership with the MIT Synthetic Biology Center, the NSF Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center, and the Woodrow Wilson Center. Other projects focus on improving the integration of information on safety, efficacy, and effectiveness into licensing of pharmaceuticals in partnership with the MIT Center for Biomedical Innovation (CBI) and the European Medicines Agency.

Synthetic Biology

The trademark of PoET's work on synthetic biology is the use of practical efforts addressing risks associated with applications of synthetic biology as testbeds for research on risk governance and policy recommendations.

- *Environmental testbed*: NSF commissioned PoET and the Woodrow Wilson Center to identify environmental effects of synthetic biology, flag sources of uncertainty over effects, and generate a research agenda to address critical sources of uncertainty. The project is supported jointly by three units within NSF, the Division of Cellular and Molecular Biology, the Division of Environmental Biology, and the Engineering Directorate. In 2013–2014, the research agenda was developed through consultations involving, among others, synthetic biologists, evolutionary biologists, and regulators. In workshops held in January 2014, four applications of synthetic biology were used as prompts: endonuclease gene drives for editing genomes of plant and animal populations in the wild (Wyss Institute), nitrogen fixation in nonlegumes (MIT Synthetic Biology Center), luminescent *Arabidopsis* (Kickstarter Glowing Plants), and bioremediation and waste treatment in copper mining (Universal Biomining). Key policy-relevant gaps in knowledge were identified with an emphasis on interaction across fitness, evolutionary stability, and gene transfer. Outputs include a 30-page monograph, “Creating a Research Agenda for Ecological Implications of Synthetic Biology,” and forthcoming articles in the *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences* (“Shaping Ecological Risk Research for Synthetic Biology”) and *Science* (“Regulating Gene Drives”).
- *Security and safety testbed*: PoET worked with the International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition (iGEM), the UN Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit, Public Health Canada, and SGI-DNA to screen over 200 iGEM team projects, train iGEM faculty and students on safety and security practices, and screen more than 20,000 parts in the Standard Registry of Biological Parts. This work offered a research side benefit, as project screening provided an empirical basis for characterizing cross-national differences in safety practices and identifying gaps in international agreements and national regulations that govern transfer of biological materials. Moreover, parts screening provided an empirical basis for evaluating the need for development of international standards for characterizing the function of biological parts as well as organisms of origin. An article resulting from these efforts, “Designing Safety Policies to Meet Evolving Needs: iGEM as a Testbed for Proactive and Adaptive Risk Management,” is forthcoming in *ACS Synthetic Biology*.

Pharmaceuticals

In 2013–2014, work with CBI and the Tufts University Medical School focused on reform of systems for evaluating the safety, efficacy, and cost effectiveness of pharmaceuticals. This project integrates PoET research on adaptive environmental, health, and safety regulation under conditions of uncertainty and complexity and proposals from senior leaders of the European Medicines Agency, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Health Canada on progressive licensing of drugs. A highlight of the work was publication of “A Proposal for Integrated Efficacy-to-Effectiveness (E2E) Clinical Trials” in *Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*. The paper recommends ways of moving more rapidly from conventional trial-based information on the safety and efficacy of drugs to evaluations of the effectiveness of drugs in use.

Dietary Standards: Trans Fats

At times, technologies applied to address problems produce adverse side effects. PoET has been developing a body of cases to better understand how to improve the detection of such adverse effects and the adjustment of policies to take account of emerging information. Lawrence McCray and Kenneth Oye produced a case study on the long lag between research on the adverse effects of trans fats conducted from 1957 to 1975 and 1989 to 1991 and adjustments in FDA policies on labels in 2003 and safety in 2013 and 2014. The case study was a highlight of symposia held at University College London, EPFL, and the University of Illinois.

Policy Outreach

To engage with relevant policy communities, PoET presents its research in meetings with significant governmental and intergovernmental representation, including meetings organized by the **American Association for the Advancement of Science**, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the National Research Council (NRC), the European Union, and the International Risk Governance Council. In addition, PoET convenes small closed meetings and workshops to encourage candid discussion. For example, PoET organized a closed meeting on synthetic biology security issues at MIT with the participation of the FBI, the Departments of Defense and State, Lincoln Laboratory, the UN Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit, and Public Health Canada. Also, in 2013–2014, PoET director Oye served on the NRC Board on Global Science and Technology and the NRC Committee on Ethical Implications of Security Applications of Emerging Technologies.

Seminar XXI: Outreach to the Washington Policy Community

For more than two decades, CIS has hosted Seminar XXI, an educational program for senior military officers, government officials, and executives in nongovernmental organizations in the national security policy community. The program provides future leaders of that community with the analytic skills needed to understand other countries and foreign relations in general. A cohort of about 90 meets throughout the academic year in Washington, DC, and northern Virginia.

Fellows learn to recognize the assumptions that underlie assessments of foreign societies and to explore policy issues critical to American interests through a variety of lenses. At each session, eminent speakers present alternative perspectives from which to understand a given country or problem. The fundamental criterion for choosing fellows is that they currently hold or are expected to hold top posts in the military or government within the next three to five years.

The program just completed its 28th year and now has more than 2,000 alumni. Robert Art, Christian A. Herter professor of international relations at Brandeis University and an SSP senior fellow, directs Seminar XXI.

Persian Gulf Initiative

Begun in 2005, the Persian Gulf Initiative conducts research on the political and security dynamic of the Gulf, with special reference to US policy in the region. It has convened

about a dozen research workshops, commissioned a mortality survey in Iraq, published articles and books, and undertaken public education. It is headed by John Tirman, principal research scientist and CIS executive director.

In 2013–2014, the initiative continued its major work on US-Iran relations by publishing *U.S.-Iran Misperceptions: A Dialogue*, coauthored and coedited by Dr. Tirman and Dr. Abbas Maleki, former deputy foreign minister of Iran and a CIS Robert Wilhelm Fellow in 2011–2012. Several other Americans and Iranians contributed. The book was published in March by Bloomsbury Press. In preparation for a conference on the Tehran Declaration, a nuclear materials negotiation among Iran, Brazil, and Turkey, Dr. Tirman interviewed Brazil's defense minister, Celso Amorim, and other officials in Brasilia and consulted with colleagues in Istanbul.

The crisis in northern Iraq stirred renewed interest in civilian vulnerabilities to the ravages of war, and Dr. Tirman's 2011 book, *The Deaths of Others: The Fate of Civilians in America's Wars*, led to a number of media interviews, including an article and on-air segment on WBUR, one of Boston's public radio stations. Tirman also co-organized a conference with the International Civil Society Action Network and CIS senior fellow Sanam Naraghi regarding violent extremism in the Middle East and South Asia, held at Endicott House in September.

Public Programs

In 2013–2014, CIS continued to foster a very active public education program—lectures, seminars, films, and other events that drew in both the MIT community and a broad swath of the greater Boston community. The center's Starr Forums and public lectures continued to offer events on pressing global issues with leading academics, policymakers, and journalists. The events were well attended by the MIT community and beyond, and the dialogues were spirited and informed. Videos of the events are posted on TechTV, MIT's video page, the CIS website, and YouTube. When possible, CIS involves like-minded organizations on campus and the local community, as well as local media outlets. Starr Forums included the following:

- “The ‘Snowden Affair’: Intelligence and Privacy in a Wired World” (with Admiral William Fallon, former head of CENTCOM; Susan Chira, *New York Times* assistant managing editor; Chas Freeman, retired career diplomat, ambassador, and assistant secretary of defense; and Joel Brenner, former NSA senior counsel)
- “Japan’s Continuing Nuclear Nightmare” (with Ken Buesseler, senior scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; Patrick Stackpole, US Army, retired; Professor Samuels; and Professor Oye)
- “Syria: A Just War?” (with Professor Posen; Jeanne Guillemin, senior advisor, MIT Security Studies Program; and Augustus Richard Norton, professor of international relations and anthropology at Boston University)
- “The Rise of China” (with Professor Fravel; Tatsuhiro Tanaka, Japan Self Defense Force, retired; Ezra Vogel, professor emeritus, Harvard University; Douglas Paal, vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace;

Yukio Okamoto, CIS Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow and former special advisor to the prime minister of Japan; and Professor Samuels)

- “Ukraine: What’s Next?” (with John Herbst, director of the Center for Complex Operations at the National Defense University and the former ambassador to Ukraine; Eugene Fishel, division chief in the Office of Russian and Eurasian Analysis, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State; Oxana Shevel, associate professor of political science, Tufts University; and Carol Saivetz, visiting scholar in the MIT Security Studies Program)
- “Indian Ocean: The Vortex of Destiny” (with Ranil Wickremesinghe, CIS Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow and former prime minister of Sri Lanka, and Professor Oye)

Multiple book talks were held, including talks (with their respective authors) on *Strange Rebels: 1979 and the Birth of the 21st Century* (Christian Caryl); *The Passion of Chelsea Manning: The Story behind the Wikileaks* (Chase Madar, with comments from Institute Professor Noam Chomsky); *Conservative Internationalism: Armed Diplomacy under Jefferson, Polk, Truman, and Reagan* (Henry R. Nau, with comments from Professor Van Evera); and *Time to React* (Heidi Hardt).

Art was again used as a means to increase awareness of global issues. CIS featured two film screenings: *The Day That Lasted 21 Years* (with Camilo Tavares, director, and comments from Ben Schneider, Ford international professor of political science and director of the MIT-Brazil Program) and *The Network* (with Eva Orner, director, and comments from Fotini Christia, associate professor of political science), a documentary set behind the scenes at the largest television network in one of the most unstable and dangerous places on earth, Afghanistan.

In addition to film, the program hosted a photo exhibit, “Syria: The Mainstream Media and Its Role in the War,” featuring the works of war photographer Jonathan Alpeyrie. Alpeyrie’s career, which stretches over a decade, has brought him to more than 25 countries and nine conflict zones, mostly in East Africa, the South Caucasus, the Middle East, and central Asia. In spring 2014, while in Syria, he was taken hostage for 81 days by Syrian rebels.

The program continued to use social media, including Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter, to help publicize the center’s work. Also, *précis*, the CIS biannual newsletter, was published both in print and on the web.

Finally, the program extended its public reach by launching “Generation Global,” a new initiative that focuses on connecting MIT students with local high school students and facilitating problem-based learning centered on global issues. The pilot program will officially launch in summer 2015.

Seminar Programs

Myron Weiner Seminar on International Migration

The Weiner series honors the late Myron Weiner, former CIS director and one of the world’s leading migration theorists. The series is organized by the Inter-University

Committee on International Migration, which includes representatives from six area colleges and universities: Tufts University, Harvard University, Brandeis University, Boston University, Wellesley College, and MIT. This year's seminars included:

- Alexander Betts (lecturer, University of Oxford), "Survival Migration: Failed Governance and the Crisis of Displacement"
- Jeanne Penvenne (associate professor, Tufts University), "International Migration, National Migration and Urban Migrants: Women in Southern Mozambique, 1945–1975"
- Albert Saiz (associate professor, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning), "Immigrant Locations and Native Residential Preferences in Spain: New Ghettos?"
- John R. Harris (professor, Boston University) and Daivi Rodima-Taylor (visiting researcher, Boston University), "Seeking Harmony between the Formal and Informal: Integrating Migrant Remittances for Post-Conflict Development"
- Jennifer Leaning (professor, Harvard School of Public Health), "Syrian Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon: Current and Looming Problems"

Joint Seminar on South Asia

The South Asia seminar organized by CIS, Harvard University, and Brown University continued under the co-direction of Professor Narang. Speakers and topics were as follows:

- Pradeep Chhiber (professor, University of California, Berkeley), "Mobilizing Identities: Religious Practice and Political Action in India?"
- Maya Tudor (university lecturer, University of Oxford), "The Promise of Power: The Origins of Democracy in India and Autocracy in Pakistan"
- Daniel Markey (senior fellow on South Asia, Council on Foreign Relations), "No Exit from Pakistan: America's Tortured Relationship with Islamabad"
- Gary Bass (professor, Princeton University), "America, India, and the War for Bangladesh"
- Christine Fair (assistant professor, Georgetown University), "Fighting to the End: The Pakistan Army's Way of War"
- Karthik Muralidharan (associate professor, University of California, San Diego), "The State and the Market in the Delivery of Primary Education in India: Theory and Evidence"
- Pratrap Mehta (president, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi), "India's Political Economy: Towards a New Framework"
- Lakshmi Iyer (associate professor, Harvard Business School), "Politician Identity and Religious Violence in India"

Bustani Middle East Seminar

The Bustani Seminar, organized and hosted by associate provost Philip Khoury, features leading scholars and practitioners speaking on issues pertaining to Middle East politics. In 2013–2014, four speakers were featured:

- Hussein Ibish (senior fellow, American Task Force on Palestine), “Is Syria Being ‘Lebanized’ or Is Lebanon Being ‘Syrianized’?”
- Tarek Masoud (associate professor, Harvard Kennedy School of Government), “Was the Arab Spring Just a Moment?”
- Hugh Roberts (professor and director, Middle Eastern Studies Program, Tufts University), “The Ides of April: The Presidential Succession Crisis and the Dilemmas of the Algerian Oligarchy”
- Ali Banuazizi (professor and director, Program in Islamic Civilization & Societies, Boston College), “The Nuclear Agreement with Iran and Its Ramifications for the Regional Politics of the Middle East”

Working Groups

Working groups have long been a key part of CIS’s portfolio. These groups, are organized by graduate students (with a faculty sponsor), meet regularly on topics of their design. In 2013–2014, they included the following:

- Political Science Graduate Student Work-in-Progress Group
- IR Student Work-in-Progress Group
- Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Working Group
- Global Sustainability Working Group
- Working Group on Women in International Security
- Working Group on the Strategic Use of Force
- Chinese Politics Research Workshop
- Nuclear Politics Working Group
- Latin American Working Group

CIS Advisory Board

The center has an advisory board of distinguished scholars, business executives, diplomats, and civil society leaders to help provide guidance and outreach. It is chaired by Admiral William J. Fallon, a former CIS Robert Wilhelm Fellow who retired from the US Navy after a distinguished 40-year career that included stints as head of the Pacific Command and the Central Command of the US armed forces. The members are Mary Boies, an attorney and government adviser; Jon Borschow, a businessman based in Puerto Rico and an MIT alumnus; Susan Chira, deputy managing editor of the New York Times; Chas W. Freeman, Jr., former US ambassador to Saudi Arabia; M. Shafik Gabr, the Cairo-based head of a major investment group; Alexis F. Habib, managing

director of Spinnaker Capital Limited, London; Dana Mead, former chairman of the MIT Corporation; Yukio Okamoto, former adviser to the Japanese government; John Reed, retired chairman of Citigroup, MIT alumnus, and chairman emeritus of the MIT Corporation; Siddharth C.R. Shriram, an industrialist based in New Delhi; Jeffrey L. Silverman, a graduate of the Sloan School at MIT and a commodities trader in Chicago; Anthony Sun, a high-technology entrepreneur in Silicon Valley who earned degrees in engineering at MIT; and Thomas Wolf, a political science PhD from MIT and a Pennsylvania businessman who served in governor Edward Rendel's cabinet.

Affirmative Action Goals

The center seeks to guarantee equality of opportunity in employment and to increase the representation and participation of minorities and women in management and in administrative and technical staff positions. To that end, we have adopted a rigorous search process for new positions in which we post our job listings on websites that serve underrepresented populations, and we seek the help of MIT Human Resources recruiters in identifying qualified applicants from underrepresented groups.

Richard J. Samuels
Director

Stephen Van Evera
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