

Center for International Studies

Established in 1951, the [Center for International Studies](#) (CIS) is one of the premier organizations of its kind, a leading venue of global research and education. The relevance of the center's work for problem solving on issues of security, international political economy and technology, the Middle East, and other areas is reflected in dozens of programs and projects as well as the efforts of faculty and staff through research, public outreach, and publications. The MIT Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI), the center's international education program for MIT students, is a pioneering effort that has helped bring the world to 3,000 students through internships abroad and educational events on campus.

Richard J. Samuels, Ford International Professor of Political Science, has directed the center for 15 years with the active participation of about 30 faculty and researchers, 40 staff, and 30 graduate students along with numerous distinguished affiliated scholars and practitioners. The center's associate director is Ford International Professor of Political Science Stephen Van Evera, and the executive director is Dr. John Tirman. CIS's innovative exploration of international issues enriches MIT, the nation, and the world. Several of the year's highlights follow. New initiatives on East Asian security issues were mounted, including a major conference, a working group, a writing project of Wilhelm Fellow Paul Heer, and the arrival of Asian security scholar Eric Heginbotham as principal research scientist.

- In conjunction with MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL), Wilhelm Fellow Joel Brenner organized a series of policy workshops with leading technologists from industry, government, and academia on the security of critical infrastructure.
- Work of the Program on Emerging Technologies (PoET) on adaptive management of benefits and the risks of biotechnology was published in *Nature*, *Science*, and *Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*, with invited presentations to the White House, the National Intelligence Board, and the National Academy of Sciences, among others.
- The International Policy Lab (IPL), in its second year, fielded its first open call for proposals and supported 13 of them (in areas such as environmental science, energy, and Middle East politics) from across the MIT campus.
- The MISTI Global Seed Funds (GSF) program awarded funding to 86 projects. This cycle's winning faculty members and research scientists represent four schools and 22 departments across the Institute.
- Professor Barry Posen has been appointed Henry A. Kissinger Chair in Foreign Policy and International Relations at the Library of Congress John W. Kluge Center, and Associate Professor of Political Science Taylor Fravel has been named a Carnegie Fellow.
- Meera Srinivasan, formerly a senior assistant editor with *The Hindu*, served as the 2015–2016 International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) Elizabeth Neuffer

Fellow at the center. The award is offered through IWMF and sponsored in part by CIS.

- The center's Starr Forums continued to inform and enliven broad audiences at MIT and online, with speakers such as author Ayaan Hirsi Ali, human rights activist Sarah Leah Whitson, and Jennifer Leaning, an advocate for refugees.

MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives

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

In addition to its 20 country programs, MISTI continued to grow through pilot internship programs in the United Kingdom and Jordan this year. The Global Teaching Labs (GTL) program added opportunities in Brazil, Chile, Jordan, and Scotland. The MIT Global Startup Labs (GSL) program ran workshops in Algeria, Mongolia, Peru, and South Africa, and GSF introduced new funds for Brazil, Germany, Israel, and Peru.

Sean Gilbert, managing director of the MIT-China Program, received an MIT Excellence Award in March 2016. Griselda Gomez, managing director of the MIT-Mexico Program and MISTI Health and Safety lead, was awarded a School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) Infinite Mile Award in May.

MISTI Student Programs

MISTI offers MIT undergraduate and graduate students opportunities to intern, research, and 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 a series of not-for-credit training modules developed by MISTI staff.

In 2015–2016, MISTI placed 992 students abroad, a 12% increase over the previous period. Of these placements, the majority were internships or research opportunities in companies, research institutions, or university laboratories. The GTL program sent 196 students over the Independent Activities Period (IAP) and during the summer to Armenia, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Korea, Mexico, Scotland, South Africa, and Spain to teach STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) subjects. In addition, 46 students taught STEM subjects and entrepreneurship during the summer through the China Educational Technology Initiative (CETI), GSL, Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow (MEET), and MIT-AFRICA teaching programs in Nigeria and Ghana. Four 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, 2015–2016 MISTI student placements were as follows:

- 517 internships (companies, research institutions, nongovernmental organizations, government agencies, universities)

- 196 Global Teaching Labs
- 51 teaching programs in Nigeria and Ghana (CETI, GSL, MEET, MIT-AFRICA)
- 4 MISTI 2.0 projects
- 74 short-term research projects
- 67 workshops
- 5 study abroad projects
- 2 graduate school/postdoc placements
- 16 externships
- 4 training programs

MISTI now offers these student experiences abroad through 20 country programs, two country-program pilots, and several cross-MISTI initiatives.

MISTI Global Seed Funds

The GSF program enables MIT faculty and research scientists to launch early-stage international projects and collaboration with colleagues abroad. Through an annual call for proposals, GSF 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. GSF comprises a general fund for projects in any given country and several country funds for projects in a particular country.

In 2015–2016, MISTI created new funds for Brazil, Germany, Israel, and Peru, bringing the total number of funds available to 24. MISTI received 244 applications from faculty and research scientists in 22 MIT departments and awarded 90 projects a total of \$2.1 million.

Other Programs

This year MISTI expanded its partnership with the MIT Innovation Initiative by sending three full-time iDiplomats to Mongolia, in addition to the 25 part-time iDiplomats serving in other countries. During their internships, these students engage with regional/national innovation ecosystems and meet with alumni and others in the region to continue their in-the-field analyses. These experiences allow students to forge relationships with leaders in government, the corporate sector, entrepreneurship, risk capital, and academia.

MISTI's country programs offer dozens of events on international topics in politics, culture, science, technology, history, industry, and the humanities for the MIT community. This year, as a part of its pre-departure training programs for outgoing students, MISTI created general training sessions covering, among other areas, health, safety, and intercultural communication.

Personnel Notes

MISTI welcomed a new MIT-Russia Program manager, Ekaterina Zabrovskaya, as well as program assistants Sarah Craver, Molly Gallagher, and Tanya Raymond.

William Aulet (managing director of the Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship and senior lecturer in the MIT Sloan School of Management) was named faculty co-director of the MIT Global Startup Labs program. Eric Klopfer (professor and director of the MIT Scheller Teacher Education Program) and Scot Osterweil (creative director of the Education Arcade and a research director in the MIT Comparative Media Studies/Writing program) became faculty director and co-director, respectively, of the Global Teaching Labs program. Philip Khoury (Ford International Professor of History and associate provost) was named faculty director of the MIT-Arab World Program. Associate Professor of Political Science J. Chappell H. Lawson completed his fourth year as MISTI director.

Security Studies Program (SSP)

The Security Studies Program (SSP) is a graduate-level research and education program; its senior research and teaching staff include 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. Ford International Professor of Political Science Barry Posen is director of the program.

On November 2, 2015, SSP co-sponsored (with the MISTI-Israel Program) a special seminar with speaker Miri Eisin, former colonel in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Her talk was titled "Israel: Security and Safety, Challenges and Opportunities." On November 12, SSP held a special seminar titled "View from the National Intelligence Council: Current Issues in National Security" featuring Dr. Gregory Treverton from the National Intelligence Council.

SSP held its Ruina Nuclear Age Speaker Series dinner on November 19; the guest speaker was Ambassador Wendy Sherman, former undersecretary of state for political affairs. The topic of her presentation was "Negotiating Change: The Iran Nuclear Deal."

On April 5, 2016, a special seminar was held for SSP graduate students, military fellows, and faculty with guest speaker Brigadier General Tzvika Chaimovich, the commander of the IDF air defense forces. The general recently oversaw the Israel-US joint Juniper-Cobra exercise and is responsible for the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow systems.

On April 21, SSP held its Doolittle Award dinner. The Honorable William LaPlante, former assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition and current vice president of the MITRE Corporation, was presented with the 2016 Doolittle Award. Dr. LaPlante's acceptance speech was titled "Perspectives on Defense Acquisition, Technology Superiority and Adaptability for Our Military."

Also on April 21, SSP held a special seminar, "Sierra Hotel: Flying Air Force Fighters in the Decade After Vietnam," with a presentation by US Air Force Colonel Dick "Lucky" Anderegg.

In addition, SSP held a seminar series, “Focus on Russia,” that considered a number of current issues in Russian politics and society:

“A New Russian Ideology: Forceful but Uncertain” (Maria Lipman, George Washington University, September 21, 2015)

“Russia’s Military: Capabilities, Conflict in Ukraine, and Challenges for NATO” (Michael Kofman, Woodrow Wilson Center, and Johan Norberg, Swedish Defence Research Agency, October 1, 2015) “Can Russia Really Pivot to Asia?” (Yoshinori Takeda, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, and Elizabeth Wishnick, Montclair State University, March 3, 2016) “Russian Economic Reality: More Dangerous than Stagnation” (Sergey Aleksashenko, Brookings Institution, April 5, 2016)

“After Ukraine, After Syria: What’s Next?” (Andrey Kortunov, New Eurasia Foundation and Russian International Affairs Council, May 2, 2016) 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 over the past year included academics, military officers, government officials, and journalists. The speaker series is open to the entire MIT community and the general public.

SSP publishes an [annual report](#), a [quarterly digital newsletter](#), and a working paper series. In addition, several members of the program have made themselves available for a variety of media appearances.

Program research is built around the interests of the faculty, the dissertations of the graduate students, and occasional commissioned projects. Key research areas are nuclear strategy and statecraft, change and stability in Asia, US foreign and defense policy, and internal conflict. Researchers working in the area of nuclear strategy and statecraft 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. Topics include the nature and limits of US military power, the future of conventional warfare, and reassessments of the US grand strategy.

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

SSP has a visiting fellows program in addition to the military fellows who rotate annually from the four 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 fourth year of the fellowship, which included one junior faculty fellow and two predoctoral fellows.

It was announced during the academic year that Professor Posen was the recipient of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award from the American Political Science Association for his 2014 book *Restraint: A New Foundation for U.S. Grand Strategy*. Also, Professor Vipin Narang's *Nuclear Strategy in the Modern Era* won the 2015 International Security Studies Section Best Book Award from the International Studies Association.

SSP receives major support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which awarded the program a 36-month \$1 million grant (July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2018) to support research on global diffusion of power. In addition, the program received a one-year award from Lincoln Laboratory in January 2015. SSP also receives funding from the Stanton Foundation and the Frankel (MIT) Global Policy Program Fund, among other foundations and donors.

Program on Emerging Technologies

The Program on Emerging Technologies applies theories and methods from the discipline of political economy to issues in science and technology policy. Participants analyze the environmental, security, and societal effects of emerging technologies; conduct research on key areas of uncertainty bearing on these effects; and develop recommendations for improving the capacity of public and private institutions to manage benefits and risks under uncertainty. The program is headed by Kenneth Oye, former CIS director and associate professor of political science. In summer 2015, Professor Oye joined with CSAIL as part of the leadership team for the MIT Internet Policy Research Initiative.

PoET was launched with a five-year National Science Foundation (NSF) Integrative Graduate Educational and Research Training 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. PoET has developed retrospective case studies on past emerging technologies to inform prospective assessments of advanced biotechnologies and next-generation Internet. One project focuses on integrating information on safety, efficacy, and effectiveness into the licensing of pharmaceuticals in partnership with the MIT Center for Biomedical Innovation (CBI), the European Medicines Agency, and the Tufts University Center for Translational Medicine. Another project addresses the environmental, security, and economic implications of synthetic biology in partnership with the MIT Synthetic Biology Center, the NSF Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center (SynBERC), and the Woodrow Wilson Center.

Pharmaceuticals

In 2015–2016, PoET work focused on medicines directed at narrowly defined treatment groups wherein conventional randomized controlled trials are difficult or impossible

to conduct. An emphasis of this effort was postmarketing evidence generation and utilization. PoET worked with CBI and the Tufts Center for Translational Medicine to apply the program's findings on adaptive regulation under conditions of uncertainty and complexity to proposals from the European Medicines Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, and Health Canada on reforms in drug licensing. PoET director Oye was the lead author of "The Next Frontier: Fostering Innovation by Improving Health Data Access and Utilization" (*Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*) and "Pharmaceuticals Licensing and Reimbursement in the European Union, United States and Japan" (forthcoming in *Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*).

Synthetic Biology

The trademark of PoET work on synthetic biology is identifying and filling gaps in scientific and technical knowledge that bear directly on policy debates. To this end, PoET's Synthetic Biology Policy Group uses near-term applications of synthetic biology as test beds for experimentation in risk governance and for informing deliberations on policy.

- *Environment:* PoET, the Woodrow Wilson Center, and NSF SynBERC collaborated on a project testing technical safeguards to limit environmental effects of applications of synthetic biology. Biological engineers at Yale, Harvard, and MIT are seeking to reduce lateral gene flow through recoding and to limit the environmental effects of gene drives through design of immunization and reversal drives as well as through localization strategies. In June 2016, the developers of these technical safeguards (environmental scientists, regulators, and representatives of firms and civil society) met in a closed workshop to propose and evaluate methods for credible and effective testing of the safeguards. PoET is now organizing an international consortium to conduct tests.
- *Security and safety:* PoET continued to work with the International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition (iGEM), Public Health Canada, and SGI-DNA to screen over 250 iGEM team projects, train iGEM faculty and students on safety and security practices, and screen more than 20,000 parts in the iGEM 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. In 2016, Professor Oye was invited to organize and chair the biosecurity and safety committee for the MIT-Broad Foundry, which is supported by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Regulation and Public Policy

In 2015–2016, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs conducted a full-scale review of the Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology, the first such review in more than 30 years. PoET's extensive analysis of the environmental, security, and safety implications of current, near-term, and emerging applications of synthetic biology provided an empirical basis for evaluating current guidelines,

identifying problems, and recommending changes. In 2016, PoET used this experience as the basis for a 30-page white paper on revision of the framework, was invited to meet with principals conducting the review at the White House, and participated in official public comments.

Outreach

To engage with the public and relevant policy communities, PoET presents its research findings with policy implications at meetings with significant governmental and intergovernmental organizations. In 2015–2016, these meetings included the National Intelligence Board, the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity of the National Institutes of Health, and the National Academy of Sciences Life Sciences Board. In addition, PoET convenes small closed meetings and workshops to encourage candid discussions on an off-the-record basis. For example, PoET continued to organize closed meetings on synthetic biology security issues at iGEM with the participation of the FBI, the Departments of Defense and State, Lincoln Laboratory, the UN Biological Weapons Convention, Public Health Canada, and the International Experts Group on Biosecurity Regulation. PoET also has an active program of outreach to interested audiences featuring events such as “Engineering Life—Who Needs Rules?” (MIT Museum, October 2015).

International Policy Lab

The International Policy Lab assists faculty members from across the Institute in identifying the policy implications of their research and engaging effectively with the policy community. By providing advice, training, staff resources, logistical coordination, and funding, IPL ensures that the time researchers invest in policy outreach has the greatest possible effect. The overall goal of these activities is to bring MIT-generated knowledge to bear on important policy issues in order to help solve the world’s great challenges.

In its first full year of operation (2015), IPL purposively selected seven faculty members who were already engaged in policy-relevant research. Based on the success of these engagements and apparent faculty interest, IPL issued its first Institute-wide call for proposals in October 2015. The call for proposals produced 14 fundable submissions, in addition to a number of expressions of future interest and several inquiries about proposals that were not deemed appropriate or sufficiently ripe for IPL assistance. Of these 14 fundable proposals, IPL was able to support six fully (\$10,000 in addition to staff assistance) and seven partially (on average, \$3,000 in addition to staff assistance); one proposal was deferred to the next call (see Table 1 for details). Together with six original projects from 2015 that continue to receive support in some form, IPL is working on 19 separate projects with faculty members and senior researchers from all five schools.

Over the past year, IPL formed a formal partnership with the Environmental Solutions Initiative and added its director, John Fernandez, as an affiliated faculty member.

Table 1. Projects Selected in First Call for Proposals (Listed Alphabetically)

Principal Investigator (Collaborator)	Department	Policy Area	Funding Offered	Staff Support Offered
Robert Armstrong (visiting professor Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga)	Chemical Engineering	Regulation in zero-variable-cost electricity environments/ distributed energy sources	\$10,000/\$2,000	Editing documents for policy audiences
Nicholas Ashford	Engineering Systems Division	Regulation of hazardous chemicals in the United States and economic effects of deep decarbonization in the European Union	\$3,000	Editing documents for policy audiences and developing an outreach plan
Lydia Bourouiba	Civil and Environmental Engineering	Infectious respiratory diseases	\$8,000	Editing policy briefs and arranging policy outreach
Alberto Cavallo	Sloan School of Management	Estimation of inflation using big data	\$5,000	Travel logistics support
Kevin Esvelt	Program in Media Arts and Sciences	Regulation of synthetic biology	\$10,000	Translating research and developing an outreach strategy
Janelle Knox-Hayes	Urban Studies and Planning	Cross-national support for climate change policies	\$2,100	Identifying policy implications of research
Richard Nielsen	Political Science	Radicalization of Muslim clerics and consequences of assassinating jihadi clerics	\$10,000	Editing documents for policy audiences and developing outreach
Elsa Olivetti	Materials Science and Engineering	Carbon footprinting and mitigation of emissions in the information technology industry	\$4,400	Editing documents for policy audiences and providing communications training
Thomas Peacock (Pierre Lermusiaux)	Mechanical Engineering	Environmental impacts of deep sea mining	\$10,000	Drafting and editing policy documents and organizing a workshop
Alex Pentland (postdoctoral fellow Yves-Alexandre De Montjoye)	Program in Media Arts and Sciences	Big data and privacy	\$10,000	Logistical support

Noelle Selin	Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences and	National and international regulation of mercury emissions	\$10,000	Drafting and editing policy documents and providing logistical support for a workshop
Elizabeth Wood	History	Russian foreign policy under Putin	\$1,800	Assisting in identifying policy implications of research

IPL is directed by Associate Professor J. Chappell H. Lawson and managed by Dan Pomeroy, PhD, with active participation by the center’s leadership. It has received a grant from the ClearPath Foundation to support outreach on climate-related policy matters and has major support from the provost.

Protecting Critical Infrastructure

Starting with President George H.W. Bush in 1990, our presidents have been warning us about the threat to our infrastructure from cyber attacks—to little avail. Most studies, and virtually all efforts at the enterprise level, have been superficial and tactical. A problem this persistent in an area so fundamental demands a deeper, strategic level of attention.

That attention is being mounted by Robert Wilhelm Fellow Joel Brenner, in conjunction with several faculty members and researchers at CIS and CSAIL. Brenner, who came to the center in 2014, was previously inspector general of the National Security Agency and head of counterintelligence for the director of national intelligence.

The technological challenges of protecting critical infrastructure are behavioral and managerial as well as technological. Most sophisticated network penetrations depend at least in part on human error.

By changing the research landscape, this CIS/CSAIL collaboration seeks to achieve long-term improvements in operational conditions in the United States and internationally. To accomplish this goal, the project has brought together in separate working groups network managers, key government officials, and academic engineering and policy experts to focus on four critical infrastructure sectors: electricity, finance, communications, and oil and natural gas. A research agenda and policy interventions have been initiated as part of an ongoing effort.

Persian Gulf Initiative

The research of the Persian Gulf Initiative aims to elucidate the dynamics of insecurity in the Gulf, with particular reference to the US role. Since 2005, the initiative has undertaken two major projects: a study of violence, mortality, and displacement in Iraq and research on the US-Iran relationship. The latter has been a joint effort with scholars at George Washington University’s National Security Archive, Indiana University’s School of Global & International Studies, and the University of Waterloo’s Balsillie School of International Affairs.

In 2015–2016, work included a policy recommendation on accounting for the human cost of war by CIS executive director and principal research scientist John Tirman (published in the online edition of *Foreign Affairs*). He discussed the policy implications of war mortality during conferences at Boston University and Simon Fraser University and in a talk at Nanyang Technical University in Singapore. Dr. Tirman also convened a workshop co-sponsored by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Washington, DC, to assess strategies for dealing with humanitarian and human rights law violations, with particular reference to the extraordinary mortality and displacement resulting from the wars in Iraq and Syria.

The US-Iran project, which has examined “missed opportunities” in the relationship, proceeded to its third book project with interviews and small group meetings. Dr. Tirman published articles in the popular press (e.g., the *Boston Globe*) and spoke widely on the Iran nuclear deal, including at an MIT public forum organized by Radius. He also contributed an article on Iran to the *Middle East Journal*. The extensive documentary record accumulated in the project is being mounted on a unique online platform developed by HyperStudio, MIT’s digital humanities center. Primary support for the project comes from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Seminar XXI: Outreach to the Washington Policy Community

For more than three 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 30th year and now has more than 2,200 alumni. Robert Art, Christian A. Herter Professor of International Relations at Brandeis University and an SSP senior fellow, directs Seminar XXI.

Seminar Series

In addition to SSP’s Wednesday Seminar and the Focus on Russia series, the center sponsors or co-sponsors three other regular series of seminars open to the public.

Myron Weiner Seminar in International Migration

The Weiner series is sponsored by the Inter-University Committee on International Migration, a consortium that includes faculty from Harvard, Tufts, Boston University, Wellesley College, Brandeis, and MIT. CIS has hosted the committee since the early

1970s, and one of its founders was Professor Myron Weiner, a leading migration theorist and former director of the center. The chairs of the committee are Professors Reed Ueda and Anna Hardman, both of Tufts. CIS is represented on the committee by Dr. Tirman.

The seminar named in Professor Weiner's honor is a principal activity of the committee. This year's seminar presentations were as follows:

Mobility, Remittances and Social Protection in Zimbabwe"

Riva Kastoryano (Sciences-Po, Paris), "Muslims in Europe: Transnational Integration Politics"

Susan Akram (Boston University), "Still Waiting for Tomorrow: The Law and Politics of Unresolved Refugee Crises with Particular Emphasis on the Refugees in the Middle East"

Gerald Neuman (Harvard Law School Human Rights Program), "Migrants' Rights in the UN Human Rights Committee"

Karen Jacobsen (Feinstein International Center, Tufts), "Understanding the Impact of War and Displacement in Cities: An Information Approach for Urban Settings"

Roundtable featuring Jackie Bhabha (Harvard School of Public Health) and Katerina Sokou (Washington, DC, correspondent for Greece's *Kathimerini*), "Refugees and Migrants: The Current Crisis in Greece and Europe"

Bustani Seminar on the Middle East

The Bustani seminar celebrated its 30th year in 2015–2016. It is funded by Myrna Bustani of Beirut, Lebanon, in memory of her father, Emile M. Bustani, who received an SB in civil engineering from MIT in 1933. Emile Bustani headed the leading engineering and contracting firm in the Arab world and was a prominent Lebanese statesman until his untimely death in 1963. The Bustani seminar is organized and hosted by Philip Khoury, associate provost and Ford International Professor of History. This year, the seminar featured four speakers:

In November, Professor Malika Zeghal of Harvard University spoke on Tunisia ("Is Tunisia a Secular State? Islam in the 2014 Tunisian Constitution").

Also in November, Professor Melani Cammett of Harvard spoke on "Sectarianism and the Quality of Social Welfare in Lebanon."

In February, Lebanese author Elias Khoury read a selection from his newest novel, *Broken Mirrors: Sinalcol*. In March, Bernard A. Haykel, professor of Near Eastern studies at Princeton University, discussed "Saudi Arabia and the Politics of Islamic Militancy."

Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics

The Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics is co-organized by CIS, Harvard University, and Brown University. Associate Professor of Political Science Vipin Narang leads the effort for MIT. This year's speakers and topics were as follows:

Sandip Sukhtankar (Dartmouth College), "How Does MNREGA Affect Rural Labor Markets and Incomes? Evidence from a Large-Scale Experiment"

Devesh Kapur (University of Pennsylvania), "The Other One Percent: Indians in America"

Adam Zeigfield (George Washington University), "Why Regional Parties? Clientelism, Elites, and the Indian Party System"

Dean Spears (Rice Institute), "Neighborhood Sanitation and Infant Mortality"

Christopher Clary (Brown University), "Voters and Foreign Policy: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Pakistan"

Atul Kohli (Princeton University), "East Asia Company Revisited"

Public Programs

A considerable amount of effort is made annually to bring scholars and public policy issues to a broad community audience. This includes the seminars listed earlier as well as major events—lectures, roundtables, films, and art exhibits—organized by the CIS Public Programs staff. In 2015–2016, CIS mounted a rich and varied public education program. 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 MIT's video page, the CIS website, and YouTube. Several forums are watched online by thousands of viewers. When possible, CIS involves like-minded organizations on campus and the local community, as well as local media outlets. Starr Forums included the following:

"Global Refugee Crisis" (with Jennifer Leaning of the Harvard School of Public Health, Nahuel Arenas and Ali Al Jundi of OxFam America, Serena Parekh of Northeastern University and Anna Hardman of Tufts University)"Paris Climate Talks: Now What?" (with Kenneth Oye, Valerie Karplus, Noelle Selin, and John Sterman of MIT)"With Friends Like These: U.S. Allies and ISIS" (with Barry R. Posen of MIT, Sarah Leah Whitson of Human Rights Watch and Kristin Fabbe of the Harvard Business School)"Confronting the China Cyber Challenge" (with James Mulveon of Defense Group Inc. and the Center for Intelligence Research and Analysis and Joel Brenner of MIT)"3.11: Five Years After the Triple Disaster in Northeastern Japan" (with Richard Samuels, Kenneth Oye, and Miho Mazereeuw of MIT; Tatsujiro Suzuki, formerly with the Japan Atomic Energy Commission; and Akinobu Murakami of the University of Tsukuba)"Today's African Repats" (with Claude Grunitzky of MIT and TRUE Africa; graduate student Joelle Itoua-Owona; Devon Maylie, formerly a reporter with the *Wall Street Journal*; MIT Sloan Fellow Gbemi Munis; and Jacques Jonathan Nyemb of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government)"Bitcoin and the Global Economy"

(with Michael Casey of MIT and Christina Dolan of TradingScreen)“Human Rights and Technology” (with Brad Samuels of SITU Research, Christopher McNaboe of the Carter Center, and Sucharita Varanasi, an attorney formerly with Physicians for Human Rights)“Religion and Violence” (with Reverend J. Bryan Hehir of Boston College, Haroon Moghul of the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, and Stephen Van Evera of MIT)Multiple book talks were held, including talks (with their respective authors) on *Heretic: Why Islam Needs a Reformation Now* (Ayaan Hirsi Ali); *The ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy, and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State* (William McCants); and *City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World’s Largest Refugee Camp* (Ben Rawlence).

The program used art as a means to reach a broader audience. Examples include the following:

For nearly 10 years (1966–1975), Hanoi artist Le Lam risked his life and lived in South Vietnam recording in paint the war that raged around him. The Le Lam exhibition contains more than 20 of the thousands of striking sketches and paintings he made during those years. The exhibit opening including a talk with curator David Thomas of the Indochina Arts Partnership.

The program hosted a film screening of *Sold* and a Q&A session with the director, Jeffrey D. Brown, and *Boston Globe* film critic Peter Keough. *Sold* is a narrative, feature film adaptation of the globally acclaimed novel by Patricia McCormick. Based on true events, the film depicts the story of an adolescent girl named Lakshmi who journeys from a pastoral, rural village in Nepal to a gritty brothel/prison called Happiness House in Kolkata, India.

“Iran: Women Only,” a photo exhibit by Boston photographer Randy Goodman, was mounted at the center in February.

The program continued to use social media, including Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter, to help publicize the center’s work. A new media platform, Periscope, was added to allow live web casts of public events. Also, *précis*, the CIS biannual newsletter, was published both in print and on the web.

Richard J. Samuels
Director

Stephen Van Evera
Associate Director

John Tirman
Executive Director