

Center for International Studies

The [Center for International Studies \(CIS\)](#) was founded in 1951 to provide scholars, the government, and the public with new knowledge and insights about global affairs, particularly the emerging Cold War. In the seven decades since, the center has done exactly that through research, publishing, and outreach to interested communities in the United States and abroad. It has excelled in such fields as international relations theory, political economy, political development, and security studies, and it has been home to many of the pioneering scholars in these fields. In addition, the center has innovated international education through its hands-on approach to learning in the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI), now in its fourth decade.

The year was altered by the coronavirus, which disrupted in-person activities in mid-March and for the remainder of the year. Fortunately, the faculty and staff were able to keep schedules of seminars and public forums unaltered, for the most part, through online events.

The center's director is Richard J. Samuels, Ford International Professor of Political Science. Professor Samuels is the founder of MISTI and serves as the MIT-Japan Program's director. John Tirman is executive director of CIS.

A few highlights in AY2020 are as follows:

- Robert Art, director of Seminar XXI and Christian Herter Professor Emeritus of International Relations at Brandeis University, stepped down after leading the program with great distinction for 20 years. He will be succeeded by Kelly Greenfield, professor of political science and international relations at Tufts University, who earned her doctorate at MIT in political science and security studies.
- Hala Aldosari joined the center as a Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow. Aldosari, a Saudi native, is a renowned activist for women's rights.
- The Jeanne Guillemin Prize was established to support young women in international relations. Guillemin, a longtime colleague at the center, passed away this year and left the prize as one of her legacies.
- The new Global Dynamics Simulation Lab was created by Professor Samuels and Eric Heginbotham, principal research scientist. The lab develops and utilizes state-of-the-art simulation techniques to gain insights into an array of global challenges.
- The Elizabeth Neuffer Fellow was Shola Lawal, an independent filmmaker and journalist from Nigeria. She spent several months at the center before completing her fellowship at the *New York Times*.
- A robust program of Starr Forums drew thousands of attendees. The Center's YouTube channel, which archives these events, had more than 90,000 visitors. Among the highlights was an exploration of policing in America with Rachel Rollins, Boston (Suffolk County) district attorney, and Melissa Nobles, Kenan Sahin Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.

Security Studies Program

The Security Studies Program (SSP) 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. M. Taylor Fravel, Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political Science, is the director of the program.

SSP publishes an [annual report](#) and a [quarterly digital newsletter](#). In addition, members of the program have regularly made themselves available for a variety of media appearances both in print and online.

Ruina Nuclear Age Speaker Series

SSP held its Ruina Nuclear Age Speaker Series dinner (named in honor of former SSP director Jack Ruina) on October 25, 2019; the guest speaker was Ernest Moniz, the US secretary of energy from 2013 to 2017 and an emeritus faculty member of the MIT Department of Physics. In his remarks, Moniz reflected on a range of issues related to nonproliferation and arms control and offered his insights on contemporary challenges and opportunities in nuclear policy.

Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Seminar Series

On November 14, 2019, as part of SSP's Koch Foundation Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft fellowship program, SSP hosted a seminar with guest speaker Steven Simon. Simon, an expert on a wide range of Middle Eastern issues, is a professor in the practice of international relations at Colby College and previously held positions in the State Department and the National Security Council during the Obama and Clinton administrations. In his presentation, titled "The United States and Middle East: The Long View," Simon offered an analysis of the current policy landscape in the Middle East. He then participated in a Q&A with attendees and joined SSP faculty members and guests for a dinner at the Samberg Conference Center.

General Doolittle Award Dinner

On March 5, 2020, the Security Studies Program hosted its annual James A. Doolittle Award dinner. This year's featured speaker and Doolittle Award recipient was Admiral James A. Winnefeld Jr., who served as the ninth vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, among many other roles in the US military as well as the nonprofit and private sectors. Admiral Winnefeld delivered remarks on a range of issues related to US military doctrine, grand strategy, and defense policy.

SSP Special Seminars

SSP Roundtable: The International Implications of COVID-19: A First Cut—virtual event moderated by Professor Fravel with speakers Barry Posen, Ford Professor of Political Science; Jim Walsh, research scientist; Professor Samuels; and Vipin Narang, associate professor of Political Science—April 22, 2020.

Starr Forum: Rethinking National Security in the Age of Pandemics—virtual event co-sponsored by CIS with speakers Vipin Narang and Jim Walsh—April 23, 2020.

Starr Forum: America’s Civil-Military Crisis—virtual event co-sponsored by CIS and chaired by Roger Petersen, Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political Science—June 11, 2020.

Starr Forum: When Culture Meets COVID-19—virtual event co-sponsored by CIS and MISTI with Peter Krause, SSP alumnus and associate professor at Boston College, as a speaker—June 23, 2020.

Focus on Russia Seminar Series

“The Lands in Between: Russia vs. the West and the New Politics of Hybrid War” —Mitchell A. Orenstein, University of Pennsylvania—October 10, 2019.

“The Kremlin’s Global Outreach: From Cyber to Russians Abroad” —Russian investigative journalists Andre Soldatov and Irina Borogan, co-sponsored as a Starr Forum—October 14, 2019.

“Russia’s Putin: From Silent Coup to Legal Dictatorship” —Russian investigative journalist Yevgenia M. Albats; co-sponsored as a Starr Forum—March 12, 2020.

Wednesday Seminar Series

Sustaining a long tradition, SSP continued the [Wednesday Seminar Series](#), which offers talks on topics relevant to national defense and international relations, including cybersecurity, China, Iraq, national security decision making, military technology, military history, and nuclear security. Speakers over the past year included academics, military officers, and think tank analysts. The speaker series is open to the entire MIT community and the general public.

Research and Education

Program research is built around the interests of the faculty, graduate students’ dissertations, 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 North Korea and Iran, China’s nuclear strategy, and resource allocation and counterproliferation policies.

Those studying change and stability in Asia are examining means of preventing territorial and maritime disputes in the region, China’s military and grand strategy, US-China relations, and Japan’s foreign and security policies.

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 eighth year of the fellowship, which included two postdoctoral fellows and one predoctoral fellow.

The Charles Koch Foundation is funding a two-year joint SSP–Harvard Kennedy School fellowship. It is intended to support research addressing fundamental issues related to US grand strategy, foreign policy, and America’s role in the world. SSP hosted two postdoctoral fellows in 2019–2020.

SSP receives major support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which provided a 24-month grant to support our research on global diffusion of power. It also receives funding from the Stanton Foundation and the Frankel (MIT) Global Policy Fund, among other foundations and donors. In April 2020, the program received a one-year award from Lincoln Laboratory.

MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives

MISTI provides international education and research 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 January, MISTI absorbed the functions of the Global Education Office, including administering study abroad programs and serving as a resource for global education programs across the campus.

MISTI operates via 25 country and regional programs. In addition to internships, MIT students taught in 23 countries through the Global Teaching Labs program; the MIT Global Startup Labs (GSL) program ran workshops in Brazil, Georgia, and Uruguay; and the MISTI Global Seed Funds (GSF) program introduced new funds in Chile, Colombia, Germany, India, and Israel.

The suspension of student and faculty travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted MISTI operations and programming. MISTI adapted its activities to provide students with new remote global learning opportunities and to provide faculty members with support for their international research collaborations.

MISTI Student Programs

MISTI offers MIT undergraduate and graduate students opportunities to intern, research, teach, and study 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 2019–2020, MISTI placed 945 students abroad. About one quarter of these placements were internships or research opportunities in companies, research institutions, or university laboratories.

The Global Teaching Labs program sent 354 students to Andorra, Armenia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, Ghana, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Uganda, and the United Kingdom over Independent Activities Period (IAP). In addition, 24 students taught entrepreneurship during the summer through the GSL program. The remaining placements were various opportunities made possible through MISTI.

Given travel limitations imposed by COVID-19, MISTI staff brainstormed with their international partners to reshape programming options, translating internship opportunities into a virtual format whenever possible. While students are generally sent to countries previously unfamiliar to them, in response to the pandemic program managers used their networks to help set up internships for international students to work close to home. This commitment to new student opportunities also led to the development of MIT-US, a pilot program aimed at matching MIT students with internships in regions of the United States where MIT students do not typically work. On top of restructuring the internship program, MISTI staff came up with additional summer activities to help students and the MIT community learn and engage.

Overall, 2019–2020 MISTI student placements were as follows:

- 153 (96 in person, 53 remote, 4 country nationals) internships (companies, research institutions, nongovernmental organizations, government agencies, universities)
- 354 Global Teaching Labs/other short-term teaching
- 24 long-term teaching (GSL)
- 177 courses abroad (for credit)
- 24 externships
- 2 graduate school/postdoc placements
- 89 short-term research projects
- 1 facilitated or supported training program
- 82 workshops
- 39 study abroad projects

In addition to student placements administered by MISTI, 41 students had global learning experiences through the Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center, and 30 students learned abroad through D-Lab.

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.

In 2019–2020, MISTI offered eight new funds in Chile, Colombia, Germany, India, and Israel. A total of 232 applications were received, and more than \$2.3 million was awarded to 107 projects from 23 departments across the Institute. This brings the amount awarded to \$22 million over the 12-year life of the program. To support faculty members as they reconfigured their project plans after COVID, MISTI helped repurpose a portion of the GSF funds for student salaries to help with research progress. The annual call for proposals, which typically takes place in May, was postponed to September 2020 due to the pandemic.

Training and On-Campus Events

MISTI's country programs offer dozens of pre-departure and public events on international topics in politics, culture, science, technology, history, industry, and the humanities for the MIT community. With in-person summer opportunities suspended, AY2020 events were more limited than usual.

Instead, MISTI programs turned their education and training focus outward to the entire MIT community. They worked with partners to provide international contexts and support during the pandemic. Numerous global hackathons brought together hundreds of student participants from around the world to solve critical problems surrounding the novel coronavirus. A series of webinars examined the topic through different cultural lenses. The MISTI radio podcast also addressed the pandemic, giving international perspectives on how COVID-19 affects issues from communications to climate change.

With respect to leadership changes, Evan Lieberman, Total Professor of Political Science and Contemporary Africa at MIT, took over as faculty director for MIT-Africa; Brad Olsen, professor of chemical engineering, was named faculty director for MIT-Brazil; and Ben Ross Schneider, Ford International Professor of Political Science, is now faculty director of MIT-Chile.

Program on Emerging Technologies

CIS created the Program on Emerging Technologies (PoET) with support from a National Science Foundation Integrative Graduate Educational and Research Training grant. The program was founded as a joint venture with the Department of Political Science, the Engineering Systems Division, and the Program in Science, Technology, and Society. Kenneth Oye, professor of political science and professor of data, systems, and society, serves as director. Current activities focus on assessing and managing the benefits and risks of biological, medical, and information technologies. PoET research, education, and policy efforts are collaborative, with teams of technologists, scientists, social scientists, and policymakers working jointly on responsible innovation. In 2019–2020, PoET expanded its activities in research, education, and public service.

Research

- Developed and evaluated safeguards to limit potential security, safety, and environmental effects of biological engineering applications. Two sets of applications were emphasized: gene drive control of vector-borne disease (with support from Fondation Brocher and the EPFL International Risk Governance Center) and genetically engineered biological chassis for materials production (with support from the Dutch Research Council, the Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Wageningen University, and Yale University).
- Initiated a study on information hazards associated with potentially dangerous tools and applications of biotechnology, with attention to potential adverse side effects. Controls on information flows to malevolent actors also limit access to information by scientists seeking to advance knowledge, by biosafety officers and benign technologists seeking to avoid inadvertently creating hazards, and by policy communities seeking knowledge to inform deliberation. This project focuses on improving tradeoffs across these desirable ends.
- Conducted research on planned adaptive management of risks associated with emerging technologies, pharmaceuticals, finance, and security affairs.
- Conducted research on biological and internet security in partnership with the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, with attention to the effects of regulations on terms of trade.

Education

- Sponsored, designed, and staffed the core 17.310J Science, Technology, and Public Policy course, serving undergraduate and graduate students from across the Institute and from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. PoET affiliate Lawrence McCray guided graduate students' research on adaptive risk governance and established a working paper series as an outlet for student papers.
- Reconfigured the curriculum of the Seminar XXI program to include sessions on the security implications of cyber-technology and biotechnology, health, and climate change. In spring 2020, PoET organized a special panel on COVID-19 with an immunologist and geneticist from the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and a former Food and Drug Administration official with the Gates Foundation.

Public Service

- Served as the hub for the Synthetic Biology Policy Group, a network meeting weekly to discuss topics in biomedical and biological engineering. The network links CIS and Lincoln Laboratory to the National Academy of Sciences, the Engineering Biology Research Consortium, and the American Biological Safety Association International and to institutions including the Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and Emory medical schools and Stanford Bioengineering. Since January 2020, the group has focused on COVID-related technical topics and policy issues.

- Provided leadership for the Broad Institute Biofoundry. The foundry, supported by the Safety Committee of the Pentagon, functions as a genetic design institute that enables forward engineering of sophisticated, massively multi-part genetic systems.
- Participated in the National Institutes of Health Novel and Exceptional Technology and Research Advisory Committee. Professor Oye was an invited speaker at the inaugural meeting of the committee.

Policy Lab

The Policy Lab at the Center for International Studies was created in 2014 to address the need for academically informed solutions to major public policy challenges both domestically and internationally. It also addresses barriers to meaningful engagement between academics and policymakers and mobilizes the enormous wealth of research at MIT in the service of problem solving for the nation and the world. J. Chappell H. Lawson, associate professor of political science, is the director of the program.

The lab helps MIT researchers identify the policy relevance of their research findings, understand and navigate the policy ecosystem in Washington and abroad, and communicate their policy recommendations effectively. Funds are awarded for travel to policy conferences, briefings, and the like, and staff members help prepare researchers to communicate with policy audiences. Demand for training led the Policy Lab to develop an online course titled [Tools for Academic Engagement in Public Policy](#) on the EdX platform.

The lab supported 42 projects in 2019–2020. Demand has grown from year to year. Unlike a competitive grant program, the Policy Lab seeks to support and add value to as many policy outreach efforts as possible. All five schools are amply represented in the lab's success. Many projects are supported over a number of years.

Examples of recent projects supported by the lab include work by Professor of Mechanical Engineering Thomas Peacock on deep sea mining and its environmental effects, efforts by Professor of Linguistics Michel DeGraff and Professor of Mathematics Haynes Miller to integrate Creole into Haitian schools, and the ongoing work of Associate Professor Noelle Selin of the Institute for Data, Systems, and Society on the environmental toxicity of mercury. In these and other cases, MIT researchers have been able to not only introduce ideas and recommendations to policymakers but, with the lab's assistance, build broader engagement with like-minded researchers and institutions.

Global Dynamics Simulation Lab

Richard Samuels and Eric Heginbotham initiated the Global Dynamics Simulation Lab, which will support a coherent research and teaching program aimed at assessing and anticipating international crises.

The work includes research on and development of simulation methodologies. The lab aims to develop and refine a range of simulation approaches to international relations, including “two-level games,” involving the concurrent efforts of leaders focusing on separate domestic and international objectives to negotiate with peer states on critical matters such

as arms control and trade; experimental games that can be repeated while holding some variables constant and exploring the impact of changes in others; and tabletop games that can quickly simulate the impact of policy-making as decisions are made.

The work also involves research on and development of global dynamics simulation tools, including, for example, original or derivative computer models of military conflict, the spread of contagious diseases, or the factors that drive energy prices. The models can then be run to resolve simulation “moves” as they occur.

Finally, the lab will be the primary repository for international crisis simulation reports, not just from MIT but also from other academic and government sources, where documents are unclassified or declassified. In the case of games with overlapping themes or structures, it may be possible to draw inferences from games lacking strict uniformity. Housing the repository will make MIT the go-to institution for simulation work and provide an important asset for research on best practices.

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 85 fellows 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 34th year and now has more than 2,500 alumni. Robert Art, longtime director of Seminar XXI, stepped down at the end of the year. His successor will be Kelly Greenfield, professor of political science and international relations at Tufts University.

Human Rights and Technology Program

Now in its second year, the Human Rights and Technology Program promotes research and critical thinking on how technology impacts human rights. Various technologies can be a facilitator of human rights knowledge and human rights law enforcement. But new and sophisticated techniques can also be used for surveillance and repression. The program seeks to uncover the good and the bad of technology’s interactions with human rights law and practice.

The main vehicle for this work is a grant competition for MIT students. Small grants are given, and the program’s fellows gather at seminars several times during the academic year to discuss their projects and broader human rights issues. This year seven grants

were awarded, including a grant to a team of four undergraduates. Topics included developing an app for labor rights education, assessing the rights of Vietnamese farmers whose rice fields were being “developed” by Europeans, examining the use of technology in monitoring migrants at the US-Mexico border, and exploring how Micronesian migrant workers use Facebook groups to deal with labor exploitation.

The program also sought to convene a workshop on the state of the human rights and technology field, but it was postponed owing to the coronavirus emergency.

The co-directors of the program are John Tirman and Anat Biletzki, Schweitzer Professor of Philosophy at Quinnipiac University and author of *Philosophy of Human Rights: A Systematic Introduction*.

Persian Gulf Initiative

The Persian Gulf Initiative, a research program that examines conflict in this vital and turbulent area, has organized conferences, surveys, and public forums at MIT and elsewhere. Its groundbreaking work on the human cost of war is ongoing. The project focusing on US-Iran relations, which has included four “critical oral history” conferences, is culminating in its third book and a dynamic website and app, bringing together transcripts of the conferences. This unique archival collection features more than 500 documents and other materials. John Tirman directs the program.

Seminars and Working Groups

In addition to SSP’s Wednesday Seminar and the Focus on Russia series, the center supports several other scholarly seminars and working groups.

The Inter-University Committee on International Migration, now in its fifth decade, was founded by Myron Weiner, former professor of political science and director of the center. The committee has representatives from MIT, Tufts University, Harvard University, Boston University, Wellesley College, and Brandeis University. Its main activity is a seminar named in honor of Professor Weiner. MIT is the host of the program, and Assistant Professor of Law and Urban Planning Justin Steil is one of the co-chairs. This year’s seminar presentations were as follows:

- Silvia Pedraza (University of Michigan), “Ethnic Identity: Developing a Latina/o Identity”
- Jeffrey Kahn (University of California, Davis), “Our Hidden Borders: Guantanamo, Interdiction, and the Rise of Offshore Migration Policing”
- Cristina Rodríguez (Yale Law School), “America’s Immigration Dilemma” (co-sponsored as a Starr Forum event; Professor Steil, discussant)
- Lama Mourad (University of Pennsylvania), “Open Borders, Local Closures: Municipal Curfews and the Lebanese Response to the Syrian Refugee Influx”
- Mario Zucconi (Princeton University), “The Failed Accession of Turkey to the European Union and the Migrant Crisis”

The Bustani Middle East Seminar was established in 1985 by the family of Emile Bustani, a prominent Lebanese businessman, philanthropist, and political leader and a 1933 MIT engineering graduate. This year, the seminar featured three speakers:

- Naghmeh Sohrabi (Brandeis University), “Is the 1979 Revolution Still Relevant to the Islamic Republic of Iran?”
- Hala Aldosari (CIS), “Women Leaders as Conveyors of Change in Saudi Arabia”
- Kim Ghattas (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), “Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the Forty-year Rivalry That Undid the Middle East”

The Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics is a cooperative effort of MIT, Harvard University, and Brown University. Professor Narang is the MIT representative on the steering committee. This year’s speakers and topics were as follows:

- Sushant Singh (*Indian Express* newspaper), “India’s Emerging National Security Challenges”
- Ahsan I. Butt (George Mason University), “Secession and Security in South Asia”

The Asia Security Working Group, organized by Professor Samuels, hosted Mark Staples, a retired Navy commander who served on the US Mutual Defense Program Office in Tokyo and as country director for Japan at the Defense Department. His topic was “Arming Japan: Views from USG and US Industry.” In addition, Peter Dutton, professor of strategic studies in the Strategic and Operational Research Department at the US Naval War College and a visiting fellow at SSP this year, spoke on “Chinese Interests in Africa and Europe—Sustaining the Unsustainable?”

Graduate student working groups have been sponsored by CIS for many years. Each working group is self-organized and has a faculty sponsor, and topics include the following: Latin America, humanitarian and disaster relief, global sustainability, women in international security, security studies, Chinese politics, nuclear politics, and war gaming.

Public Programs

In 2019–2020, CIS fostered a diverse and enriching 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.

This year’s events were well attended by the MIT community and beyond, and the discussions were spirited and informed.

With the advent of COVID-19, the Starr Forums moved to a virtual platform. Seven of this year’s 16 events were hosted as webinars on Zoom. The results proved interesting: the average attendance size swelled to more than 200. Polling during the event, which was not mandatory and thus captured but a fraction of attendees, revealed that 50% or more of those polled had never attended a Starr Forum even though they identified as being from the greater Boston region. Professional-quality videos of the events are archived on the center’s YouTube channel and are watched online by thousands of viewers.

Starr Forums over the past year included the following:

Policing in America and Beyond (with Melissa Nobles; Rachel Rollins, Suffolk County district attorney; Elizabeth Leeds, Washington Office on Latin America and former executive director of CIS; and Rodrigo Canales of Yale University)

When Culture Meets COVID-19 (featuring Chappell Lawson; John M. Deutch Institute Professor Suzanne Berger; Yasheng Huang, Epoch Foundation Professor of International Management in the Sloan School of Management; and Peter Krause, associate professor of political science at Boston College)

America's Civil-Military Crisis (with Roger Petersen; Seth Moulton, US representative for Massachusetts's sixth congressional district; Risa Brooks, Allis Chalmers Associate Professor of Political Science at Marquette University; and James E. Baker, professor of law at Syracuse University and former CIS Wilhelm Fellow)

Amazon Burning. COVID-19. Ghosts of Climate Future? (with Carlos Nobre of the São Paulo Institute for Advanced Studies and Elizabeth Leeds)

Rethinking National Security in the Age of Pandemics (with Jim Walsh; Joe Cirincione, president of the Ploughshares Fund; Vipin Narang; and Yasmeen Silva of the nongovernmental organization Beyond the Bomb)

America's Immigration Dilemma (featuring Cristina Rodríguez of Yale Law School and Justin Steil)

Iran Reframed (with Assistant Professor Narges Bajoghli of Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and Mahsa Rouhi of the Harvard Kennedy School)

The Global Rise of Populism (with Suzanne Berger, Jan-Werner Mueller of Princeton University, and Richard Samuels)

The CIS biannual newsletter, *précis*, features original articles on the center's research and is now a magazine of 40-plus pages. Another publication, the selectively published *Starr Forum Report*, captures the Starr Forums in print format. Both *précis* and the *Starr Forum Report*, along with a bimonthly "In the News" email, are circulated across the Institute and to hundreds of like-minded research centers.

The Public Programs staff manages the external website, the intranet site, and email newsletters. In addition, the staff provides ongoing media support through news releases, direct media promotion and outreach, and news features. The program also uses social media including Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. Our website had a 13% increase in users in AY2020, bringing us to 40,000 viewers per year. The CIS YouTube channel this year had 91,500 views of Starr Forum events.

John Tirman
Executive Director