

MIT 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, Asian security, the Middle East and other areas is reflected in dozens of programs, projects, and the work of faculty and staff through research, public outreach, and publications. Its international education program for MIT students, the MIT Science & Technology Initiative (MISTI), is a pioneering effort that has helped bring the world to 3000 students through internships abroad and educational events on campus.

Programs returned to hybrid activities this year. Although there continued to be impact from the coronavirus pandemic, programs leveraged experience with remote working to ensure the educational and research activities were minimally impacted.

The Center conducted two halls for all staff, faculty, and researchers. The first was an orientation for returning to campus in the Fall following remote working for 18 months. The second was a moderated discussion focused on work-life balance in the hybrid working environment.

Richard J. Samuels, Ford International Professor of Political Science, is director of the Center, with the active participation of about 30 faculty and researchers, 40 staff, and 30 graduate students, along with numerous distinguished affiliated scholars and practitioners. CIS's innovative exploration of international issues enriches MIT, the nation, and the world.

Leadership of the Center includes Professor Samuels; Dr. John Tirman, executive director; Evan Lieberman, Total Professor of Political Science and Contemporary Africa, director of MISTI; and Taylor Fravel, Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political Science, director of the Security Studies Program.

It is with sadness that we report that John Tirman passed away suddenly on August 17, 2022. The activities outlined below include many projects he influenced and will have an impact on related projects for the next academic year.

MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI)

MISTI is MIT's hub for global experience. MISTI's experiential learning programs provide students and faculty with unparalleled immersive international experiences that bring MIT's one-of-a-kind education model to life in countries around the world. MISTI embodies MIT's commitment to global engagement, and prepares students to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

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

MISTI operates via 25 country and regional programs which manage robust internship programs connecting MIT students to professional experiences abroad. In addition to internships in some of the world's leading research institutions, through the Global Teaching Labs (GTL) program, MIT students taught in Andorra, Armenia, Chile, Israel, Italy, Korea, Russia, United Kingdom, and Zambia. MIT Global Startup Labs (GSL) ran workshops in Russia and Uruguay; and the MISTI Global Seed Funds (GSF) introduced new funds in the Czech Republic, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, and Spain.

MISTI student programs

MISTI offers MIT undergraduate and graduate students opportunities to intern, research, teach, and study abroad. MISTI experiences, most fully funded, are carefully designed to complement on-campus coursework and research. Rigorous, country-specific preparation ensures that students build durable cultural connections while abroad, and empowers them to play a role in addressing important global challenges. Students come away from their experience with invaluable perspectives that inform their education, career, and worldview.

This year, travel limitations imposed by the pandemic were for the most part lifted and MISTI programs were once again able to send students abroad. Remote opportunities also remained available with long-term plans to continue to offer them post-Covid in limited numbers.

In 2021-2022, MISTI provided 649 international opportunities to MIT students. About one-quarter of these placements were internships or research in companies, research institutions, or university laboratories. During this period MISTI facilitated the arrival of 37 inbound exchange students. MISTI also serves as a resource to other programs across campus involved in sending students abroad. In a typical year prepandemic, MISTI facilitated over 1,200 student placements.

MISTI student placements 2021-2022:

- 381 internships (353 in person, 19 remote, 9 partially remote)
- 72 Global Teaching Labs (GTL) and other short-term teaching
- 14 long-term teaching (GSL)
- 61 short-term research
- 5 training facilitated or supported
- 70 workshops (non-credit)
- 20 study abroad
- 21 MISTI-led courses (for credit)
- 1 advising
- 1 full time position
- 2 grad school/postdoc

- 1 micro internship

MISTI Global Seed Funds (GSF)

MISTI GSF enables MIT faculty and research scientists to launch early-stage international projects and collaboration with colleagues abroad. Through an annual call for proposals, MISTI 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 2021-2022, MISTI offered a general fund open to projects in all countries and 27 country, region, or university-specific funds. 135 applications were received, and over \$1.6 million was awarded to 75 projects from 20 departments across the entire Institute. This brings the amount awarded to \$22.6 million over the 14-year life of the program. To support faculty as they reconfigured their project plans during Covid, MISTI helped repurpose a portion of the GSF funds for student salaries to help with research progress.

Training and on-campus events

Students prepare for their placements through MIT courses in the host country's language, history, and politics and a series of non-credit training modules developed by MISTI staff. MISTI's programs offer dozens of trainings and events on international topics in politics, culture, science, technology, history, industry, and the humanities for the MIT community. With in-person travel opportunities resuming, student training sessions for the 2021-2022 academic year began again across all programs.

MISTI also continued to develop innovative programming to engage the MIT community. Discussions around critical topics such as the global pandemic and the Ukraine invasion helped provide context for rapidly changing global circumstances.

Personnel notes

MISTI welcomed Laura Lopez Ortiz (Program Assistant for MIT-Spain, MIT-Portugal, MIT-Mexico, MIT-Colombia), Abigail MacKenzie (Program Assistant for MIT-India), and Amanda Soh (Communications Assistant for MISTI).

Evan Lieberman, Total Professor of Political Science and Contemporary Africa, was named faculty director of MISTI. R. John Hansman, T. Wilson Professor in Aeronautics, and Doug Hart, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, were named Faculty Co-Directors for MIT-Portugal.

Security Studies Program

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, and its courses

emphasize grand strategy, causes and prevention of conflict, military operations and technology, and defense policy. Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political Science M. Taylor Fravel is 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](#), in print and online.

Ruina Nuclear Age Speaker Series

The SSP Ruina Nuclear Age Speaker Series (named in honor of former director Professor Jack Ruina) was held on November 18, 2021. This year's speaker was Rose Gottemoeller, former Deputy Secretary General of NATO, and the United States chief negotiator of the New START nuclear agreement with the Russian Federation. She spoke on "The Advent of Second-Strike Vulnerability and Options to Address It."

General Doolittle Award Dinner

The General James Doolittle Award Dinner was held on April 27, 2022. This year's featured speaker and Doolittle award recipient was Major General Leah G. Lauderback, the Director of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance for the US Space Force. Gen Lauderback spoke on challenges in the space domain and the role of intelligence. In April 2017 SSP received a generous gift from the Pierre and Amy Chao Fund to support and sustain SSPs annual Doolittle Award dinner.

SSP Special Seminars

September 14, 2021

CIS Starr Forum: US, Afghanistan, 9/11: Finished or Unfinished Business?

Speakers:

Barry Posen, SSP Ford International Professor of Political Science

Juan Cole, Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History, University of Michigan

Carol Saivetz, SSP Senior Advisor

Vanda Felbab-Brown, Director, Initiative on Nonstate Armed Actors, Brookings

This conversation explored the history and modern realities of the US occupation of Afghanistan, from 9/11 through the collapse of the Ghani government after the departure of US forces. The speakers also gave their insights on what the collapse of the US nation-building project meant for the future of the country and the region.

February 24, 2022

CIS Starr Forum: The Future of US-China Relations

Speakers:

Taylor Fravel, moderator, SSP

Eric Heginbotham, SSP Principal Research Scientist

Ketian Vivian Zhang, Assistant Professor of International Security, George Mason University

Ali Wyne, Senior Analyst, Eurasia Group's Global Macro practice

This seminar featured four experts on international relations in East Asia, who discussed the challenges and opportunities on the horizon for the US-China relationship. They also analyzed the security and diplomatic dimensions of the relationship, and how these factors related to regional historical issues and current national policy priorities.

March 2, 2022

Understanding the War in Ukraine

Speakers: Taylor Fravel, moderator, SSP; Barry Posen, SSP; Elizabeth Wood, Professor of History, MIT; Carol Saivetz, SSP; Mariya Grinberg, SSP Assistant Professor of Political Science

March 31, 2022

The Avoidable War: The Dangers of Catastrophic Conflict between the US and Xi Jinping's China Speaker: Kevin Rudd, AC (Former Australian Prime Minister) The Honorable Kevin Rudd, President and CEO of Asia Society, served as Australia's 26th Prime Minister from 2007 to 2010, then as Foreign Minister from 2010 to 2012, before returning as Prime Minister in 2013. He discusses major topics of his new book, *The Avoidable War: The Dangers of a Catastrophic Conflict between the US and Xi Jinping's China*. Rudd graduated from the Australian National University with honors in Chinese studies and is fluent in Mandarin. He also studied at the National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei.

April 1, 2022

The Strategic Use and Misuse of Emotions: Lessons from the American Civil War Speakers: Roger Peterson, SSP Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political Science Jonathan (Yoni) Shimshoni, SSP Research Affiliate

Shimshoni presented an analysis of the role and impact of collective emotions as these relate to Union strategy and operations vis-à-vis the South.

“Focus on Russia” Seminar Series

October 7, 2021

CIS Starr Forum: Navalny: Putin's Nemesis, Russia's Future?

Speakers: Carol Saivetz, SSP; Morvan Lallouet, PhD candidate in Comparative Politics, University of Kent; Ben Noble, Associate Professor of Russian Politics, University College London (UCL)

This talk featured a discussion of Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny, in the context of two of the speaker's new book: *Navalny: Putin's Nemesis, Russia's Future?* The discussants addressed Navalny's background and his role in the Russian political

landscape, as well as some ideas of how he may affect Russian politics in the near future.

November 9, 2021

CIS Starr Forum: The Future of US-Russian Relations: More of the Same or Something Different?

Speakers:

Barry Posen , SSP

Dmitri Trenin, Director, Carnegie Moscow Center

Carol Saivetz (SSP)

The discussants in this talk offered their assessments of US-Russian relations, and the possibilities of reconciliation or further international confrontation between the two countries, in consideration of global energy markets, tensions in Ukraine, and interpersonal chemistry between national leaders.

January 28, 2022

CIS Starr Forum: The Russian-Ukrainian Conflict: A prologue to WWII or another frozen conflict?

Speakers:

Dmitry Gorenburg, Senior Research Scientist, CNA

Olga Oliker, Program Director, International Crisis Group

Serhii Polkhii, Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History and Director Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University

Carol Saivetz, SSP

Elizabeth Wood, MIT

This panel of experts presented their perspectives on the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia. The speakers answered questions regarding the political situations in both Kyiv and Moscow that drive the war, as well as assessed the likely military trajectory and pace of the conflict.

March 14, 2022

CIS Starr Forum: The War in Ukraine: A Reporter's View

Speakers: Joshua Yaffa, journalist, *The New Yorker*; Carol Saivetz, SSP; Elizabeth Wood, MIT

This CIS Starr Forum invited journalist Joshua Yaffa, a Moscow-based journalist, to give his thoughts on the current war between Ukraine and Russia. It included commentary on the local popular feelings in Russia about the war, as well as the views of Russian elites and leadership.

April 4, 2022

CIS Starr Forum: The Wider Implication of the War in Ukraine

Speakers: Jacqueline Bhabha, FXB Director of Research, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health; Joel Brenner, SSP Senior Advisor; Taylor Fravel, SSP; Roger Petersen, SSP; Jim Walsh, SSP Senior Research Associate; Carol Saivetz, co-chair, SSP
Elizabeth Wood, co-chair, MIT

April 25, 2022

CIS Starr Forum: The Collapse of the Soviet Empire and the Seeds of the New European War

Speakers: Vladislav Zubok, Professor of International History, London School of Economics; Carol Saivetz, SSP ; Elizabeth Wood, MIT

This talk explored the history of the Soviet Union and how its political and diplomatic past continue to shape the path taken by present-day Russia in the international arena, including the ongoing war in Ukraine. The speakers examine the beliefs of Vladimir Putin, as well as military and normative precedents that the USSR helped establish in modern Russian political thought.

Lincoln Laboratory Speaker Series

April 14, 2022

"China's Military Strategy for a 'New Era': Some Change, More Continuity, and Tantalizing Hints

Speaker: Taylor Fravel, SSP

May 4, 2022

"Russia's War in Ukraine"

Speaker: Carol Saivetz, SSP

June 17, 2022

"Then What? Assessing the Military Implications of Chinese Control of Taiwan"

Speaker: Caitlin Talmadge, Associate Professor of Security Studies, Georgetown University

Wednesday Seminar Series

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

Research and Education

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

- Examining the underlying logic of current nonproliferation strategies
- North Korea and Iran
- Resource allocation and counter-proliferation policy
- The nuclear strategies of middle powers
- The history of nuclear issues, especially proliferation
- China's nuclear strategy

Change and Stability in Asia

- Preventing conflict in Asia's territorial and maritime disputes
- China's military and grand strategy
- Conflict over Taiwan
- US-China relations
- Japan's foreign and security policies
- Competition between India-Pakistan and India-China

US Foreign and Defense Policy

- Reassessing US grand strategy
- The nature and limits of US military power
- The future of conventional warfare
- Economics and security
- Technology and escalation

Internal Conflict

- Identity politics
- Political violence
- Civil war
- Counterinsurgency
- Post-conflict reconstruction

The program has a visiting fellows program in addition to five military fellows that rotate annually from all four US armed services. The Stanton Foundation has awarded funds to support several scholars on nuclear security policy, and a chair in political science.

The program just completed its tenth year of the fellowship, which included two post-doctoral fellows and one pre-doctoral 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 of US grand strategy, foreign policy, and America's role in the world. SSP hosted two post-doctoral fellows.

The program receives major support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which awarded SSP a 24-month grant to support our research on the global “Diffusion of Power.” It also received funding from the Raymond Frankel (MIT) Global Policy Fund, among other foundations and donors, and in May 2022 received a one-year award from Lincoln Laboratory.

Senior Congressional and Executive Branch Seminar

On April 20-22, 2022, SSP hosted its fifth biennial Senior Congressional and Executive Branch Seminar, titled “Navigating the New Era: US Foreign Policy amid a Pandemic.” Bringing 30 staffers from across the legislative and executive branches to MIT’s campus for an intensive 3-day seminar, MIT faculty and outside experts presented on various threats affecting US interests across the globe. The seminar was funded by the Raymond Frankel Foundation (MIT) Global Policy Fund to encourage interaction and exchange between scholars studying national security and policymakers.

Global Dynamics Simulation Lab

Professor Samuels and Principal Research Scientist Eric Heginbotham manage the Global Dynamics Simulation Lab (GDSL) that supports a coherent research and teaching program aimed at assessing and anticipating international crises.

The work includes research and development of simulation methodologies. The Lab aims to develop and refine a range of simulation approaches to international relations, including: (1) “Two-level Games,” the concurrent pursuit by leaders of separate domestic and international objectives in addressing negotiating with peer states on critical matters such as arms control and trade; (2) “Experimental” games that can be repeated, holding some variables constant while exploring the impact of changes in others; and (3) Tabletop games that can quickly simulate the impact of policymaking as decisions are made.

The work also involves research and development of simulation tools of global dynamics. These might include, 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 GDSL is being configured to be the primary repository for international crisis simulation reports, not just from MIT but also from other academic and (where documents are unclassified or declassified) government sources. 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 practice.

Seminar XXI

For more than three decades, CIS has hosted Seminar XXI, an educational program for senior military officers, government officials, and executives in non-governmental 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 80 fellows meet throughout the academic year in Washington, D.C., 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 35th year and now has more than 2,680 alumni. Kelly M. Greenhill, Associate Professor of Political Science at Tufts University, Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor, SOAS, UCL, and Senior Research Fellow, Center for International Studies, MIT is the Director of Seminar XXI. The Assistant Director is Tisha Voss.

Program on Emerging Technologies

CIS created the Program on Emerging Technologies (PoET) with support from a National Science Foundation IGERT grant. The program was founded by Kenneth Oye, Merritt Roe Smith, Daniel Hastings, and Dava Newman and linked Political Science, Science, Technology, and Society, and Engineering. Current activities focus on assessing and managing the benefits and risks of biological, medical, and information technologies. PoET research, education, and policy work is collaborative, with teams of technologists, scientists, social scientists, and policymakers working jointly on responsible innovation.

Research

- Developed and evaluated safeguards to limit potential security, safety and environmental effects of biological engineering applications with emphasis on: (a) Gene drive control of vector borne disease, with PoET Director Kenneth Oye serving on the NIH NExTRAC working group on gene drives; and (b) Genetically engineered chassis for materials production with support from Netherlands NWO and RIVM (with Wageningen University and Yale University).
- Worked on a study on side effects of policies addressing information hazards. 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.

- Conducted research on adaptive management of risks associated with emerging technologies, pharmaceuticals, finance, and security affairs.
- * PoET graduate students conducted research on biological and internet security in partnership with CSAIL, with attention to the effects of regulations on terms of trade; the political economy of COVID vaccines; uses of AI in social profiling in the PRC and GDR; AI and international security; and legal aspects of autonomous weapons and civilian vehicles.

Education

- Sponsored, designed, and staffed the core MIT course on Science, Technology and Public Policy, serving undergraduate and graduate students from across the Institute and from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. PoET affiliate Lawrence McCray guided graduate student research on adaptive risk governance and established a working paper series as an outlet for student papers.
- * Organized sessions on the security implications of pandemics, information technology and biological technology, and climate change for the MIT Seminar XXI Program.

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 MIT to the National Academy of Sciences, the Engineering Biology Research Consortium, the American Biological Safety Association International and to Johns Hopkins, Harvard and Emory Medical Schools, and Stanford Biological Engineering. From January of 2020 through August 2022, the group has focused on COVID related technical topics and policy issues, biosafety and biosecurity, and biological industrial policy.
- Provided leadership for the Safety Committee of the DARPA supported Broad Institute BioFoundry. The Foundry functions as a genetic design institute that enables the forward engineering of sophisticated massively multi-part genetic systems.
- * PoET Director Kenneth Oye serves as a member of the National Institutes of Health advisory committee on Novel and Exceptional Technology (NExTRAC), the International Risk Governance Center international advisory committee, and the Broad Institute Foundry Safety Committee.

Human Rights & Technology

For the fourth year, this program sponsored research opportunities for MIT students to connect matters of human rights and how they are affected by technology, for good or ill. Seven fellowships were awarded this year (including a two-person team). The topics ranged widely, and included the work on social media as a tool for witnessing and documenting discrimination in South Asia; humanitarian AI for sustainability and global inclusion; tenant screening in public housing and housing vouching programs; and the role live streaming and crowd-sourced media production plays on how Latina-American migrants document, produce and distribute information in times of crisis in NYC.

A workshop on the state-of-the-field in human rights and technology is being organized for next spring. The program is administered Anat Biletzky, Albert Schweitzer Professor of Philosophy at Quinnepiac University and a Research Affiliate of the Center and until his recent passing, Dr. John Tirman, Executive Director and Principal Research Scientist, CIS.

Persian Gulf Initiative

This program, in its 16th year, finished one of its major objectives, the book on U.S.-Iran relations that was the subject of five critical oral history conferences. The book is titled, *Republics of Myth: National Narratives and the US-Iran Conflict*, and is coauthored by Dr. Tirman, Professor Hussein Banai of Indiana University, and Malcolm Byrne, Deputy Director of the National Security Archive at George Washington University. A web site covering much of the same material advanced during the year as well. It is the third book produced through the work sponsored by the Initiative.

A project drawn from the Initiative's work on Iraq War mortality (such as "The Human Cost of the War in Iraq: A Mortality Study," October 2011) is the Human Security Dashboard, which is Web-based and provides data and analysis on several armed conflicts, including those in the Gulf area. Development on this began during this academic year. The Initiative also produced an earlier Web site on Iraq War mortality, <http://mit.edu/humancostiraq/>.

Dr. Tirman made several media appearances to comment on U.S.-Iran relations and conditions in Iraq. He also continued as a DAWN Fellow at the NGO—Democracy for Arab World Now—founded by slain journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Public Programs

In 2021-22, CIS offered 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. Multiple events, co-sponsored with the Focus on Russia series, explored the war in Ukraine. The program also continued with its series MIT X True Africa University (MIT X TAU) in late spring that explored sustainability issues in Africa.

To that end, the office of public programs produced fifteen Starr Forums and seven MIT X TAU webinars. The events were held virtually as Zoom webinars. The average attendance for a virtual Starr Forum was 276 real-time views which is up from last year's average of 191 real-time views per virtual event on Zoom. THE MIT X TAU webinars averaged 95 real-time views which is down from last year's 160 real-time views per event on Zoom.

The event videos are archived on our YouTube channel and averaged an additional 1,050 views per event for Starr Forums (up from 500 views last year) and averaged an additional 270 views per event for the MIT X TAU series (an increase from 200 views per event last year).

Highlights from the Starr Forums include:

"Republics of myth: National narratives and the US-Iran conflict," with John Tirman (MIT), Hussein Banai (Indiana University-Bloomington), and Malcolm Byrne (George Washington University).

"The collapse of the Soviet empire and the seeds of the new European war," with Vladislav Zubok (London School of Economics and Political Science), Carol Saivetz (MIT), and Elizabeth Wood (MIT).

"The wider implications of the war in Ukraine," with Jacqueline Bhabha (Harvard), Joel Brenner (MIT), Taylor Fravel (MIT), Roger Petersen (MIT), Jim Walsh (MIT), Carol Saivetz (MIT), and Elizabeth Wood (MIT).

"Autocracy's assault on press freedom," with Ada Petriczko (MIT), Valerie Hopkins (NYT), Paulina Milewska (European University Institute), and Veronica Munk (Hungarian journalist).

"The future of US-China relations," with Taylor Fravel (MIT), Eric Heginbotham (MIT), Ketian Zhang (George Mason University), and Ali Wyne (Eurasia Group).

"Global jihad: A brief history," with Richard Nielsen (MIT) and Glenn Robinson (Naval Postgraduate School).

"US, Afghanistan, 9/11: Finished or unfinished business?" with Barry Posen (MIT), Juan Cole, Carol Saivetz (MIT), and Vanda Felbab-Brown.

Highlights from the MIT X TAU series include:

"The Africa we want," featuring Claude Grunitzky, CIS research affiliate and founder of the MIT X TAU series.

"Africa's growth prospects," featuring Thabi Leoka, economist.

"Africa's innovation in education," featuring David Moinina Sengeh, Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education and Chief Innovation Officer in Sierra Leone.

"Africa's information technologies," featuring Cina Lawson, Minister of Digital Economy and Transformation in Togo.

The CIS biannual newsletter, *précis*, is a 40-plus page magazine and features original articles covering the Center's research community. *Précis*, and a monthly "In the News" email newsletter, both are circulated across the Institute, and to like-minded research centers, NGOs, policymakers, and journalists.

The office of public programs manages the external web site; the intranet site, email newsletters for both external and internal communications; and provides ongoing media support through news releases, direct media promotion and outreach, and writing and placing news features.

For new content, the office of public programs launched a War in Ukraine page on the web site, which serves as a compendium of our scholars' related commentary. The office of public programs also published multiple articles for *MIT News*, including write-ups on the anniversary of 9/11 and the wargaming revival at CIS. The war gaming article garnered media inquiries from the *Financial Times* and the *Boston Globe*.

The office of public programs also enhanced the Robert E Wilhelm's Fellowship Program web page and produced an event and an MIT News write-up regarding Robert Wilhelm's visit to CIS.

The CIS web site increased traffic to 108,718 visitors this year, which is up from 84,669 visitors last year. The CIS YouTube channel increased its views this year to 504,700 which was an increase from last year's 188,113 views.

Twitter also saw an uptick in activity and averaged 5381 profile visits per month which was up from last year's 1,000 profile visits per month. Facebook averaged 201 visits per month, which is a decrease from 378 visits per month in the prior year.

The office of public programs is part of the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) selection committee for the Center's Elizabeth Neuffer Fellow, which brings an outstanding young female journalist to the Center, with additional weeks at the *New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*. This year, we hosted two fellows. Each was incredibly productive, taking courses, writing opinion pieces, and staging an event while in residence at CIS.