

Center for International Studies

The [Center for International Studies](#) (CIS) is a principal venue at MIT for research and training on international relations, security, political economy, and several other areas of scholarly and popular interest. It has, since its founding 63 years ago, become one of the most productive and respected research institutions of its kind.

The center houses the Security Studies Program (SSP), the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI), Seminar XXI, the Political Economy and Technology Policy program, and the Persian Gulf Initiative, as well as several less formal activities and initiatives. Drawn mainly from the Departments of Political Science and Urban Studies and Planning, some 80 faculty, scholars, researchers, and fellows are affiliated with the center, joined by 40 administrative and support staff and 30 graduate students.

The director is Richard J. Samuels, Ford International Professor of Political Science, and the associate director is Ford International Professor of Political Science Stephen Van Evera. Dr. John Tirman has been executive director since October 2004.

Several new developments and activities in 2014–2015 are worth highlighting:

- The prime minister of Japan, Shinzō Abe, visited the campus and convened a group featuring Professor Samuels and Associate Professor Kenneth Oye to discuss US-Japan relations. Also, the prime minister finalized an agreement in which the government of Japan will endow a chair on Japan studies in the MIT Political Science Department.
- Professor Samuels and Associate Professor Taylor Fravel organized two major conferences on Japanese and East Asian security, the first in January at the Free University of Berlin and the second in February at MIT's Endicott House. Both were supported by the Japanese Foreign Ministry.
 - The Security Studies Program mounted over two dozen seminars and a conference for congressional staffers on key security challenges.
- In April, CIS hosted a conference, “Secrecy, Surveillance, Privacy, and International Relations,” featuring several top analysts who focus on the technical and political implications of secrecy and surveillance. Professor Samuels, Dr. Tirman, and Robert Wilhelm Fellow Joel Brenner convened the meeting.
- MISTI placed 880 students abroad, an 11% increase over the previous year, and expanded its global reach.
- With the Brookings Institution and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, CIS convened a conference in May commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. In April, Harvard Professor Jennifer Leaning delivered the inaugural Hrant Dink Memorial Human Rights Lecture at MIT.
- CIS launched the operations of the International Policy Lab (IPL), which promotes the policy-relevant work of MIT faculty and researchers. Featured in this first year was groundbreaking work done by Professor Oye in pharmaceutical regulation.

- John Tirman spoke at the “World Against Violent Extremism” conference, convened in Tehran by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.
- The center sponsored a workshop on “The American Political Economy in Comparative Perspective,” co-hosted by Professor Kathleen Thelen.

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. Ford International Professor of Political Science Barry Posen is director of the program.

SSP held its annual Ruina Nuclear Age Speaker Series dinner on October 27, 2014; the guest speaker was Ambassador Robert L. Gallucci, Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service. The topic of his presentation was “Nuclear Weapons: They’re Back.”

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

- “Putin’s Kleptocracy: Who Owns Russia?” (Professor Karen Dawisha, director, Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, Miami University of Ohio, October 28, 2014)
- “Stalin: Geopolitics, Power, Ideas” (Professor Stephen Kotkin, vice dean, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, November 13, 2014)
- “Kremlin Propaganda: Can Putin Control It?” (Anna Arutunyan, author, *The Putin Mystique*, November 18, 2014)
- “The Rise and (Apparent) Fall of the ‘Russian Mafia’” (Professor Mark Galeotti, New York University, February 6, 2015)
- “Reality Check: Russia, Ukraine, and the West in Crisis and Conflict” (Professor Matthew Rojansky, director, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, DC, February 27, 2015)
- “Fertility Surveillance and the Production of Families for the Nation: Russian Demographic Science and the Search for a Liberal Biopolitics” (Michele Rivkin-Fish, associate professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 17, 2015)
- “When the Dust Settles: The Russian Foreign Policy after the Ukrainian Crisis” (Andrey Kortunov, president, Eurasia Foundation, May 4, 2015)

SSP hosted its second seminar for senior congressional and executive branch staff, “Renewal or Retrenchment: US Grand Strategy in a Volatile World,” in April. The seminar was a project of the Frankel (MIT) Global Policy Program Fund. Panels included discussions on grand strategy, international security in Asia, Europe and the renaissance of Russian power, new technology and changing dimensions of military power, and the greater Middle East. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry, William J. Perry Fellow in International Security at Stanford University’s Center for International Security and Cooperation and former US ambassador to Afghanistan, was the keynote speaker at the opening lunch.

SSP held its Nuclear Studies Research Initiative (NSRI) conference April 30 to May 3, 2015, at Airlie Center in northern Virginia. The conference brought scholars from different countries and academic disciplines into conversation about nuclear issues and highlighted NSRI’s orientation toward important current policy debates. Colin Kahl, national security adviser to Vice President Joe Biden, delivered the keynote address on the first day of the conference. He provided a detailed account of nuclear negotiations with Iran and assessed their impact on the region. The initiative is headed by Francis Gavin, Stanton Chair in Nuclear Security Policy Studies and professor of political science at MIT.

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 in the 18 seminars held 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, *Early Warning*; 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 the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, change and stability in Asia, US foreign and defense policy, and internal conflict.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

MISTI created new pilot internship programs in the United Kingdom and Jordan this year and continued to expand the MIT-Africa Program by sending students to Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria, and Rwanda. The Global Teaching Labs (GTL) program added opportunities in Korea, Russia, and South Africa over the Independent Activities Period (IAP) and developed a small summer pilot program in Armenia. The MIT Global Startup Labs (GSL) program launched projects in Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa, and Sri Lanka, and the MISTI Global Seed Funds (GSF) program introduced new funds for Brazil, Germany, Israel, and Peru.

David Dolev, assistant director of MISTI and managing director of the MIT-Israel Program, received the MIT Excellence Award in March 2015. MIT-Italy Program co-director and GTL founder Serenella Sferza was awarded the 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, or teach abroad. These experiences are provided at no cost to the students. Students prepare for their placements through MIT courses in the language, history, and

politics of the host country and a series of not-for-credit training modules developed by MISTI staff.

In 2014–2015, MISTI placed 880 students abroad, an 11% increase over the previous period. Of these placements, the majority (63%) were internships or research opportunities in companies, research institutions, or university laboratories. The GTL program sent 145 students to Armenia, Germany, Israel, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, and Spain to teach science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects in high schools (up from 100 students the previous year). In addition, 43 students taught STEM subjects and entrepreneurship during the summer through the China Educational Technology Initiative (CETI), the GSL program, and the Middle East Education through Technology (MEET) program. Five students received MISTI 2.0 grants to build on their earlier MISTI internships through subsequent short-term projects abroad over IAP. The remaining placements were various opportunities made possible through MISTI. Overall, 2014–2015 MISTI student placements were as follows:

- 557 internships
- 145 Global Teaching Labs
- 43 summer teaching opportunities (CETI, GSL, MEET)
- 5 MISTI 2.0 projects
- 47 short-term research projects
- 60 workshops
- 10 study abroad projects
- 1 graduate school/postdoc placement
- 1 full-time placement
- 4 externships
- 12 training programs

MISTI now offers these student experiences abroad through 19 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 2014–2015, MISTI created new funds for Egypt, Israel, Mexico, and Peru, bringing the total number of funds available to 23. MISTI received 205 applications from faculty and research scientists in 27 MIT departments and awarded 97 projects a total of over \$2.1 million.

Other Programs

This year MISTI partnered with the MIT Innovation Diplomats Program (MIT Innovation Initiative), which invites MIT students participating in global initiatives to more meaningfully engage with regional/national innovation ecosystems while abroad. During their internships, MISTI innovation ambassadors engage with regional/national innovation ecosystems and meet with alumni and others in the region to continue their on-the-field analysis, which allows them to forge relationships with leaders in government, the corporate sector, entrepreneurship, risk capital, and academia. Nineteen MISTI innovation ambassadors were named in 2014–2015.

MISTI's country programs this year offered dozens of events on international topics in politics, culture, science, technology, history, industry, and the humanities for the MIT community. As a part of its predeparture training programs for outgoing students, MISTI created five MISTI-wide training sessions open to the MIT community: Communicating Across Cultures; Food, Land & Water: the World and MIT (in partnership with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering); MISTI Health & Safety; Energy: The World and MIT (in partnership with the MIT Energy Initiative); and Understanding Global Innovation Economies (in partnership with the MIT Innovation Initiative).

Personnel Notes

Patrick Jaillet, the Dugald C. Jackson Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, was named the new faculty director of the MIT-France Program, and Paulo Lozano, associate professor of aeronautics and astronautics, was named faculty director of the MIT-Mexico Program.

Program on Emerging Technologies

The Program on Emerging Technologies (PoET) 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 and engineering systems.

PoET was launched with funding from a five-year National Science Foundation (NSF) Integrative Graduate Educational and Research Training (IGERT) grant to integrate research and training for doctoral students from the Department of Political Science, the Engineering Systems Division, and the Program in Science, Technology, and Society. 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 pharmaceuticals licensing in partnership with the MIT Center for Biomedical Innovation (CBI) and the European Medicines Agency. Another addresses environmental and security implications of synthetic biology in partnership with the MIT Synthetic Biology Center, the NSF Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center,

and the Woodrow Wilson Center. In the summer of 2015, PoET joined the new MIT Cybersecurity and Internet Policy Research Initiative.

Pharmaceuticals

In 2014–2015, 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. Projects with CBI and the Tufts University Medical School integrated PoET research on adaptive environmental, health, and safety regulation under conditions of uncertainty and complexity with proposals from the European Medicines Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, and Health Canada on progressive licensing of drugs. A highlight was publication of “The Next Frontier: Fostering Innovation by Improving Health Data Access and Utilization” in *Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*. One focus of this work was technical solutions to testing. PoET worked with the Weiss Lab at the MIT Synthetic Biology Center to evaluate the suitability of a programmable organoid for testing drugs directed at genetically homogeneous patient groups.

Synthetic Biology

The trademark of PoET work on synthetic biology is the use of near-term applications of synthetic biology as test beds for research on risk governance and policy recommendations.

- *Environment*: In 2013–2014, PoET and the Woodrow Wilson Center collaborated on a study to identify environmental effects of synthetic biology, flag sources of uncertainty over effects, and generate a research agenda to address critical sources of uncertainty. The project was supported by NSF’s Division of Cellular and Molecular Biology, Division of Environmental Biology, and Engineering Directorate. The research agenda was developed through consultations among synthetic biologists, evolutionary biologists, regulators, civil society, and firms. Workshops used four applications of synthetic biology as prompts: endonuclease gene drives for editing the genes of plants and animals in the wild (Harvard Wyss Institute), nitrogen fixation in nonlegumes (MIT Synthetic Biology Center), luminescent *Arabidopsis* (Kickstarter Glowing Plants), and bioremediation and waste treatment in copper mining (Universal Biomining). Key policy-relevant gaps in knowledge were identified with an emphasis on interaction across fitness, evolutionary stability, and gene transfer. Outputs included articles published in the *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences* (“Creating a Research Agenda for Ecological Implications of Synthetic Biology” and “Shaping Ecological Risk Research for Synthetic Biology”) and *Science* (“On Regulating Gene Drives”).
- *Security and safety*: In 2014, PoET worked with the International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition (iGEM), Public Health Canada, and SGI-DNA to screen over 200 iGEM team projects, train iGEM faculty and students on safety and security practices, and screen more than 20,000 parts in the Standard Registry of Biological Parts. This work provided 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. Parts

screening also provided an empirical basis for evaluating the need to develop international standards for characterizing the function of biological parts as well as organisms of origin. An article resulting from these efforts, “Designing Safety Policies to Meet Evolving Needs: iGEM as a Testbed for Proactive and Adaptive Risk Management,” has been published in *ACS Synthetic Biology*. In 2015, PoET assessed the safety and security implications of opiate synthesis in yeast, working with the Dueber Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Vincent Laboratory at Concordia University. Outputs included “Regulate Home Brew Opiates,” published in *Nature*.

Public Policy and Innovation

In 2014–2015, Calestous Juma (Martin Luther King Visiting Professor), Nicholas Short (an intellectual property attorney), Leonard Miller (Sullivan and Worcester LLP), and Aleksandra Malyska (Polish Academy of Sciences) joined the PoET team. Short produced a study on the effects of research and education patent exemptions on innovation in synthetic biology. PoET, the MIT Synthetic Biology Center, and the Harvard Wyss Institute conducted a workshop on impediments to responsible commercialization of the Weiss Lab programmable organoid for drug testing, the Voigt Lab nitrogen fixating nonlegumes, and the Wyss Institute gene drive. The workshop brought together technologists, venture capitalists, potential customers, and regulators to evaluate the effects of regulatory and intellectual property rights requirements on the economic viability of these specific applications of synthetic biology and to provide a basis for broader comparisons of the effects of national regulations and incentives on the location and pace of commercialization of synthetic biology.

Policy and Public Outreach

To engage with relevant policy communities, PoET presents its research findings with policy implications at meetings with significant governmental and intergovernmental organizations. In 2014–2015, these meetings included the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the United Nations, the National Research Council, the National Institutes of Health, the Hastings Center, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the International Risk Governance Council. In addition, PoET convenes small closed meetings and workshops to encourage candid discussions on an off-the-record basis. For example, PoET organized a closed meeting on synthetic biology security issues at iGEM 2014 with the participation of the FBI, the Departments of Defense and State, Lincoln Laboratory, the UN Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit, and Public Health Canada. Also, in 2014, PoET director Oye served on the National Research Council Board on Global Science and Technology. PoET research has attracted significant media attention, with coverage in outlets including *Science*, *Nature*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Smithsonian* magazine, Fox News, CNN, and NPR.

International Policy Lab

To improve connections between the policy community and academia, the center recently created the International Policy Lab with seed funding from the provost and the dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. IPL consists of a group of

core and affiliated faculty from across the Institute and works in conjunction with MIT's Washington Office.

IPL identifies policy-relevant research being conducted by faculty members and research scientists at the Institute, especially those whose ties to Washington are not already well developed, and works with them to engage the policy community. IPL provides support in the following areas:

- Connecting researchers with core faculty and staff in the lab who have policy experience as a means of better defining and articulating the policy implications of their work
- Offering modest grants and staff support to faculty members to translate their scholarship into briefing papers and articles aimed at policy audiences
- Arranging meetings and events to disseminate information to policymakers, the media, and prominent think tanks

In its first year, IPL added Daniel Weitzner, director of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory's Decentralized Information Group, as a core faculty member and Richard Lester, Japan Steel Industry Professor and associate provost, as an affiliated faculty member. It also formed official partnerships with the Wilson Center and Third Way, a centrist think tank based in Washington, DC.

IPL projects to date have focused on biotechnology regulation, nuclear proliferation, homeland security, and fugitive methane. Below are highlights of work during IPL's first year.

IPL provided Professor Oye with funding to travel to the UN Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva and to the National Research Council meeting on the security implications of advanced gene editing methods.

The lab worked with Jessika Trancik, Atlantic Richfield Career Development Assistant Professor of Energy Studies at the MIT Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS), to translate and disseminate her work on the climate impacts of methane to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Energy, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, congressional staff, the media, and various Washington, DC, think tanks. During this process, IPL confirmed that Trancik's work was included in a high-level EPA memorandum and arranged for her to be interviewed and quoted by *The Hill* newspaper in an article on methane regulations.

IPL has been working with Scott Kemp, assistant professor of nuclear science and engineering, and Jim Walsh, research associate in the Security Studies Program, to solicit feedback from the public policy community to guide the direction of a two-year study of the nuclear proliferation impact of developing laser enrichment technology in the United States. Specifically, IPL met with and received feedback from staff at the Department of Defense, the State Department, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Department of Energy, four Congressional offices, and a variety of think tanks and nongovernmental organizations.

Public Programs

In 2014–2015, CIS continued to foster a very active public education program including lectures, seminars, films, and other events. The program also launched Generation Global, an international problem-solving experience for high school students.

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 conversations were spirited and informed. Videos of the events are posted on TechTV, MIT's video page, the CIS website, and YouTube. When possible, CIS involves like-minded organizations on campus and the local community, as well as local media outlets. Starr Forums included the following:

- “Africa Rebooted” (moderated by Calestous Juma, Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Professor at MIT, and including as speakers academics working at the interface of science, technology, and innovations in development in Africa)
- “Whither US Grand Strategy?” (with Professor Barry Posen, Professor Francis J. Gavin, and Stephen Walt, the Robert and Renee Belfer Professor of International Affairs at Harvard University)
- “Palestine Now” (with Dr. Husam Zomlot, a specialist on Middle East affairs who has worked at the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute and the United Nations Office of the Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories)
- “Demystifying ISIS” (with Juan Cole, Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History at the University of Michigan, and Richard Nielsen, assistant professor of political science at MIT)
- “Evolving Security Dynamics in Asia” (with Ambassador Shivshankar Menon, a CIS Robert Wilhelm Fellow and India's former national security adviser and foreign secretary; Professor Taylor Fravel; and Vipin Narang, associate professor of political science at MIT)

CIS hosted a book talk and several film screenings. Scholar Mary Sarotte's talk on new book *The Collapse: The Accidental Opening of the Berlin Wall* was well attended. Sarotte was joined by Noam Chomsky, MIT Institute Professor Emeritus, who provided additional commentary.

One of the films screened by CIS was *Documented*, written and directed by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, who revealed himself as an undocumented immigrant. The film elucidates the dysfunctional US immigration system and how it leads to broken families and broken lives. In addition, during IAP, CIS screened two films on the ravages of war. The first, *A Forgotten Crime*, looks back at chemical weapon use against Iran by Saddam Hussein in the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988) and draws the viewer into the humanitarian, military, and political drama of this chemical warfare, which has determined Iran's position in the international political arena to this very day. The second, *Hearts and Minds*, is an award-winning American documentary film about the Vietnam War released in 1974.

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

Finally, public programs extended its public outreach by launching the new "Generation Global" program. The initiative partnered with Prospect Hill Academy (PHA), a public charter high school in Cambridge, with 11 PHA students participating in a two-week summer global problem-solving experience on campus. They were presented with the global challenge of health care scarcity. The instructors included two MIT students and one PHA teacher. The experience concluded with a public event in which the high school students presented authentic solutions to a panel of experts. Parents, teachers, and members of the MIT community attended the event.

Seminar XXI: Outreach to the Washington Policy Community

For 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 29th year and now has more than 2,000 alumni. Robert Art, Christian A. Herter Professor of International Relations at Brandeis University and an SSP senior fellow, directs Seminar XXI.

Persian Gulf Initiative

This project was begun nine years ago to address contemporary issues of security in Iran, Iraq, Yemen, and the Gulf monarchies. It has sponsored several workshops; commissioned a mortality study of the Iraq war (2003–2006 period); produced two reports, two books, and several articles; and offered presentations to academic, policy, and news media audiences.

The initiative and its principal investigator, John Tirman, work with the National Security Archive at George Washington University and the Balsillie School at the University of Waterloo (Canada) on the "Missed Opportunities in the U.S.-Iran Relationship" project. This project has convened four major conferences and produced new knowledge that has been disseminated through articles, books, and presentations at the Woodrow Wilson Center, the Carnegie Council, and other venues. In 2014–2015, the principal activity was preparing for and participating in the "World Against Violent Extremism" Tehran conference, sponsored by President Rouhani. A number of meetings

at the foreign ministry, Tehran University, and elsewhere also introduced the project to Iranian policy professionals. The project's work is being dynamically presented on an online platform designed by MIT's HyperStudio.

The Persian Gulf Initiative is supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and a generous MIT alumna family.

Seminar Series

In addition to occasional seminars or small forums, SSP's Wednesday seminar, and the series on Russia, the center organizes and sponsors three series, one on the Middle East, one on international migration, and one on South Asia.

Bustani Middle East Seminar

The Bustani seminar was endowed by Emile Bustani, a distinguished graduate of MIT; it is organized by Associate Provost Philip Khoury. In 2014–2015, four speakers were featured:

- Eric Davis (Department of Political Science, Rutgers University), "The Islamic State and the Future of Iraq: Terrorism, Sectarianism, and Democracy"
- Sara Roy (senior research scholar, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University), "Gaza: Inventions and Illuminations"
- Stephen Kinzer (journalist in residence, Brown University), "Iran and the United States: Eternal Enemies or Natural Partners?"
- Hugh Roberts (Edward Keller Professor of North African and Middle Eastern History and director of the Middle Eastern Studies Program, Tufts University), "The Pioneer's Progress: From Revolution to Constitutional Government in Tunisia"

Myron Weiner Seminar on International Migration

The Weiner series honors the late Myron Weiner, one of the world's preeminent migration theorists and former CIS director. The series is organized by the Inter-University Committee on International Migration, a consortium that includes faculty from MIT, Harvard University, Brandeis University, Tufts University, Wellesley College, and Boston University. The committee is co-chaired by Professors Reed Ueda and Anna Hardman, both of Tufts. In 2014–2015, the committee hosted four seminars:

- Susan Akram (director, International Human Rights Clinic, Boston University), "Still Waiting for Tomorrow: The Law and Politics of Unresolved Refugee Crises with Particular Emphasis on the Refugees in the Middle East"
- Noora A. Lori (assistant professor of international relations, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University), "Migration, National Security, and New Forms of Policing: Dubai and Abu Dhabi"

- Philippe Fargues (director, Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute), “Dreaming Europe in the Wake of the Arab Revolts: Causes and Consequences of Migration from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe”
- James F. Hollifield (director, Tower Center for Political Studies, Southern Methodist University), “Theorizing International Migration: Towards a Unified Field of Study”

Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics

The Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics is co-sponsored by CIS, the Watson Institute at Brown University, and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. This year’s speakers and topics were as follows:

- Shivaji Mukherjee (University of Toronto), “Colonial Origins of Maoist Insurgency in India: Historical Legacies of British Indirect Rule”
- Akshay Mangla (Harvard University), “Bureaucratic Politics and Democratic Rights: Forging a Right to Education in India”
- Sunila Kale (University of Washington), “Electrifying India: Regional Political Economies of Development”
- Jairam Ramesh (Indian Parliament), “India’s Maoist Insurgency Challenge”
- Pradeep Chhibber (University of California, Berkeley), “Religious Practice and Democracy in India”
- Amit Ahuja (University of California, Santa Barbara), “Soldier, God, and the State: Religion in the Armies of India and Pakistan”
- Milan Vaishnav (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), “Understanding the Changing Indian Voter”
- Chandan Gowda (Azim Premji University), “The Origins of the Developmental State: Colonialism and the Politics of Knowledge in India”
- Shivshankar Menon (Fisher Family Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School), “India’s National Security Calculus”

Graduate Student Working Groups

MIT graduate students organize working groups at which a central subject is discussed in an informal setting, occasionally with presentations by group members or outside scholars. CIS sponsors these working groups, some of which have been ongoing for several years. At least one faculty member is involved with each group. In 2014–2015, they included the following:

- Asia Security
- Chinese Politics Research Workshop
- Global Sustainability
- Humanitarian and Disaster Relief
- IR Student Work-in-Progress

- Latin American Research
- Nuclear Politics
- Strategic Use of Force
- Women in International Security

Affirmative Action Goals

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

Richard J. Samuels
Director

Stephen Van Evera
Associate Director

John Tirman
Executive Director