

## 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, 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.

Richard J. Samuels, Ford International Professor of Political Science, has directed the Center for 15 years with the active participation of about 30 faculty and researchers, 40 staff, and 30 graduate students, along with numerous distinguished affiliated scholars and practitioners. CIS's innovative exploration of international issues enriches MIT, the nation, and the world.

Leadership of the Center includes Professor Samuels, director; Ford International Professor of Political Science Stephen Van Evera, associate director; and Dr. John Tirman, executive director.

Highlights of the academic year include:

- New initiatives on East Asian security issues were mounted, including a major conference, a working group, a writing project of Wilhelm Fellow Paul Heer, and the arrival of Asian security scholar Eric Heginbotham as Principal Research Scientist.
- Wilhelm Fellow Joel Brenner organized a series of policy workshops with leading technologists from industry, government, and academia on the security of critical infrastructure, in conjunction with MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab.
- Work of the Program on Emerging Technologies on adaptive management of benefits and risks of biotechnology was published in *Nature*, *Science* and *CP&T*, with invited presentations to the White House, the National Intelligence Board, and the National Academy of Sciences, among others.
- The International Policy Lab, in its second year, fielded its first open call for proposals and supported 13 of them from across the MIT campus in environmental science, energy, Middle East politics, and other fields.
- MISTI Global Seed Funds awarded funding to 86 projects. This cycle's winning faculty and research scientists represent four MIT schools and 22 departments across the Institute.

- Professor Posen has been appointed Henry A. Kissinger Chair in Foreign Policy and International Relations at the Library of Congress John W. Kluge Center, and Associate Professor of Political Science Taylor Fravel was named a Carnegie Fellow.
- Meera Srinivasan, formerly a senior assistant editor with *The Hindu*, served as the 2015-16 IWWMF Elizabeth Neuffer Fellow in residence at the Center. The award is offered through the International Women's Media Foundation (IWWMF) and is sponsored in part by CIS.
- Starr Forums continued to inform and enliven broad audiences at MIT and online, with speakers such as author Ayaan Hirsi Ali, human rights activist Sarah Leah Whitson, and refugees advocate Jennifer Leaning.

### **MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI)**

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

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

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

#### *MISTI student programs*

MISTI offers MIT undergraduate and graduate students opportunities to intern, research, and teach abroad. These experiences are provided at no cost to the students. Students prepare for their placements through MIT courses in the language, history, and politics of the host country and a series of six to ten not-for-credit training modules developed by MISTI staff.

In 2015-2016, MISTI placed 992 students abroad, a 12 percent increase over the previous period. Of these placements, the majority were internships or research in companies, research institutions, or university laboratories. The GTL program sent

196 students over IAP and summer to Armenia, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Korea, Mexico, Scotland, South Africa, and Spain to teach STEM subjects. In addition, 46 students taught STEM subjects and entrepreneurship during the summer through the China Educational Technology Initiative (CETI), Global Startup Labs (GSL), Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow (MEET), and MIT-AFRICA teaching programs in Nigeria and Ghana. Four students received MISTI 2.0 grants to build on their earlier MISTI internships through subsequent short-term projects abroad over IAP. The remaining placements were various opportunities made possible through MISTI.

MISTI student placements 2015-2016:

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

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

#### *MISTI Global Seed Funds*

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. MISTI GSF comprises a general fund for projects in any country, and several country funds for projects in a particular country.

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

### *Other programs*

This year MISTI expanded its partnership with the MIT Innovation Initiative by sending 3 full-time iDiplomats to Mongolia, in addition to 25 part-time iDiplomats in other countries. During their internships, these students engage with regional/national innovation ecosystems and meet with alumni and others in the region to continue their in-the-field analyses. These experiences allow students to forge relationships with leaders in government, the corporate sector, entrepreneurship, risk capital, and academia.

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

### *Personnel notes*

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

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

### **Security Studies Program (SSP)**

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

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

On November 2, 2015, SSP co-sponsored a special seminar with MITSTI Israel with speaker Miri Eisin, former Colonel in the Israeli Defense Forces. Her talk was titled "Israel: Security and Safety, Challenges and Opportunities."

On November 12, 2015, SSP held a special seminar titled "View from the National Intelligence Council: Current Issues in National Security" by Dr. Gregory Treverton from the National Intelligence Council.

On November 19, 2015, SSP held its Ruina Nuclear Age Speaker Series with guest speaker Ambassador Wendy Sherman, former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs (Sept 2011 to Oct 2015). The topic of her presentation was "Negotiating Change: The Iran Nuclear Deal."

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

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

On April 21, 2016 SSP held a special seminar titled "Sierra Hotel: Flying Air Force Fighters In the Decade After Vietnam," by US Air Force Colonel Dick "Lucky" Anderegg.

SSP held a seminar series titled "Focus on Russia," which considered a number of current issues in Russian politics and society:

September 21, 2015, Maria Lipman, George Washington University, on "A New Russian Ideology: Forceful but Uncertain"

October 1, 2015, Michael Kofman, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center, and Johan Norberg, senior researcher, Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), on "Russia's Military: Capabilities, Conflict in Ukraine, and Challenges for NATO"

March 3, 2016, Yoshinori Takeda, Counselor, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, and Elizabeth Wishnick, Montclair State University, on "Can Russia

Really Pivot to Asia?”

April 5, 2016, Sergey Aleksashenko, Senior Fellow, the Brookings Institution, on “Russian Economic Reality: More Dangerous than Stagnation”

May 2, 2016, Andrey Kortunov, New Eurasia Foundation and Russian International Affairs Council, “After Ukraine, After Syria: What’s Next?”

Sustaining a long tradition, SSP continued the Wednesday Seminar Series, 19 in total, which offers talks on topics relevant to national defense and international relations, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Russian energy policies, Iranian nuclear policy, terrorism, radicalization of Muslims in Europe, the problem of religion and war, the defense industry, humanitarian intervention, military technology and transformation, and military history. Speakers included academics, military officers, government officials, and journalists. The speaker series is open to the entire MIT community and general public.

SSP publishes an annual report, <http://mit.edu/ssp/publications/annual.html>; a quarterly digital newsletter, <https://sspearlywarning.mit.edu/>, and a working paper series. In addition, several members of the program have made themselves available for a variety of media appearances.

Program research is built around the interests of the faculty, the dissertations of the graduate students, and occasional commissioned projects. Key research areas are:

*Nuclear Strategy and Statecraft*

Examining the underlying logic of current nonproliferation strategies:

- Iran and North Korea
- Resource allocation and counter-proliferation policy

Middle Power Nuclear Strategies

Nuclear History

*Change and Stability in Asia*

How China will manage active territorial disputes as a rising power:

- The role of nationalism in shaping China’s foreign policy
- Implications of China’s growing engagement within the Asian region

Securing Japan

The India-Pakistan Competition

*U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy*

Reassessing U.S. grand strategy

The nature and limits of U.S. military power

The future of conventional warfare

*Internal Conflict*

Identity politics

Political violence

- Civil war
- Counterinsurgency
- Post-conflict reconstruction

The program has a visiting fellows program in addition to the military fellows that rotate annually from all four U.S. armed services. The Stanton Foundation has awarded funds to support several scholars on nuclear issues, and a chair in political science. The program just completed its fourth year of the fellowship, which included one junior faculty fellow and two pre-doctoral fellows.

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

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

**Program on Emerging Technologies (PoET)**

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 effects; and develop recommendations for improving the capacity of public and private institutions to manage benefits and risks under uncertainty. It is headed by Kenneth Oye, former CIS Director and Associate Professor of Political Science and the Institute for Data, Systems and Society.

PoET was launched with a five year grant from National Science Foundation IGERT to integrate research and training for doctoral students from Political Science, the Engineering Systems Division, and the Program on Science, Technology and Society. PoET retrospective case studies on past emerging technologies are used to inform prospective assessments of advanced biotechnologies and next generation internet. One project focuses on integrating information on safety, efficacy and effectiveness in pharmaceuticals licensing in partnership with the MIT Center for Biomedical Innovation (CBI), the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Tufts University Center for Translational Medicine. One project addresses environmental, security, and economic implications of synthetic biology in partnership with the MIT Synthetic Biology Center, the NSF Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center, and the Woodrow Wilson Center. Finally, in the summer of 2015, PoET Director Kenneth Oye joined with MIT CSAIL as part of the leadership team for the MIT Internet Policy Research Initiative.

**Pharmaceuticals:** In 2015-2016, PoET work focused on medicines directed at narrowly defined treatment groups defined by genotypic and phenotypic markers where conventional RCTs are difficult or impossible to conduct. One element of work focussed on post-marketing evidence generation and utilization. PoET worked with the MIT Center for Biomedical Innovation (CBI) and Tufts Center for Translational Medicine to apply PoET findings on adaptive regulation under conditions of uncertainty and complexity to European Medicines Agency, FDA and Health Canada proposals for reforms in drug licensing. PoET Director Kenneth Oye was lead author of "The Next Frontier: Fostering Innovation by Improving Health Data Access and Utilization" (*CP&T*, September 2015) and "Pharmaceuticals Licensing and Reimbursement in the European Union, United States and Japan" (*CP&T* and EU Parliament, forthcoming 2016).

Synthetic Biology: The trademark of PoET work on synthetic biology is to identify and fill gaps in scientific and technical knowledge that bear directly on policy

debates. To this end, PoET's Synthetic Biology Policy Group used near term applications of synthetic biology as test beds for experimentation in risk governance and to use results to inform deliberations on policy.

a. Environment: PoET, the Woodrow Wilson Center, and NSF SynBERC collaborated on a project on testing technical safeguards to limit environmental effects of applications of synthetic biology. Biological engineers at Yale, Harvard, and MIT are seeking to control fitness of through multiple nutrient dependencies on synthetic amino acids, to reduce lateral gene flow through recoding, and to limit environmental effects of gene drives through design of immunization and reversal drives and through localization strategies. In June 2016, the developers of these safeguards, environmental scientists, regulators, firms and civil society met at a closed workshop to propose and evaluate methods for credible and effective testing of safeguards. PoET is now organizing an international consortium to conduct tests.

b. Security and Safety: PoET continued to work with the International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition (iGEM), Public Health Canada, and SGI DNA to screen over 250 iGEM team projects, train iGEM faculty and students on safety and security practices and screen over 20000 parts in the iGEM 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. In 2016, PoET Professor Oye was invited to organize and chair the biosecurity and safety committee for the DARPA supported Broad Institute – MIT Synthetic Biology Center Bio-Foundry.

c. Regulation and Public Policy: In 2015-2016, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs conducted a full scale review of the Coordinated Framework on the Regulation of Biotechnology, the first review in over thirty years. PoET's extensive analysis of environmental, security, and safety implications of current, near-term and emerging applications of synthetic biology provided an empirical basis for evaluating current guideline, identifying problems, and recommending changes. In 2016, PoET used this experience as the bases for a 30-page "White Paper" on Revision of the Coordinated Framework, was invited to meet with principals conducting the review at the White House, and participated in official public comment.

d. Outreach: To engage with publics and policy communities, PoET presents its research findings with implications for policy in meetings with significant governmental and intergovernmental organizations. In 2015-2016, this included the National Intelligence Board, the National Institutes of Health's National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity, as well as the National Academy of Sciences Life Sciences Board. In addition, PoET convenes small closed meetings and workshops to encourage candid discussion on an off-the-record basis. For example, PoET continued to organize closed meetings on synthetic biology security issues at iGEM with participation of the FBI, the Departments of Defense and State, FDA Lincoln Laboratories, the UN Biological Weapons Convention, and Public Health Canada and the International Experts Group on Biosecurity Regulation. Finally, PoET has an active program of outreach to interested publics, with events including "Engineering Life – Who Needs Rules?" at the MIT Museum in October 2015 to lecture at the European Union Synnergene Conference in Amsterdam in June 2016.

### **International Policy Lab**

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

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

In the last year the IPL formed a formal partnership with the Environmental Solutions Initiative (ESI) and added its director, John Fernandez, as an affiliated faculty member.

**Table 1: Projects Selected by First Call for Proposals (listed alphabetically)**

Principal Investigator (Collaborator)	Department	Policy Area	Funding Offered	Staff Support Offered
Robert Armstrong  Professor and Director of the MIT Energy Initiative (Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga Visiting Professor)	Chemical Engineering	(a) regulation in zero-variable-cost electricity environments and (b) distributed energy sources	\$10,000 / \$2,000	Editing documents for policy audiences
Nicholas Ashford Professor	Engineering Systems Division	(a) regulation of hazardous chemicals in the US and (b) economic effects of deep decarbonization in the European Union	\$3,000	Editing documents for policy audiences and developing outreach plan
Lydia Bourouiba Assistant Professor	Civil and Environmental Engineering	Infectious respiratory disease	\$8,000	Editing policy briefs and arranging policy outreach
Alberto Cavallo Associate Professor	Sloan School of Management	Estimation of inflation using big data	\$5,000	Travel logistics support
Kevin Esvelt Assistant Professor	Program in Media Arts and Sciences	Regulation of synthetic biology	\$10,000	Translating research and developing outreach strategy
Janelle Knox-Hayes Associate	Urban Studies and Planning	Cross-national support for climate change policies	\$2,100	Identifying the

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Professor				policy implications of research
Richard Nielsen Assistant Professor	Political Science	(a) radicalization of Muslim clerics and (b) consequences of assassinating jihadi clerics	\$10,000	Editing documents for policy audiences and developing outreach
Elsa Olivetti Assistant Professor	Materials Science and Engineering	Carbon foot-printing and mitigation of emissions in the IT industry	\$4,400	Editing documents for policy audiences and communications training
Thomas Peacock  Associate Professor (Pierre Lermusiex Associate Professor)	Mechanical Engineering	Environmental impacts of deep sea mining	\$10,000	Drafting and editing policy documents, organizing a workshop
Alex Pentland  Professor (Yves-Alexandre De Montjoye Postdoctoral Fellow)	Program in Media Arts and Sciences	Big data and privacy	\$10,000	Logistical support
Noelle Selin  Associate Professor	IDSS and EAPS	National and international regulation of mercury emissions	\$10,000	Drafting and editing policy documents, logistical support for workshop
Elizabeth Wood  Professor	History	Russian foreign policy under Putin	\$1,800	Assist in developing policy

The IPL is directed by Associate Professor J. Chappell H. Lawson, and managed by Dan Pomeroy, Ph.D., with active participation by the Center's leadership. It received one grant from the ClearPath Foundation to support outreach on climate related policy matters, and has major support from the Provost.

### **Protecting Critical Infrastructure**

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

That attention is being mounted by Robert Wilhelm Fellow Joel Brenner, in conjunction with several faculty and researchers at CIS and the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab (CSAIL). Brenner, who came to the Center in 2014, was inspector general of the National Security Agency and head of counter-intelligence for the Director of National Intelligence.

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

By changing the research landscape, this project seeks to achieve long-term improvements in the operational landscape in the U.S. and internationally. To accomplish this, the CIS/CSAIL collaboration brought together in separate working groups the network managers, key government officials, and academic engineering and policy experts to focus on four critical infrastructure sectors: Electricity, Finance, Communications, and Oil & Natural Gas. A fifth working group with selected participants from the first four sessions concluded the series of workshops. A research agenda and policy interventions in early iterations were begun in these workshops as part of an ongoing effort.

### **Persian Gulf Initiative**

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

In 2015-16, work included a policy recommendation on accounting for the human cost of war, by CIS Executive Director and Principal Research Scientist John Tirman, published in *Foreign Affairs* online. He discussed the policy implications of war mortality at conferences at Boston University and at Simon Fraser University, and in a talk at Nanyang Technical University, Singapore. Dr. Tirman also convened a workshop with the co-sponsorship of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Washington, D.C., to assess strategies for dealing with humanitarian and human rights law violations, with particular reference to the extraordinary war mortality and displacement of the wars in Iraq and Syria.

The U.S.-Iran project, which has examined "missed opportunities" in the relationship, proceeded to its third book project with interviews and small group meetings. Dr. Tirman published articles in the popular press, such as the *Boston Globe*, and spoke widely on the Iran nuclear deal, including at a public forum at MIT organized by Radius. He also contributed an article on Iran to the *Middle East Journal*. The extensive documentary record accumulated in the project is being mounted on a unique online platform developed by HyperStudio, MIT's Digital Humanities center. This project is mainly supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

### **Seminar XXI: Outreach to the Washington, D.C., Policy Community**

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 90 meets throughout the academic year in Washington, DC, and northern Virginia.

Fellows learn to recognize the assumptions that underlie assessments of foreign societies and to explore policy issues critical to American interests through a variety of lenses. At each session, eminent speakers present alternative perspectives from

which to understand a given country or problem. The fundamental criterion for choosing fellows is that they currently hold or are expected to hold top posts in the military or government within the next three to five years.

The program just completed its 30th year and now has more than 2,200 alumni. Robert Art, Christian A. Herter Professor of International Relations at Brandeis University and a senior fellow in CIS SSP, directs Seminar XXI.

### **Seminar Series**

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

***Myron Weiner Seminar in International Migration*** is sponsored by the Inter-University Committee on International Migration, a consortium of Harvard, Tufts, Boston University, Wellesley College, Brandeis, and MIT. CIS has hosted the Committee since the early 1970s, and one of its founders was Professor Myron Weiner, a leading migration theorist and one-time director of the Center. The seminar named in his honor is a principal activity of the Committee. This year's presentations were:

Loren Landau, University of the Witwatersrand, "Cash, Corn, and Coffins: Mobility, Remittances and Social Protection in Zimbabwe."

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

Susan Akram, Boston University, "Still Waiting for Tomorrow: The Law and Politics of Unresolved Refugee Crises' with particular emphasis on the refugees in the Middle East."

Gerald Neuman, Co-Director of the Human Rights Program at Harvard Law School, "Migrants' Rights in the UN Human Rights Committee"

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

Roundtable: Jackie Bhabha, Professor of the Practice at the Harvard School of Public Health, and Katerina Sokou, Washington, D.C., correspondent of *Kathimerini* (Greece), and others, "Refugees and Migrants, the current crisis in Greece and Europe."

The chairs of the Committee are Professors Reed Ueda (history) and Anna Hardman (economics), both of Tufts University. The Center is represented on the Committee by Dr. Tirman.

***Bustani Seminar on the Middle East*** celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> year in 2015-16. It is funded by Myrna Bustani of Beirut, Lebanon, in memory of her father, Emile M. Bustani, who received an SB in civil engineering from MIT in 1933. Emile Bustani headed the leading engineering and contracting firm in the Arab world and was a prominent Lebanese statesman until his untimely death in 1963. This year, the Bustani Seminar featured:

Professor Malika Zeghal, Harvard University, in November speaking on Tunisia: "Is Tunisia a Secular State? Islam in the 2014 Tunisian Constitution."

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

In February, Lebanese author Elias Khoury read a selection from his newest novel, "Broken Mirrors: Sinalcol."

On March 15, Bernard A. Haykel, professor of Near Eastern studies at Princeton University, discussed "Saudi Arabia and the Politics of Islamic Militancy."

The Bustani Seminar is organized and hosted by Philip Khoury, Associate Provost and Ford International Professor of History.

***Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics*** is co-organized by CIS, Harvard University, and Brown University. Associate Professor of Political Science Vipin Narang leads the effort for MIT. This year's seminar included:

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

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

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

Dean Spears, Rice Institute, "Neighborhood Sanitation and Infant Mortality."

Christopher Clary, Brown University, “Voters and Foreign Policy: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Pakistan.”

Atul Kohli, Princeton University, “East Asia Company Revisited.”

## **Public Programs**

A considerable amount of effort is made annually to bring scholars and public policy issues to a broad community audience. That includes the seminars listed earlier, as well as major events—lectures, roundtables, films, art exhibits—organized by the CIS Public Programs staff. In 2015-2016, CIS mounted a rich and varied public education program. The Center’s Starr Forums and public lectures continued to offer events on pressing global issues with leading academics, policymakers, and journalists. The events were well attended by the MIT community and beyond, and the dialogues were spirited and informed. Videos of the events are posted on MIT’s video page, the CIS website, and YouTube. Several forums are watched online by thousands of viewers. When possible, CIS involves like-minded organizations on campus and the local community, as well as local media outlets. Starr Forums included the following:

“Global Refugee Crisis” with Jennifer Leaning, Harvard School of Public Health; Nahuel Arenas, Oxfam America; Ali Al Jundi, Oxfam America; Serena Parekh, Northeastern University; and Anna Hardman, Tufts University.

“Paris Climate Talks: Now What?” with Kenneth Oye, MIT; Valerie Karplus, MIT; Noelle Selin, MIT; John Sterman, MIT.

“With Friends Like These: U.S. Allies and ISIS,” with Barry R. Posen MIT; Sarah Leah Whitson Human Rights Watch; Kristin Fabbe, Harvard Business School.

“Confronting the China Cyber Challenge” with James Mulveon, DGI and Center for Intelligence Research and Analysis; Joel Brenner, MIT.

“3.11: Five Years After the Triple Disaster in Northeastern Japan” with Richard Samuels, MIT; Tatsujiro Suzuki, formerly at Japan Atomic Energy Commission of the Cabinet Office; Kenneth Oye, MIT; Miho Mazereeuw, MIT; and Akinobu Murakami, University of Tsukuba.

“Today’s African Repats,” with Claude Grunitzky, MIT and TRUE Africa; Joelle Itoua-Owona, graduate student; Devon Maylie, formerly a reporter with the *Wall Street Journal*; Gbemi Munis, MIT Sloan Fellow; and Jacques Jonathan Nyemb, Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

“Bitcoin and the Global Economy” with Michael Casey, MIT Media Lab; and Christina Dolan, TradingScreen.

“Human Rights and Technology,” with Brad Samuels, SITU Research; Christopher McNaboe, Carter Center; and Sucharita Varanasi, an attorney formerly with Physicians for Human Rights.

“Religion and Violence,” with Rev. J. Bryan Hehir, Boston College; Haroon Moghul, fellow at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding; and Stephen Van Evera, MIT.

Multiple book talks were also hosted, including:

“Heretic: Why Islam Needs a Reformation Now,” with Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

“The ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy, and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State,” with William McCants, Brookings Institution.

“City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World's Largest Refugee Camp” with Ben Rawlence, independent journalist formerly with Human Rights Watch.

The program used art as a means to reach a broader audience, including:

- Le Lam Exhibit: For nearly ten years (1966-1975) Hanoi artist Le Lam risked his life and lived in South Vietnam recording in paint the war which raged all around him. This exhibition contains more than twenty of the thousands of striking sketches and paintings he made during those years. The exhibit opening including a talk with curator David Thomas (Indochina Arts Partnership).
- “Sold,” a film screening and Q&A session with the director, Jeffrey D. Brown, and *Boston Globe* film critic Peter Keough. “Sold” is a narrative, feature film adaptation of the globally acclaimed novel by Patricia McCormick. Based on true stories, “Sold” is the story of an adolescent girl named Lakshmi who journeys from a pastoral, rural village in Nepal to a gritty brothel/prison called Happiness House in Kolkata, India.
- “Iran: Women Only,” a photo exhibit by Boston photographer Randy Goodman, was mounted at the Center in February.

The program continues to use social media, including Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter, to help publicize the Center's work. A new media platform, Periscope, was added to live web cast the public events. Also, *précis*, the CIS biannual newsletter, was published both in print and on the web.