

MIT Center for International Studies

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

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

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

A few highlights:

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

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 Taylor Fravel is director of the program.

SSP publishes an annual report (<http://ssp.mit.edu/about/annual-report>), and a quarterly digital newsletter (<http://sspearlywarning.mit.edu>). 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

On October 25, 2019, SSP held its Ruina Nuclear Age Speaker Series (named in honor of former director Professor Jack Ruina) with guest speaker Ernest Moniz, the U.S. Secretary of Energy from 2013 to 2017 and emeritus faculty member in the MIT Department of Physics. In his remarks, Dr. Moniz reflected on a range of issues related to nonproliferation and arms control, and offered his insights on contemporary challenges and opportunities in nuclear policy.

Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Seminar Series

On November 14, 2019, as part of SSP's Koch Foundation Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft fellowship program, SSP hosted a seminar with guest speaker Steven Simon. Mr. Simon is a Professor in the Practice of International Relations at Colby College, also previously held positions the State Department and National Security Council during the Obama and Clinton administrations, and is an expert on a wide range of Middle Eastern issues. Mr. Simon presented "The United States and Middle East: The Long View." In his presentation, he offered an analysis of the current policy landscape in the Middle East, and participated in a Q&A with attendees, before joining SSP Faculty and guests for a dinner at the Samberg Conference Center.

General Doolittle Award Dinner

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

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

April 22, 2020, “SSP Roundtable: The International Implications of Covid-19: a first cut,” virtual event (Speakers: Ford Professor of Political Science Barry Posen, Dr. Jim Walsh, Professor Samuels, Associate Professor of Political Science Vipin Narang. Moderator: Professor Fravel)

April 23, 2020, “Starr Forum: Rethinking National Security in the Age of Pandemics,” virtual event. Co-sponsored with CIS (Professor Narang and Dr. Walsh, speakers)

June 11, 2020, “Starr Forum: America's Civil-Military Crisis,” virtual event. Co-sponsored with CIS (Professor of Political Science Roger Petersen, SSP, chaired the event)

June 23, 2020, “Starr Forum: When Culture Meets Covid-19,” virtual event. Co-sponsored with CIS and MISTI (Boston College Associate Professor Peter Krause, an SSP alumnus, was a speaker on the panel)

“Focus on Russia” Seminar Series

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

Oct 24, 2019 Andre Soldatov, Irina Borogan, Russian investigative journalists, on “The Kremlin's Global Outreach: From Cyber to Russians Abroad.” Cosponsored as a Starr Forum.

Mar 12, 2020 Yevgenia M. Albats, Russian investigative journalist, on “Russia's Putin: From Silent Coup to Legal Dictatorship.” Cosponsored as a Starr Forum.

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. (<http://ssp.mit.edu/events/wednesday-seminars>)

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
- U.S.-China relations
- Japan's foreign and security policies
- Competition between India-Pakistan and India-China

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 eighth 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 U.S. 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 Stanton Foundation, and the Frankel (MIT) Global Policy Fund, among other foundations and donors, and in April 2020 received a one-year award from Lincoln Laboratory.

MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI)

MISTI provides international education and research opportunities for MIT students and faculty through student internship, research, entrepreneurship, and teaching abroad programs; faculty funds; international events on campus; and partnerships with companies, research institutions, universities, and government agencies around the world. In January, MISTI absorbed the functions of the Global Education Office, including administering study abroad programs and serving as a resource for global education programs across campus.

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

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

MISTI Student Programs

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

In 2019-2020, MISTI facilitated 945 international opportunities. About one quarter of these placements were internships or research in companies, research institutions, or university laboratories.

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

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

Student placements 2019-2020:

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

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

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

Training and On-campus Events

MISTI's country programs offer dozens of pre-departure and public events on international topics in politics, culture, science, technology, history, industry, and the humanities for the MIT community. With in-person summer opportunities suspended, student trainings for the 2019-2020 academic year were more limited than usual.

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

In leadership changes, Evan Lieberman, Total Professor of Political Science and Contemporary Africa at MIT, took over as Faculty Director for MIT-Africa; Brad Olsen, Professor of Chemical Engineering, was named Faculty Director for MIT-Brazil; and Ben Ross Schneider, Ford International Professor of Political Science, is now Faculty Director of MIT-Chile.

Program on Emerging Technologies

CIS created the Program on Emerging Technologies (PoET) with support from a National Science Foundation IGERT grant. The program was founded as a joint venture with the departments of Political Science, Science, Technology, and Society, and Engineering Systems. Kenneth Oye, Professor of Political Science and Professor of Data, Systems, and Society, serves as director. Current activities focus on assessing and managing the benefits and risks of biological, medical, and information technologies. PoET research, education, and policy work is collaborative, with teams of technologists, scientists, social scientists, and policymakers working jointly on responsible innovation. In 2019-2020, PoET expanded its activities in research, educational and public service.

Research

- PoET developed and evaluated safeguards to limit potential security, safety and environmental effects of biological engineering applications. It emphasized two sets of applications: (a) Gene drive control of vector borne disease, with support from Fondation Brocher and the International Risk Governance Center of EPFL; and (b) Genetically engineered biological chassis for materials production, with support from Netherlands NWO and RIVM (with Wageningen University and Yale University).
 - Initiated a study on information hazards associated with potentially dangerous tools and applications of biotechnology with attention to potential adverse side effects. Controls on information flows to malevolent actors also limit access to information by scientists seeking to advance knowledge, by biosafety officers and benign technologists seeking to avoid inadvertently creating hazards, and by policy communities seeking knowledge to inform deliberation. This project focuses on improving tradeoffs across these desirable ends.
 - Conducted research on planned adaptive management of risks associated with emerging technologies, pharmaceuticals, finance, and security affairs.
- * PoET doctoral students conducted research on biological and internet security in partnership with CSAIL, with attention to the effects of regulations on terms of trade.

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.
- * Reconfigured the curriculum of the MIT Seminar XXI Program to include sessions on the security implications of cyber technology and biotechnology, health, and climate change. In spring 2020, PoET organized a special panel on COVID-19 with an immunologist and geneticist from the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and a former FDA official with the Gates Foundation.

Public Service

- Served as the hub for the Synthetic Biology Policy Group, a network meeting weekly to discuss topics in biomedical and biological engineering. The network links MIT CIS and Lincoln Laboratory to the National Academy of Sciences, the Engineering Biology Research Consortium, the American Biological Safety Association International and to universities including Johns Hopkins, Harvard and Emory Medical Schools, and Stanford Biological Engineering. Since January of 2020, the group has focused on COVID related technical topics and policy issues.
 - Provided leadership for the Safety Committee of the Pentagon-supported Broad Institute BioFoundry. The Foundry functions as a genetic design institute that enables the forward engineering of sophisticated, massively multi-part genetic systems.
- * Professor Oye serves as a member of the National Institutes of Health Novel and Exceptional Technology and Research Advisory Committee (NEXTRAC) as was an invited speaker at the Inaugural Meeting of the committee.

The Policy Lab

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

The Lab helps MIT researchers to identify the policy relevance of their research findings, to understand and navigate the policy ecosystem in Washington and abroad, and to communicate their policy recommendations effectively. Funds are awarded for travel to policy conferences, briefings, and the like, and staff help prepare researchers to communicate with policy audiences. Demand for training led the Policy Lab to develop an online course entitled “Tools for Academic Engagement in Public Policy” on the EdX platform, <https://www.edx.org/course/tools-for-academic-engagement-in-public-policy>.

The Lab supported 142 projects in its five years, and 42 in 2019-20. The demand grew from year-to-year. Unlike a competitive grant program, the Policy Lab seeks to support and add value to as many policy outreach efforts as possible. All five schools are amply represented in the Lab’s success. Many projects are supported over a number of years.

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

Global Dynamics Simulation Lab

Professor Samuels and Principal Research Scientist Eric Heginbotham initiated the Global Dynamics Simulation Lab (GDSDL) that will support 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: Outreach to the Washington, DC, 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 85 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 34th year and now has more than 2,500 alumni. Robert Art, Christian A. Herter Professor of International Relations at Brandeis University and longtime director of Seminar XI, stepped down at the end of the year. His successor will be Kelly Greenfield, professor of political science and international relations at Tufts University.

Human Rights & Technology

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

The main vehicle for this work is a grants competition for MIT students. Small grants are given and the HR&T Fellows gather in seminars several times during the academic year to discuss their projects and broader issues of human rights. This year, seven grants were made, including to one team of four undergraduates. Topics ranged widely, and included developing an app for labor rights education; assessing the rights of Vietnamese farmers whose rice fields were being “developed” by Europeans; examining the use of technology in monitoring migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border; and how Micronesian migrant workers use Facebook groups to deal with labor exploitation.

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

The co-directors of the program are Dr. Tirman and Anat Biletzki, Schweitzer Professor of Philosophy at Quinnipiac University and author of *Philosophy of Human Rights: A Systematic Introduction* (Routledge, 2019).

Persian Gulf Initiative

A research program that examines conflict in this vital and turbulent area, the Initiative has organized conferences, surveys, and public forums at MIT and elsewhere. Its groundbreaking work on the human cost of war is ongoing. The project of U.S.-Iran relations, which has included four “critical oral history” conferences, is culminating in its third book and a dynamic web site and app bringing together transcripts of the conferences that featured high-level U.S. and Iranian policy makers, more than 500 documents, and other materials in a unique archival collection. Dr. Tirman directs the program.

Seminars and Working Groups

In addition to the SSP Wednesday seminar and the Focus on Russia series, the Center offers several other scholarly seminars and working groups.

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

“Ethnic Identity: Developing a Latina/o identity,” presented by Silvia Pedraza, Professor of Sociology and American Culture, University of Michigan.

“Our Hidden Borders: Guantanamo, Interdiction, and the Rise of Offshore Migration Policing,” presented by Jeffrey Kahn, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Davis.

“America’s Immigration Dilemma,” presented by Cristina Rodríguez, Leighton Homer Surbeck Professor of Law at Yale Law School; discussant Professor Steil. Co-sponsored as a Starr Forum event.

“Open Borders, Local Closures: Municipal Curfews and the Lebanese Response to the Syrian Refugee Influx,” presented by Lama Mourad, Postdoctoral Fellow at Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania, and a SSHRC-Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University and University of Pennsylvania.

“The Failed Accession of Turkey to the European Union and the Migrant Crisis,” presented by Mario Zucconi, Visiting Lecturer in Public and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton.

- The *Bustani Seminar on the Middle East* was established in 1985 by the family of Emile Bustani, a prominent Lebanese businessman, philanthropist, and political leader. He was an engineering graduate of MIT in 1933. This year’s presentations were:

“Is the 1979 Revolution Still Relevant to the Islamic Republic of Iran?” presented by Naghmeh Sohrabi, Charles Goodman Chair in Middle East History, Brandeis University.

“Women Leaders as Conveyors of Change in Saudi Arabia,” with Hala Aldosari, Saudi activist and Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow at the Center.

“Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the Forty-year Rivalry that Undid the Middle East,” with journalist Kim Ghattas, Senior Visiting Fellow of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

- The *Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics* has been a cooperative effort of MIT, Harvard University, and Brown University. Professor Vipin is the MIT representative on the steering committee. This year’s seminars were:

“India’s Emerging National Security Challenges,” presented by Sushant Singh, Deputy Editor of the *Indian Express* newspaper, Delhi.

“Secession and Security in South Asia,” presented by Ahsan I. Butt, Associate Professor at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University.

- *Asia Security Working Group*, organized by Professor Samuels, hosted Mark Staples, a retired navy commander who served on the US Mutual Defense Program Office in Tokyo and as Country Director for Japan at the Defense Department. His topic was “Arming Japan: Views from USG and US Industry.”

Peter Dutton, Professor of Strategic Studies in the Strategic and Operational Research Department at the U.S. Naval War College and a visiting fellow at SSP this year, spoke on “Chinese Interests in Africa and Europe — Sustaining the Unsustainable?”

- *Graduate Student Working Groups* have been sponsored by CIS for many years. Each working group has a faculty sponsor, but is self-organized and include the following topics: Latin America, Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Working Group, Global Sustainability Working Group, Women in International Security, Security Studies, Chinese Politics Research Workshop, Nuclear Politics, War Gaming, and Works-in-Progress.

Public Programs

In 2019-2020, 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.

The sixteen events this past academic year were well attended by the MIT community and beyond, and the discussions were spirited and informed.

With the advent of Covid-19, the Starr Forums moved to a virtual platform. Seven of this year’s sixteen events were hosted as webinars on Zoom. The results proved interesting: the average attendance size swelled to more than 200. Polling during the event, which was not mandatory and thus captured but a fraction of attendees, revealed that 50 percent or more polled had never attended a Starr Forum even

though they identified as being from the Greater Boston region. Professional quality videos of the events are archived on the Center's YouTube channel and are watched online by thousands of viewers.

The forums included:

"Policing in America and Beyond" with Sahin Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences; Melissa Nobles; Rachel Rollins (Suffolk County's 16th District Attorney), Elizabeth Leeds (Washington Office on Latin America), and Rodrigo Canales (Yale).

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

"America's Civil-Military Crisis" with Roger Petersen, Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political Science; Hon. Seth Moulton (U.S. Representative for Massachusetts's 6th congressional district); Risa Brooks, Allis Chalmers Associate Professor of Political Science, Marquette University; and James E Baker, Professor of Law at Syracuse University and former Wilhelm Fellow at CIS.

"Amazon Burning. Covid-19. Ghosts of Climate Future?" with Carlos Nobre, Sao Paulo's Institute for Advanced Studies; and Elizabeth Leeds, Washington Office on Latin America and former executive director of CIS.

"Rethinking National Security in the Age of Pandemics" with Research Scientist Jim Walsh; Joe Cirincione, president of the Ploughshares Fund; Associate Professor of Political Science Vipin Narang; and Yasmeen Silva of the advocacy NGO, Beyond the Bomb.

"America's Immigration Dilemma" with Professor of Law Cristina Rodríguez, Yale Law School; and Assistant Professor of Law and Urban Planning Justin Steil.

"Iran Reframed" with Assistant Professor Narges Bajoghli, Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, and Mahsa Rouhi, research associate, Harvard Kennedy School.

"The Global Rise of Populism" with Professor Berger; Jan-Werner Mueller, Professor of Politics, Princeton University; and Professor Samuels.

The CIS biannual newsletter, *précis*, is now a 40-plus page magazine and features original articles on the Center's research. Another publication, the Starr Forum Report, which is selectively published, captures the Starr Forums in print format. Both *précis*, the Starr Forum Report, and a bi-monthly "In the News" email are circulated across the Institute, and to hundreds of like-minded research centers, NGOs, policymakers, and journalists.

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 news features. The program also uses social media, including Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. Our web site had a 13 percent increase in users bringing us to 40,000 viewers per year. The CIS YouTube channel this year had 91,500 views of Starr Forum events.