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 center’s work on issues of security, international political economy and technology, the Middle East, and other areas is exemplified by the programs, projects, research, and public outreach of faculty, staff, and graduate students. Its international education program for MIT students, the MIT Science and Technology Initiative (MISTI), is a pioneering effort that has helped bring the world to 2,500 students through internships abroad and educational events on campus.

Richard J. Samuels, Ford international professor of political science, has directed the center for nearly a decade 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.

Highlights of 2009–2010 include:

- Creation of a CIS Advisory Board headed by Admiral William J. Fallon.
- The launch of the South Asian Politics Seminar, a joint venture between Brown University, Harvard University, and CIS.
- The Jerusalem 2050 project, a multiyear effort to envision a city of peace, culminated in the debut of its innovative web site.
- The center was joined by Firle Davies, a BBC journalist in Zimbabwe who received the 2009–2010 Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship, awarded to a female journalist of distinction in honor of Elizabeth Neuffer, the Boston Globe reporter who was killed during the Iraq War.
- Principal research scientist Cindy Williams’ coauthored book, Buying National Security, led to Senate testimony and other activities to assay the nation’s military finances.
- New research projects were started on cybersecurity, the Middle East peace process, women and security, and others.
- Associate professor Taylor Fravel was appointed to the new National Asia Research Program and, with Professor Samuels, addressed its first assembly.
- The center mounted several major public events, including a Cold War cinema series, a dynamic photo exhibit on Darfur, talks by columnist Nicholas Kristoff and former Wilhelm Fellow Barbara Bodine, and forums on the Haiti earthquake, “death of the news,” and US-Cuban relations, among others.
- CIS lost a friend and colleague when one of the giants of US policymaking and advocacy, Carl Kaysen, died at the age of 87. An adviser to President Kennedy and director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, Kaysen was David W. Skinner professor of political economy (emeritus) and a longtime affiliate of the CIS Security Studies Program.
CIS Advisory Board

The center has founded an advisory board of distinguished scholars, business executives, diplomats, and civil society leaders to help provide guidance and outreach. Chaired by Admiral Fallon, a former CIS Wilhelm Fellow recently retired from the US Navy after a distinguished 40-year career that included stints as head of the Pacific Command and the Central Command of the US Armed Forces, the advisory board met twice during the academic year. The board will increasingly become an integral part of the center’s efforts, particular in boosting its real-world relevance to problem solving. The members are: Mary Boies, an attorney and high-level government adviser; Jon Borschow, a businessman based in Puerto Rico and an MIT alumnus; Susan Chira, foreign editor for the New York Times; Chas W. Freeman, Jr., former US ambassador to Saudi Arabia; M. Shafik Gabr, a Cairo-based head of a major investment group; Alexis F. Habib, managing director of Spinnaker Capital Limited, London; Dana Mead, chairman of the MIT Corporation; Yukio Okamoto, former adviser to the Japanese government; Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, managing director of the World Bank who earned her PhD at MIT; John Reed, retired chairman of Citigroup and an MIT alumnus; Siddharth C.R. Shriram, an industrialist based in New Delhi; Jeffrey L. Silverman, a graduate of the Sloan School of Management and a commodities trader in Chicago; Anthony Sun, a high-tech entrepreneur in Silicon Valley who earned degrees in engineering at MIT; Lynn Chatman Todman, director of the Institute on Social Exclusion in Chicago and a MIT PhD in urban planning; and Thomas Wolf, a political science PhD from MIT and a Pennsylvania businessman who has served in the governor’s cabinet.

Security Studies Program

The Security Studies Program (SSP) is a graduate-level research and education program. The 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. Courses emphasize grand strategy, causes and prevention of conflict, military operations and technology, and defense policy.

In October, SSP held a panel discussion on “Obama and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: An Interim Report.” Speakers included Shai Feldman, who is the Judith and Sidney Swartz director for the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University; and Khalil Shikaki, who is a senior fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University. Professor Steven Van Evera moderated the discussion.

SSP held its first Ruina Nuclear Age Speaker Series dinner in November with guest speaker Dr. Hans Blix, a world-renowned scholar, diplomat, and a leader on nonproliferation and disarmament issues for decades. His talk was titled “The Future of Nuclear Weapons.”

SSP held its 17th Doolittle Awards Lecture in March in memory of General “Jimmy” Doolittle, American war hero, aviation pioneer, and MIT graduate. This year’s Doolittle Award recipient was professor Richard Overy, University of Exeter. Professor Overy’s research includes the Second World War and air power in the 20th century.
Continuing a long tradition, SSP continued the Wednesday Seminars 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 were academics, military officers, government officials, and journalists.

SSP publishes an annual report; a seminar summary series, SSP Wednesday Seminars; a quarterly newsletter, Early Warning; and a working paper series.


In January 2010, the program received one-year awards from Lincoln Laboratory and Draper Laboratory. In June the program was awarded a two-year, $600,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

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

**Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction**

- Examining the underlying logic of current nonproliferation strategies
- Iran and North Korea
- Resource allocation and counter-proliferation policy
- Biosecurity: bridging the gap between the life sciences and national security

**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

**US Foreign and Defense Policy**

- US strategy for global engagement and states at risk
- The nature and limits of US military power
- The future of conventional warfare
- Reassessing US grand strategy
- The US resource allocation process
• Project on the federal budget and budget process for national security and international affairs
• Transforming the rewards for military service

Internal Conflict

• Identity politics
• Political violence
• Civil war
• Counter-insurgency
• Post-conflict reconstruction

The program was directed in 2009–2010 by professor of political science Steven Van Evera. Ford international professor of political science Barry Posen, the permanent director, was on leave in 2009–2010.

MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI)

During 2009–2010, MISTI expanded, hosting 79 public talks to inform the MIT community about international issues and helping to integrate international education into MIT through a number of programs. During this period, MISTI placed 477 students internationally for study abroad, short courses, seed fund research, and internships. MISTI placed a total of 425 interns, up more than 10% from the previous year. These interns are trained in the languages and cultures of their host countries prior to departure, allowing them to hit the ground running and to return to MIT with international networks and an understanding of how to work effectively in foreign cultures.

MISTI’s efforts to internationalize MIT include a very popular minor in applied international studies; courses on language and culture; workshops involving MIT professors, students, and young professionals from global companies; and a dynamic speaker series on international issues. In addition, MISTI launched the MIT-Brazil Program during this period, including an MIT-Brazil Seed Fund.

MISTI also received a study grant from HED (Higher Education for Development)-USAID to explore partnerships for improving tertiary education in Ghana and Nigeria, and funding from Google and Total for an Empowering the Teachers Program to bring young Nigerian faculty in the fields of electrical engineering and computer science to MIT. Finally, MISTI has also seen dramatic growth in its research collaborations with MIT scientists in France, India, Italy, Spain, and Japan.

MISTI is directed by Suzanne Berger, Raphael Dorman and Helen Starbuck professor of political science.
**MIT-Brazil Program**

Since its launch in fall 2009, the MIT-Brazil Program has been actively engaged in creating and supporting courses on Brazil and the Portuguese language, promoting an MIT-Brazil Seed Fund to be initiated in the fall of 2010, and fostering connections between MIT and Brazil. In addition to its internship program, MIT-Brazil has awarded six Dissertation Research Travel Grants for advanced graduate students to conduct research in Brazil over the summer of 2010. MIT-Brazil also provided partial support to a student-initiated Leadership Training Institute project in Brazil over Independent Activities Period (IAP). In addition, MIT-Brazil provided partial funding and pre-departure training for the Agriculture and Innovation: Creating Value Across the Supply Chain Program, a student-initiated Sloan subject, advised by Richard Locke. In addition to the support of courses and training on Brazil, MIT-Brazil has hosted lectures on pertinent Brazilian politics and environmental issues. The MIT-Brazil Program is codirected by Class of 1922 professor of political science and professor of management Richard Locke and professor of political science Ben Ross Schneider.

During this reporting period, MIT-Brazil sent five students on internships.

**MIT-China Program**

The MIT-China Program’s range of activities continues to grow through integrative collaborations with partners in China and at MIT. The program has increased internship opportunities through new partnerships with companies, universities, and high schools; in particular, university and high school placements grew through the MIT China Educational Technology Initiative. The program has partnered with the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS), placing 70 EECS students in MISTI programs and helping to launch EECS’s Empower the Teachers program through exchanges with the University of Hong Kong, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Fudan University. It has also participated in the MIT-Greater China Strategy Group (headed by Professor Victor Zue, director of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory) and launched the Greater China Fund for Innovation (a new MISTI seed fund). The MIT-China Program is directed by professor Edward Steinfeld.

During 2009–2010, 53 interns were sent to China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

**MIT-France Program**

During this reporting period, the MIT-France Program held special training sessions for its interns on French culture, history, and current political events before sending them to research institutes, companies, and universities in France. In addition to a dynamic internship program, MIT-France supports budding collaborative research between faculty and students at MIT and in France through the MIT-France Seed Fund. This year the Program received 28 requests for funding from professors, of which it funded eight. The MIT-France Program maintains close relations with sponsors; for the fifth year, it organized a weeklong seminar at MIT for top managers from Total, France’s largest company. This seminar included meetings with MIT experts in science, engineering, economics, and political science. The MIT-France Program sponsors numerous activities
for the MIT community on pertinent issues involving France. The MIT-France Program is directed by Professor Berger.

During 2009–2010, 86 students were sent to France.

**MIT-Germany Program**

During this reporting period, the MIT-Germany Program expanded its mission of international education through internships and workshops. Specifically, the MIT-Germany Program offered the workshop “Tender for Östgötapendeln traffic in south Sweden,” which was based on a railway’s successful bid to enter the Swedish market. MIT-Germany also took part in the MiNT Educational Initiative [Mathematics (M), Computer Science (i), Natural Sciences (N) and Technology (T)]; MiNT brings MIT undergrads together with industry in order to reach out to international students and promote science and technology education. The MIT-Germany Program also supports events on pertinent issues at MIT. The MIT-Germany Program is directed by Franz-Josef Ulm, George Macomber professor of civil and environmental engineering.

During 2009–2010, 89 students were sent to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

**MIT-India Program**

The MIT-India Program expanded opportunities for interns during this reporting period; additionally, it added several new initiatives, including an India Innovation Fund to provide seed funding for faculty projects in India. This year, India Innovation funds were distributed to five faculty members whose proposals were selected out of 28 proposals; the MIT-India/IFMR Seed Fund also awarded four grants to MIT faculty during this reporting period. India was highlighted on campus through a dynamic lecture series with 13 public events cosponsored by the MIT-India Forum, the Office of the Provost, and several academic departments. Last summer, MIT-India cosponsored the Fab Lab Conference in Pune, attended by 80 participants from across the world. Over IAP the program supported an early entry program designed to encourage interest in India among underclassmen. Eleven students traveled to India on a study trip in January of 2010 as a culmination of 4.S10 Delhi and Jaisalmer: An Architectural Journey through Two Indian Cities. The MIT-India Program is directed by Arundhati Tuli Banerjee.

During 2009–2010, 41 interns were sent to India.

**MIT-Israel Program**

The MIT-Israel Program has grown and expanded its contacts in Israel, and has integrated Israel-related events into the MIT community. The Program finalized agreements with over 30 companies, universities, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs); and 13 students completed internships related to energy and the environment that were supported by a dedicated donation. The program supported several subjects on Israel and Hebrew: 50 students took “Israel: History, Culture, Politics, and Identity” with visiting assistant professor Nahum Karlinsky and Ehud Eiran; 40 students studied Hebrew in classes cosponsored by MIT-Hillel; and many Sloan students attended a new one-day class on Israel and entrepreneurship. The Program organized or cosponsored
Israel-related events on campus and in Israel that involved Israeli academics, politicians, and business professionals on issues of energy policy and engineering education. In addition to their pre-internship training, MIT-Israel interns took part in a five-day seminar in Israel on Israeli science and technology. The MIT-Israel Program is directed by Christine Ortiz, professor of materials science and engineering.

During 2009–2010, 33 interns were sent to Israel.

**MIT-Italy Program**

The MIT-Italy Program has continued to expand its presence on campus and in Italy. In addition to the intensive Italian I language class for prospective interns, the program offered entry-level opportunities for 23 students to teach science and math at Italian schools using OpenCourseWare (OCW) materials through the Highlights for High Schools program during IAP. The Highlights program will continue next year with the involvement of MIT faculty from the Department of Physics and the Media Lab. A major participant in the Global Seed Funds, the program used its long-term collaborations with the Politecnici of Milan and Turin to offer funding through the MITOR Project and the Progetto Roberto Rocca. The MIT-Italy Program organized training sessions and hosted talks on pertinent issues. A new experimental writer-in-residence program was added, and Beppe Severgnini, one of Italy’s best-known journalists and cultural experts, came to MIT to train interns. Major public events brought together professors from MIT, the Consul General of Italy in Boston, and speakers from major American and Italian universities. The MIT-Italy Program is codirected by Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) associate professor Carlo Ratti and Dr. Serenella Sferza.

During 2009–2010, 45 interns were sent to Italy.

**MIT-Japan Program**

The MIT-Japan Program continues to enjoy great success in educating MIT students both at MIT and in Japan. Students are required to take Japanese as well as a course on Japan and to participate in a two-day retreat, eight spring training sessions, and a training weekend in Kyoto. During this reporting period, the Program worked closely with Foreign Languages and Literature to offer an intensive Japanese course during IAP. In addition, the program received a grant from the Toshiba Foundation to support the Fast Track Japanese Language Program, which was initiated by professor Shigeru Miyagawa, department head of the Foreign Languages and Literature Section, and Hal Abelson, professor of computer science and electrical engineering. The Fast Track Program will support research to enable students to learn two years’ worth of Japanese in a single year. The program also awarded Hayashi Seed Fund grants to two MIT scientists doing research on environmental issues with Japanese and other Asian researchers. Finally, the program educated the community at large on Japan through lectures, a weekly Japanese language table, movies, and other cultural events. The MIT-Japan Program is directed by Professor Samuels.

During 2009–2010, 38 interns were sent to Japan.
**MIT-Mexico Program**

The MIT-Mexico Program continues to expand its network of host institutions and internship opportunities in different regions of Mexico. The Program received a grant from OCW to support interns at universities in Mexico City. In addition, interns were involved in public service studies under the direction of Tecnológico de Monterrey. On campus, the program sponsored numerous events including talks on pertinent issues such as immigration and business collaborations between the US and Mexico. The MIT-Mexico Program is directed by professor Michael Piore.

During 2009–2010, 20 interns were sent to Mexico.

**MIT-Spain Program**

The MIT-Spain Program continues to expand its network of host institutions within Spain. At MIT, the program cooperated with various departments to host public lectures. MIT-Spain sponsored an IAP course with the Engineering Systems Division—ESD.940 Electric Power System Modeling For a Low Carbon Economy—that was attended by 42 students. Elazer R. Edelman, the Thomas D. and Virginia W. Cabot professor of health sciences and technology and a member of the MIT-Spain advisory board, received the Spanish Order of Civil Merit from the government of Spain in recognition of his “efforts to improve scientific relations and academic interchange between Spain and the United States.” Finally, the MIT-Spain/Barcelona Chamber of Commerce Seed Fund awarded five grants to promote research collaborations between Spanish and MIT researchers. The MIT-Spain Program is codirected by Mercedes Balcells-Camps, professor Manuel Martinez-Sanchez and professor Jaume Peraire.

During 2009–2010, 50 interns were sent to Spain.

**MIT-Africa Program**

The MIT-Africa Program was established last year with Total’s gift of a Chair on Contemporary Africa to the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. This gift was the first step in a series of collaborations in education and research between Africa and MIT. Professor Berger and Patricia Gercik, MISTI associate director, are currently managing the Africa Program.

In the fall of 2009, MISTI provided support for Dr. Anjali Sastry’s subject “Practicing Management,” a section of the Locke/Johnson Global Entrepreneurship Lab at the Sloan School of Management. Forty-three students took the class last fall, and seven went to Ghana and Kenya over IAP to perform a health delivery study that was supported by MISTI and Total. MISTI also provided support for the Africa Information Technology Initiative (AITI), a student-run organization that promotes development through education in appropriate information and communication technologies. During the 2010 summer recess, AITI sent nine students to Kenya and Rwanda to teach classes on mobile phone application development with an emphasis on independent research, problem solving, and entrepreneurship.
MISTI, in cooperation with Judson Harward, associate director of the Center for Education and Computing Initiatives, iLabs, Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria, and Ghana Telecom University College, received an HED-USAID study grant to write a pre-proposal paper on tertiary education in Ghana and Nigeria.

Finally, under the direction of Suzanne Berger and Akintunde Ibitayo Akinwande, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, and with the support of Total and Google, MISTI has initiated an Empower the Teachers Program to bring junior Nigerian computer science and electrical engineering faculty to MIT in the spring of 2011 to study pedagogical approach in these disciplines.

**MISTI Global Seed Funds**

MISTI offers seed funds to help MIT faculty and researchers launch early-stage international projects and collaborations. Applicants are encouraged to involve students—both undergraduate and graduate—in their projects. These awards cover travel, meeting, and workshop costs.

Based on the highly successful MIT-France Seed Fund, MISTI Global Seed Funds was launched in 2008 to support projects in any country. MISTI Global Seed Funds now includes this general pool and nine separate country specific funds in Brazil, China, France, India (two funds), Italy (two funds), Japan and Spain. The maximum award is typically $30,000.

In the second grant round of 2009–2010, 132 proposals were submitted; of these, 43 projects received $664,793 in funding. In an out-of-cycle call for proposals for a new India Innovation Fund, 28 proposals were submitted, and five projects received $150,000. Faculty and research scientists from 29 departments across the Institute submitted proposals for projects in 40 countries. All awardees include undergraduate, graduate, or post-doctoral student participation. As in the case of student internship programs, MISTI provides cultural preparation for participating students before their departure.

Whenever possible, MISTI leverages the seed fund program to create new opportunities for students and enhance faculty connections abroad. For instance, some students involved in seed fund grants go on to become MISTI interns, and often faculty collaborators abroad offer internships to MISTI students.

**Minor in Applied International Studies**

The Minor in Applied International Studies (MAIS) is a rigorous, interdisciplinary academic experience that prepares MIT undergraduates for productive roles in today’s global academic and professional environments. Since its creation in 2005, more than 80 students have completed the MAIS, fulfilling the requirements in the critical areas of language and culture; international politics, economics, and history; and international experience. Now the second largest minor in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, MAIS draws students from MISTI, D-Labs, the Cambridge-MIT Institute, and the Public Service Center. Serenella Sferza, who codirects the MIT-Italy Program, advises students in MAIS.

During 2009–2010, MAIS had 20 undergraduates.
**MISTI 2.0**

A new initiative for MISTI alumni to build on their previous international experiences, MISTI 2.0 provides funding and support for new collaborative research and projects with former host country colleagues and partners. MISTI alumni can form project teams and apply for up to $2,000 per student for travel, meeting, and workshop costs. An evaluating committee (the MISTI 2.0 coordinator, two additional MISTI country coordinators, the associate director of MISTI, and three mentors from the Venture Mentoring Service) reviewed the 19 applications for funding and awarded MISTI 2.0 funding to four teams returning to work in India, China, Belgium, and Germany. MISTI 2.0 grantees are expected to attend a 10-hour country-specific training session during IAP and complete a post-project report detailing their experience.

During 2009–2010, seven students were awarded MISTI 2.0 funds.

**Seminar XXI: Outreach to the Washington Policy Community**

For more than two decades, the CIS has hosted Seminar XXI, an educational program for senior military officers, government officials, and executives in NGOs 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 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 24th year and now has more than 1,600 alumni. Robert Art, Christian A. Herter professor of international relations at Brandeis University and senior fellow in the CIS Security Studies Program, directs Seminar XXI.

**Political Economy and Technology Policy Program**

This program applies theories and methods from the discipline of political economy to issues in science and technology policy, with work in three primary areas. The program is headed by Kenneth Oye, associate professor of political science and former CIS director.

**Program on Emerging Technologies**

Daniel Hastings, Frank Field, Kenneth Oye, and Merritt Roe Smith manage this research and doctoral training program. PoET examines the nature and effects of emerging technologies; conducts research on key areas of uncertainty on these areas; and offers recommendations for improving the capacity of public and private institutions to adapt in the face of irreducible uncertainty. Retrospective studies on the automobile, laser, and GPS provide a basis for identifying factors that affect the diffusion of technologies across
actors and applications, and for evaluating assessments of effects of these technologies during their infancies.

In 2009 the program finished the final year of its National Science Foundation Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (NSF-IGERT) grant. The program accomplished many educational and trainee research goals during its four years. One of its most significant educational achievements was the creation of two new subjects relating to the objectives of the IGERT program: STS.462 Social and Political Implications of Technology, and STS.461J Integrating Doctoral Seminar on Emerging Technologies. In addition to educational achievements, IGERT trainees made notable strides in the following research fields: information technology and military strategy, standard setting and craft in satellite design, projecting economic effects of synthetic biology, synthetic biology security, design of survivable systems, regulatory foresight and adaptation, and technology policy and innovation.

The NSF Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center (SynBERC) initiative supports 10 doctoral trainees a year. The first prospective study on current technologies focuses on Internet II and ubiquitous computing, and was conducted in partnership with David Clark of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and the NSF Future Internet Design. The second prospective study focuses on synthetic biology, conducted in partnership with Drew Endy, Natalie Kuldell, and Tom Knight of the Department of Biological Engineering and Jay Keasling of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories. Prospective work centers on protocols and standards, safety and security issues, and intellectual sharing and ownership. The group is adding a proactive component on the design and demonstration of applications of emerging technologies for safety, sustainability, and security. This past year the group’s activities, research and projects included hosting and judging the 2009 international Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Jamboree “Human Practices Summary,” training iGEM faculty on safety and security issues, presenting to the International Risk Governance Council on “Synthetic Biology: Benefits and Risks of Current Research” and “Beyond Containment: SynBio Design, Testing and Demonstration for Safety and Security,” a pilot exercise on red-teaming biosensors and E.coli chassis.

Project on Knowledge Assessment, Anticipation, and Adaption

Lawrence McCray and Kenneth Oye are leading researchers on the evaluation and utilization of scientific and technical knowledge in areas of uncertainty and controversy. Their upcoming book Grasping Third Rails: Assessing Scientific and Technical Knowledge in Areas of Controversy will examine public controversies with significant scientific and technical content with research under way on security issues, including ballistic missile defense and claims of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction; and on health and environmental issues, including fine particle (PM$_{2.5}$), methyl mercury, climate change, and dietary standards. Kenneth Oye’s study Uncertainty, Anticipation, and Adaption: Empirical Studies will assess the potential of anticipation and adaptation under conditions of pervasive uncertainty using studies comparing US and EU policies on particulates, prion-based diseases, water, and pharmaceuticals. Studies and workshops are funded by the NSF and the US Environmental Protection Agency.
Project on Technology Transfer for Climate Change and Development

The 15th session of the Conference of the Parties at Bali reestablished the centrality of technology development and transfer for addressing climate change and promoting development. At the request of the United Nations, Kenneth Oye, Katherine Dykes (IGERT trainee) and associates in the US and abroad are addressing four sets of issues.

- To identify key technology development and transfer issues at the heart of continuing discussions on how to address climate change and development issues effectively
- To specify policy-relevant sources of uncertainty associated with such issues and to define researchable questions that would address such sources of uncertainty
- To suggest some research approaches appropriate to these ends and to identify individuals who might be productively engaged in such research activities
- To discuss what program and projects currently exist within universities on renewable technologies and sustainability and how these programs can be improved

Middle East and Persian Gulf

The Persian Gulf Initiative continued into its sixth year with progress on its US-Iran critical oral history project, which brings together policy makers and scholars to discuss particularly vexing episodes in the relationship. The initiative is supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and a generous alumni family. The first major phase on the US role in the Iran-Iraq war is being concluded and will result in a book and the opening of the project’s innovative archive, developed in cooperation with MIT’s HyperStudio. The initiative also continued its work on Iraq, particularly its website, Iraq: The Human Cost.

A similar critical oral history project was initiated on the Camp David negotiations in 2000 between Palestinians and Israelis, brokered by President Clinton. The first meeting of negotiators from that summit will be held in the autumn of 2010.

Women and Security

A portfolio of work on the many issues of women and security grew in 2009–2010 with the publication of an edited volume, Women, Migration, and Conflict, co-edited by principal research scientist John Tirman and Georgetown University professor Susan Forbes Martin. That was the culmination of an MIT project commissioned by the UN Population Fund. Dr. Tirman, with CIS research affiliate Sanam Anderlini, also co-organized a case study project to assess the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which is intended to promote women’s participation in security matters. The case studies (Aceh, Colombia, Israel/Palestine, Liberia, Sri Lanka, and Uganda) were completed this year and will be presented to the UN community in October, the 10th anniversary of the resolution.
**Program on Human Rights and Justice**

The Program on Human Rights and Justice (PHRJ), headed by associate professor Balakrishnan Rajagopal of DUSP, is a joint venture with that department. In 2009–2010, the program cosponsored an April conference on “Group Violence, Terrorism and Impunity: Challenges to Secularism and Rule of Law in India: A Workshop.” This workshop critically engaged the relationship between group violence and the rule of law, examining definitions of “secularism” and the role of the Indian state in perpetuating group violence. Professor Paul Brass, University of Washington, gave the keynote address, and was joined by a distinguished group of Indian scholars over the two-day meeting.

The program cosponsored two events on Gaza in conjunction with the Harvard-MIT Gaza Working Group, the first a teleconference at Harvard with Palestinians in Gaza, and the second a panel discussion. The discussion on the US response to the Gaza crisis was chaired by Professor Rajagopal and featured three well-regarded experts. PHRJ convened a public talk by Malalai Joya, a renowned women’s rights activist and member of the Afghan parliament, and was a cosponsor of a photo exhibit and talk on Darfur.

PHRJ continued its summer internship program, generously supported by the chancellor, which enables several MIT students to intern with an NGO abroad to work on the relationship between the environment and human rights.

**Program on Environmental Governance and Sustainability**

Now in its second year, and headed by DUSP associate professor JoAnn Carmin, the Program on Environmental Governance and Sustainability (PEGS) was initiated to provide an interdisciplinary forum for faculty and students to conduct research and exchange ideas about how to promote environmentally sound and socially just development. The activities for this year were intentionally kept modest, with efforts focused on building ties to other programs within CIS and gaining visibility on campus. To this end, PEGS co-hosted an event with MIT-India that featured student research related to urban climate impacts in different cities in India. A second event for the MIT community, co-hosted with the Global Sustainabilities Working Group at CIS, was a talk by Mark Redwood from the International Development Research Centre of Canada on urbanization, poverty, and the environment. Both of these events drew large numbers of students and faculty from across schools and departments. An important outreach activity this year was a session for the Resilient Cities Congress in Bonn, Germany. The session was co-organized with the Urban Anchor of the World Bank and brought together leading scholars and international experts to discuss and challenge emerging wisdom on urban climate adaptation.

**Public Programs**

The center has a very active public engagement strategy that mainly involves public forums on a variety of global issues. This is meant to draw in the MIT community, especially students, but is also available to the public—increasingly so through the use of on-line videos of events. These events now reach many thousands.
Starr Forums—endowed by the Starr Foundation—and other 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. Videos of our events are posted on our website, TechTV, MIT World, and YouTube. We often involved like-minded organizations on campus and the local community as well as media outlets, such as National Public Radio’s WBUR. Highlights from the past academic year are detailed below.

Lectures included “U.S. Cuba Relations” with Julia Sweig and Wayne Smith; “Challenges Facing the United Nations” with Swiss ambassador to the UN Peter Maurer; “Rebuilding Haiti” featuring MIT scholars with ties to Haiti; “Yemen: Avoiding the Mistakes and Learning the Lessons of Iran and Afghanistan” with US ambassador Barbara Bodine; and “Death of the News?” featuring journalists with international expertise.

Multiple book talks were held with their respective authors, including one on *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* with Pulitzer Prize–winners Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn; “Why History Matters?” with author Victor Kattan, who was joined by Institute Professor Noam Chomsky; and a talk on *Crossing Mandelbaum Gate* with Pulitzer Prize–winner Kai Bird.

Art also was used as a means to increase dialogue on global issues. We featured the world-traveling Darfur-Darfur exhibit and included a panel discussion on the crisis; for the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall we screened a film from the era and discussed the Cold War’s influence on cinema and societies; and for the 30th anniversary of the Iranian revolution we hosted a related photography exhibit.

For our Audit of the Conventional Wisdom series, we introduced video audits and produced multiple short essays on a range of issues from Afghanistan to Kyrgyzstan, the defense budget, a nuclear Iran, and more. The Audits continued to generate media interest, including requests from *Foreign Policy* and WBUR’s *Here and Now*. We launched a video gallery on our website that enables viewers to both comment and subscribe. We continued to produce print Audits and also published précis, the center’s biannual newsletter, as both a print and web-based publication.

Finally, the Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar, organized by Philip Khoury, associate provost and Ford International professor of history, continued with several lectures, including: “The Present Crisis in Iran,” with Ervand Abrahamian; “Palestinians, Israelis and the Making of Peace: What the Results of the Latest Public Opinion Survey Tell Us,” with Shibley Telhami; “The Arab Monarcho/Presidential Security States: Their Origins, Trajectories and Possible Futures,” with Roger Cohen; and “Oil Markets and Politics: Why the Left and the Right Both Get It Wrong,” with Robert Vitalis.

**Migration Seminars**

The CIS-based Inter-University Committee on International Migration is a longstanding body that has for over three decades sponsored research, organized conferences, and now mainly convenes a seminar series named in honor of Myron Weiner, a renowned
migration scholar and one-time director of CIS and professor of political science who passed away in 1999. In this academic year, the seminar series included David Andrew Singer from the Department of Political Science who spoke on “Migrant Remittances and Exchange Rate Regimes in the Developing World;” Christopher Caldwell, author and senior editor of The Weekly Standard, on “Reflections on the Revolution In Europe: Immigration, Islam, and the West;” Dr. Westy A. Egmont from Boston College who spoke on “The Massachusetts ‘New American’ Agenda: Policy on Immigrant Integration at the State Level;” Randall Akee from the Department of Economics at Tufts University, on “Immigrants and Networks: The Effect of Families and Friends on Employment Probabilities;” Katrina Burgess from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy who spoke on “Translocal Governance: Migrant Associations and Democratic Accountability in Mexico;” and Michael Teitelbaum, Harvard Law School and Sloan Foundation, on “Skills Shortages and Visas: Cycles of Anxiety about the U.S. Science and Engineering Workforce.”

The Committee is a collaboration between MIT, Harvard, University Tufts University, Boston University, Brandeis University, and Wellesley College.

**Publications and Notable Activities & Awards**

**Books**

Michael Fischer co-edited *A Reader in Medical Anthropology: Theoretical Trajectories, Emergent Realities* (Blackwell, 2010).


**Articles and Book Chapters**


Richard J. Samuels, “Gojūnen Keiko Shite no Nichibei Gunji Dōmei no Rifuōmu” [Reforming the Military Alliance after Fifty Years], in *Shushin* (January 2010).


Cindy Williams, “The US Defense Budget,” Statement before the Committee on the Budget, United States Senate (February 23, 2010).
Cindy Williams, “Research Priorities at DHS’s Science and Technology Directorate,” Statement before the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation, Committee on Science and Technology, U.S. House of Representatives (October 27, 2009).

**Awards, Fellowships, and Notable Activities**


Taylor Fravel, selection as a research associate with the National Asia Research Program launched by the National Bureau of Asian Research and the Woodrow Wilson International Center.

Barry Posen, elected as fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


Richard Samuels, 2009–2010 East Asia Institute Fellowship for the study of East Asian international relations: Seoul, Beijing, and Shanghai.

Kathleen Thelen, Fellowship, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study; Abe Foundation Fellowship, Social Science Research Council; Vice President (President-Elect) of Organized Section on Comparative Politics, American Political Science Association.

Richard J. Samuels, Director
Stephen Van Evera, Associate Director
John Tirman, Executive Director