IS is primarily a research enterprise, but from its earliest years also has made significant contributions to MIT and the wider world through teaching and outreach—in the form of seminars, workshops, crisis simulations, publications, and programs for interns, research associates, postdoctoral fellows, military fellows, diplomats and national security professionals based in Washington, D.C.

In addition, the Center has played a major role in the development of the social sciences at MIT. At the founding of CIS in 1952, the Institute’s only social science department was in economics. But the Center’s early, Cold War-related projects brought a varied group of social scientists together, and their collaborations catalyzed the establishment of a number of additional social science departments, including the Department of Political Science (Course XVII) in 1965.

The ties between CIS and Political Science have always been strong, even during those years when they were housed in different buildings. Many CIS affiliates are members of the Political Science faculty. Several CIS Directors also served as Heads of the Political Science Department. And most graduate students working at CIS receive their Ph.D.s in political science.

Seminar XXI
Since 1988, Seminar XXI, an executive education program for current and future leaders in the national security community, has been an important component of the Center’s outreach efforts. Seminar XXI uses MIT’s distinctive curriculum in world politics to educate more than 60 mid-career foreign policy leaders each year. Speakers at the program’s monthly meetings in Washington focus on a range of topics, from terrorism and globalization to ethnic conflict and deterrence. Some of these speakers assumed some of the highest-level positions in the U.S. government and military. Professor Suzanne Berger founded the program, which has been directed by Professor Kenneth Oye (CIS Director 1993-2005), Barry Posen, and the late Myron Weiner (CIS Director 1987-1992).

Congressional Seminar
The annual Congressional Senior Staff Seminar, began in 1992 and led originally by Professor Eugene Skolnikoff (CIS Director, 1972-1987) and Physics Professor Claude Carlini, is another aspect of the Center’s Washington outreach. CIS collaborates with others at MIT to provide intensive briefings to senior congressional staff on major science and technology-related issues, such as climate change, information technology and energy.

MISTI
In 1981, Assistant Professor Richard Samuels founded the MIT Japan Program, the first program of applied area studies in the United States. Its aim was to foster research on Japanese technology, and to provide an innovative internship and training program in Japanese universities, corporations, and government laboratories for MIT students. Its success led to the creation during the 1990s of similar MIT programs in China, France, Germany, Italy and India, under the umbrella of the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives, or MISTI. MISTI promotes the internationalization of education and research, and offers its students intensive language and cultural instruction as part of their training to become “global professionals.”

FBI
For decades, CIS has helped train diplomats at the State Department’s Foreign Service Institute (FSI). During the early 1960s, CIS Director Max Millikan and Professor Lucian Pye and Everett Hagen (CIS Director, 1975-1979) led summer seminars on “The Problems of Development and U.S. Policy” for civilian and military personnel preparing for assignments abroad. During the 1980s and 1990s, Professor Lincoln Bloomfield brought leading foreign policy scholars to the FBI for monthly talks and briefings.

PHRJ
In 2000, CIS, in conjunction with MIT’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning, explored the interdisciplinary Program in Human Rights and Justice (PHRJ), the first human rights program in a leading technology school and the first such program to focus on the human rights implications of economic, scientific and technological developments. PHRJ places interns, offers fellowships, publishes working papers, organizes conferences and sponsors a speaker series.