

Center for International Studies

The [Center for International Studies](#) (CIS), now in its 65th year, has long been valued as one of the world's premier university-based research and education centers. It is home to several widely respected programs, such as the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives, a unique contributor to international education, and the Security Studies Program, a leading academic research platform. Several other research projects and seminars add to the CIS portfolio.

The Center's work in problem solving, in the MIT tradition, on issues of international security, international political economy and technology, the Middle East, migration, and Asian security has long been its hallmark. The center also mounts a public forum series, bringing to campus an array of intellectuals and practitioners to address issues of global concern. In addition, MISTI has helped bring the world to 3,000 students through internships abroad and educational events on campus.

Richard J. Samuels, Ford International Professor of Political Science, has directed the Center for International Studies for 16 years, along with the participation of about 30 faculty and researchers, 40 staff members, 20 graduate students, and numerous distinguished affiliated scholars. The center's innovative exploration of international issues enriches MIT, the nation, and the world. Its renowned scholars are frequent contributors to public policy debates. Graduates have gone on to significant posts in government, corporations, civil society, and universities.

The leadership of the center includes Professor Richard Samuels, director; Ford International Professor of Political Science Stephen Van Evera, associate director; and John Tirman, executive director.

Highlights of academic year 2017 included:

- The center organized and hosted a day of briefings for consuls general and colleagues from 15 countries who were stationed in the Boston area on Asian security, cybersecurity, Mideast turmoil, and nuclear weapons issues in the first of what is expected to be an annual event.
- Senior Research Fellow Joel Brenner, formerly a leader in the US intelligence community, published a major report on the security of critical infrastructure in conjunction with MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. The report was widely cited in the news media and led to a number of policy briefings in Washington, DC.
- Lourdes Melgar was the year's Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow. She is an MIT alumna who has held several high-level posts in the Mexican energy industry and government, including deputy secretary of energy, and has also served in Mexico's diplomatic corps.
- The International Policy Laboratory fielded its second open call for proposals and supported 18 projects from across the MIT campus in environmental science, energy, Middle East politics, and other fields.

- MISTI Global Seed Funds awarded funding of \$1.65 million to 84 projects in 24 MIT departments.
- MISTI facilitated 1,249 international opportunities, a 25% increase over the previous year, for MIT students.
- Ban Ki-moon, who just retired as UN Secretary General, joined CIS scholars for a discussion of security issues, a visit facilitated by Visiting Scholar Shin-wha Lee of Korea University.
- Barry Posen, Ford International Professor of Political Science and director of Security Studies Program, served as Henry A. Kissinger Chair in Foreign Policy and International Relations at the John W. Kluge Center of the Library of Congress.
- Associate Professor of Political Science M. Taylor Fravel was awarded the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship for 2016–2017 by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.
- Jacie Fortin, a freelance journalist whose work has been published in the *New York Times*, *Foreign Policy*, the *Africa Report*, and by Agence France-Presse, among others, served as the International Women’s Media Foundation Elizabeth Neuffer Fellow in residence at CIS for academic year 2017. CIS co-sponsors the award.
- The Starr Forum continued to inform and enliven audiences at MIT and online, with speakers such as former UK Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, former defense and foreign minister of Brazil Celso Amorim, Undersecretary of State Sarah Sewall, and author Rafia Zakaria.

MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives

[MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives](#) (MISTI) provides international education opportunities for MIT students and faculty through student internship, research, entrepreneurship, and teaching abroad programs; faculty funds; international events on campus; and partnerships with companies, research institutions, universities, and government agencies around the world.

In addition to its 25 country and regional programs, MISTI continued to grow through pilot internship programs in Turkey and the United Kingdom this year. The Global Teaching Labs program added opportunities in Kazakhstan and Russia. The MIT Global Startup Labs program ran workshops in Brazil, Germany, Mauritius, Peru, Russia, and South Africa. The MISTI Global Seed Funds introduced new funds for Turkey and Korea.

Associate Professor of Political Science Chappell Lawson is faculty director of MISTI and April Julich Perez is executive director. Each country program has a MIT faculty director and together, they represent every School at MIT.

MISTI Student Programs

MISTI offers MIT undergraduate and graduate students opportunities to intern, participate in 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 10 not-for-credit training modules developed by MISTI staff.

In academic year 2017, MISTI facilitated 1,249 international opportunities, a 25% increase over the previous period. Of these placements, the majority were for internships or for research in companies, research institutions, or university laboratories. The Global Teaching Labs program sent 222 students to Brazil, Germany, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, and the Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow (MEET) program during the Independent Activities Period. Two students were sent to Armenia over the summer to teach science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects. In addition, 68 students taught STEM subjects and entrepreneurship during the summer through the China Educational Technology Initiative, Global Startup Labs, MEET, Resonance, and Make in India. The remaining placements were various opportunities made possible through MISTI.

MISTI student placements in academic year 2017 included:

- 546 internships at companies, research institutions, nongovernmental organizations, government, and universities
- 224 Global Teaching Labs positions
- 68 long-term teaching positions through the China Educational Technology Initiative, Global Startup Labs, Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow, Resonance, and Make in India
- 14 other short-term teaching positions
- 92 courses abroad (for credit)
- 25 externships
- One full-time position
- Three graduate school or postdoctoral placements
- Four study abroad placements
- 160 short-term research positions
- 29 trainings
- 83 workshops

MISTI Global Seed Funds

The MISTI Global Seed Funds enables MIT faculty and research scientists to launch early-stage international projects and collaboration with colleagues abroad. Through an annual call for proposals, the Global Seed Funds 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 Global Seed Funds comprises a general fund for projects in any country, and several country funds for projects in a particular country.

In academic year 2017, MISTI offered new funds for Turkey and Korea, bringing the total number of funds available to 23. MISTI received 241 applications from faculty and research scientists and awarded a total of \$1.65 million to 84 projects in 24 MIT departments.

Collaborations

MISTI expanded its partnerships with the Legatum Center and the Martin Trust Center, which created and facilitated a training for the MIT Global Startup Labs. The MIT Innovation Initiative also selected 25 part-time participants in the Innovation Diplomats program in MISTI countries. During their MISTI internships, the Innovation Diplomat students engage with regional or national innovation ecosystems and meet with alumni and others in the region to continue their in-the-field analyses. These experiences allow students to learn from leaders in government, the corporate and risk capital sectors, entrepreneurship, and academia.

MISTI continued collaborations with other departments at MIT to offer additional student opportunities. MISTI-International Research Opportunities Program internships enabled students to conduct research connected to MIT faculty collaborations at MISTI partner universities around the world. Students organized by the Priscilla King Gray Center worked on public service internships throughout the MISTI country programs.

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. The trainings for academic year 2017 totaled more than 140 hours. This year, as a part of its pre-departure training programs, MISTI offered a general training that covers health, safety, and strategies for making the most of an internship abroad. MISTI is also collaborating on a video with MIT's International Coordinating Committee to bring cultural resources to the community.

Security Studies Program

The Security Studies Program (SSP) is a graduate-level research and education program within CIS. Its senior research and teaching staff includes social scientists and policy analysts. A special feature of the program is the integration of technical and political analyses of national and international security problems. Security studies is a recognized field of study in the Department of Political Science, where courses emphasize grand strategy, causes and prevention of conflict, military operations and technology, and defense policy. Ford International Professor of Political Science Barry Posen is director of the program. In academic year 2017, Arthur and Ruth Sloan Political Science Professor Roger Petersen served as acting director.

On September 29, 2016, SSP held a roundtable discussion at the US Department of State in Washington, DC, on insurgency, counterinsurgency, and terrorism, and nuclear weapons and terrorism. Professor Petersen, SSP Research Associate Jim Walsh, and SSP alumnus Sameer Lalwani, who is deputy director of the Stimson Center's South Asia Program, were invited to speak to the Bureau of Counterterrorism.

On October 21, 2016, SSP held its annual Ruina Nuclear Age Speaker Series dinner, with guest speaker Ambassador Laura S. H. Holgate, a senior fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University, and former US Representative to the Vienna Office of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Her presentation was "Multiculturalism and Threat Reduction: Strengthening the Global Security Architecture."

SSP hosted its third seminar for senior congressional and executive branch staff, “Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century: Dangers, Strategies and Policy Making,” on April 19–21, 2017. The seminar was a project of the Frankel MIT Global Policy Program Fund. Panels included discussions on US nuclear strategy in the 21st century, policy making, nuclear problem states, allies and adversaries in Asia, and preventing another Iran. Rebecca Hersman, director of the Project on Nuclear Issues and senior adviser to the International Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, was the luncheon keynote speaker. Siegfried Hecker, senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University and a research professor in the Department of Management Science and Engineering, Stanford University, was the keynote speaker at the dinner.

On April 27, 2017, SSP held its Doolittle Award Dinner. National Reconnaissance Office Director Betty J. Sapp was presented with the 2017 Doolittle Award. Her address on the history and role of the National Reconnaissance Office was followed by a question-and-answer session with the SSP community.

SSP also held a seminar series, “Focus on Russia,” that considered a number of current issues in Russian politics and society. The first seminar, “Moscow and the Middle East: What Does Putin Want?” was held on March 9, 2017, with Professor Mark Katz of George Mason University; the second, on “US–Russian Relations in the Trump Era,” was held on May 1, 2017, with Andrey Kortunov, director general of the Russian International Affairs Council.

SSP held three talks at MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory:

- “A New President and Congress: The Nuclear Weapons Agenda for the Next Four Years,” on March 31, 2017, with Dr. Walsh
- “To Which Victor Go the Spoils? Explaining Which Insurgent Groups Capture the Government Regime Change,” on April 14, 2017, with Professor Peter Krause of Boston College, an alumnus of SSP
- “Chinese Air and Naval Forces in Historical Perspective,” on May 26, 2017, with Senior Research Scientist Owen Cote

The SSP faculty received a number of awards and scholarships during academic year 2017:

- The Carnegie Corporation of New York awarded an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship to Associate Professor of Political Science M. Taylor Fravel.
- An Andrew Carnegie fellowship was awarded to Associate Professor Richard Nielsen.
- Professor Barry Posen was appointed as the 16th Kissinger Chair for the Henry A. Kissinger Program in Foreign Policy and International Relations at the Library of Congress.
- In February 2017, the International Studies Association awarded Professor Posen the 2017 International Security Studies Section Distinguished Scholar Award.

- In May 2017, Professor Posen was one of four MIT faculty members who were given the Frank E. Perkins Award for Excellence in Graduate Advising.
- The Smith Richardson Foundation awarded Professor Samuels a fellowship to support the completion of his current book project on the history of the Japanese intelligence community.

Three members of the SSP program organized and participated in the Japan's Pivot in Asia project, which took papers from the 2016 workshop and the 2017 conference held at the Free University Berlin for a July 2018 *International Affairs* special issue on Japanese grand strategy. The papers explored Tokyo's new muscularity in its security policy beyond the simple security dilemma with China. In addition to reacting to Beijing's new assertiveness in regional affairs, Tokyo is adjusting its perceptions of the US commitment and capabilities, and is dealing with shifts in its domestic politics as well as with rapidly evolving geo-economic dynamics across Asia. Authors explored Japan's evolving defense posture, its renovated security institutions, and the economic and diplomatic dynamics of its enhanced regional strategic partnerships. Strengthening the alliance with the United States in the short- to medium-term is essential if the Japanese government is to generate and deploy the full spectrum of strategic tools to position it to achieve its longer-term foreign policy goals—particularly enhanced autonomy. Professor Samuels, Principal Research Scientist Eric Heginbotham, and doctoral candidate Mayumi Fukushima participated.

Sustaining a long tradition, SSP continued the Wednesday Seminar Series in the fall and the spring. Twenty seminars offered talks on topics relevant to national defense and international relations, including cybersecurity, China, Iraq, national security decision making, military technology, military history, and nuclear topics. Speakers included academics, military officers, and think tank analysts. The speaker series is open to the entire MIT community and the general public.

SSP publishes an [annual report](#), a quarterly [digital newsletter](#), and a series of working papers. 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. Nuclear strategy and statecraft, change and stability in Asia, US foreign and defense policy, and internal conflict are key research areas.

- Nuclear strategy and statecraft: Interest here lies primarily with examining the underlying logic of current nonproliferation strategies as they apply to Iran and North Korea and to resource allocation and counter-proliferation policy. Work is also being done on middle power nuclear strategies and nuclear history.
- Change and stability in Asia is a broad field of interest, covering China, Japan, and India and Pakistan. Current studies are looking to issues such as how China will manage active territorial disputes as a rising power, the role of nationalism in shaping China's foreign policy, and implications of China's growing engagement within the Asian region. There are questions about securing Japan, and others involving the long-standing competition between India and Pakistan.

- Research in US foreign and defense policy involves reassessing the US grand strategy, examining the nature and limits of US military power, and assessing the future of conventional warfare.
- Research into internal conflict includes work on identity politics, political violence, civil war, counterinsurgency, and post-conflict reconstruction.

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

The program receives major support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which awarded SSP a 36-month, \$1 million grant over the period of July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2018, to support 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 2016 received a one-year award from Lincoln Laboratory. 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 launched a new [website](#) in fall 2016.

International Policy Lab

The mission of the [International Policy Lab](#) (IPL) is to enhance the impact of MIT research on public policy to best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century. Specifically, IPL identifies policy-relevant research on campus, works with faculty to articulate the policy implications of their work and distill it for policymakers, connects them directly with the relevant policymakers, and provides the necessary coaching and communication training. Through this effort, the IPL ensures that the time researchers invest in policy outreach has the greatest possible effect.

Associate Professor of Political Science Chappell Lawson directs the lab. Dan Pomeroy is program manager.

Call for Proposals

At the start of fiscal year 2016, the IPL was supporting 13 projects from its first call for proposals—six of them fully (with \$10,000 plus staff assistance) and seven of them partly (with, on average, \$3,000 plus staff assistance). The second call for proposals, conducted from October 2016 to February 2017, received 22 new submissions. Five of the 22 submissions represented extensions or deepening of earlier IPL projects, five were wholly new projects from faculty members that had already worked with IPL, and 12 were from principal investigators (PIs) who were submitting proposals for the first time. Thus, almost all of those who were selected from the first call for proposals sought to deepen their collaboration with IPL, and nearly the same number of faculty members sought to initiate a relationship with the lab.

Of the 22 submissions received in the second call for proposals, the IPL selected 11 projects for full support (on average, \$9,000 plus staff assistance) and seven for partial support (on average, \$4,300 plus staff assistance).

Faculty Training

In January, the IPL organized a communications training program with an outside organization (COMPASS) aimed at communicating research to a public policy audience. The program included two COMPASS trainers, a panel of public policy professionals, and one journalist. Participants included 12 PIs and the executive director of the Environmental Solutions Initiative. The PIs included junior and tenured faculty (and one principal research scientist) from across all five MIT Schools.

Partnerships

At the start of FY2016, IPL leadership consisted of one faculty director, three core faculty members or senior researchers, and six affiliated faculty and senior researchers. In the past year, the IPL added one core faculty member (Noelle Selin) and one affiliated faculty member (John Fernández); one core faculty member, Jessika Trancik, became faculty co-director. The lab also expanded its internal and external partnerships to include MIT's Environmental Solutions Initiative and the DC-based law firm Sullivan and Worcester, LLP, which has provided pro bono services to IPL-supported faculty in crafting public comments on agency regulations.

In order to provide wider access to international policy making bodies, the IPL applied for observer status at two United Nations intergovernmental bodies. Both the International Seabed Authority, which governs international deep sea mining, and the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which is a global treaty designed to reduce the impacts of mercury pollution, have accepted these applications and will be formally granting observer status to the IPL over the course of the next year.

Project Activities

Through its supported projects, the IPL facilitated many new connections between MIT faculty and policy makers both within the United States and abroad. For example, Atlantic Richfield Assistant Professor of Energy Studies Elsa Olivetti in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering was able to connect with people in the Taiwanese government and the appropriate people in the Environmental Protection Agency to discuss how her research on carbon footprinting of electronics could lead to labeling requirements.

Supported IPL faculty also engaged in a wide variety of policy outreach activities, such as presenting research to development organizations or preparing public comments for federal regulations. Janelle Knox-Hayes, associate professor of economic geography and planning in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, for example, presented her work on the cultures of carbon marks to the World Bank. The work of Associate Professor Noelle Selin at the Center for Global Change Science work was cited in the final finding of an Environmental Protection Agency rule on mercury pollution. Every supported faculty member is aided in making such policy impacts by IPL staff.

Funding

In FY2016–2017, the IPL renewed a foundation grant for \$25,000. One MIT alumnus generously provided a year of operational support (\$165,000), which was matched by funding from the Center for International Studies.

Program on Emerging Technologies

Activities at the Program on Emerging Technologies (PoET) included prospective studies on the benefits and risks of biological and information technologies and retrospective studies on how risks have been managed in the past. Out of both necessity and choice, PoET research, education, and policy work is collaborative, with teams of technologists, natural scientists, and social scientists and policymakers working jointly on responsible innovation.

PoET serves as hub for the Synthetic Biology Policy Group, a network linking MIT, Harvard University, Tufts University, Stanford University, North Carolina State University, Arizona State University, and the University of Oxford. Projects based at MIT focused on the evaluation of safeguards to limit the potential security, safety, and environmental effects of applications. One project, conducted with Assistant Professor Kevin Esvelt of the MIT Media Lab, evaluated ways to localize effects of gene drives. A second project, developed with Farren Isaacs of Yale University and Vitor Martins dos Santos of Wageningen University, evaluated technical measures to limit lateral gene flow and the fitness of microorganisms used in industrial applications of synthetic biology.

PoET fosters responsible conduct directly by providing leadership for the Eli and Edythe L. Broad Institute’s Bio-Foundry Security Committee and the International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition’s Safety Committee. PoET provided expert analytic support on security and safety issues at the invitation of a number of organizations, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Centers for Disease Control’s International Expert Group on Biosecurity and Biosafety Regulations, the Eagleson Institute, the Netherlands Ministry of Mines and Environment, and the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. PoET’s director, Professor of Political Science Kenneth Oye, testified before the US–China Economic and Security Review Commission on the sources and implications of accelerating innovation in biotechnology, focusing on US opportunities and challenges.

PoET initiated research on how policies that address risks associated with medical innovation affect the pace and location of innovation. A study on pharmaceuticals licensing and reimbursement in a variety of countries was conducted with officials from the US Food and Drug Administration, the European Medicines Agency, Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The resulting paper was published in *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics* and used as a sectoral case study in a compendium published by the European Parliament’s Directorate-General for External Policies, “Free Trade Agreements and Patterns of Risk Regulation in the EU and the US.” PoET has also launched work at the interface between information technology and medicine, beginning with expert advice on the impacts, risks, and benefits of precision medicine and governance issues at a conference on personalized health in the digital age at

Campus Biotech Geneva. PoET also developed a project jointly with the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (now known as KAIST) on how national policies on consent, privacy, and ownership of genomic data, medical records, and social media affect utilization of data for public and private purposes.

Finally, PoET continued its work on planned adaptation and risk regulation. CIS Research Affiliate Lawrence McCray directed a working group of graduate and undergraduate students writing papers on this theme for the course on Science, Technology, and Public Policy. Professor Oye made a presentation at the Lorentz Center at Leiden University on the capacity of formal intergovernmental and transnational institutions to govern biosecurity, cybersecurity, and nuclear risks.

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 nongovernmental organizations in the national security policy community. The program provides future leaders of that community with the analytic skills needed to understand other countries and foreign relations in general. A cohort of about 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 US 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 31st 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 SSP, directs Seminar XXI.

Persian Gulf Initiative

This research is intended to examine the US role in the security and stability of Persian Gulf countries. Since 2005, the project has undertaken two major research assignments: the study of violence, mortality, and displacement in Iraq, and the US–Iran relationship. The latter is a joint effort with scholars at George Washington University’s National Security Archive, Indiana University’s School of Global and International Studies, and the University of Waterloo’s Balsillie School of International Affairs.

The work on the human cost of war has progressed to a new phase in which the principal investigator, John Tirman, is developing indices and means for measuring war mortality, displacement, loss of livelihoods, educational deficits, effects on infrastructure, and so on—actual ways to measure war’s effects in real time and with assessments for remedies.

The US–Iran project, which has examined missed opportunities in the relationship, proceeded to its third book project with interviews and small group meetings, including

a two-day conclave in London to interview British policymakers. The extensive archive of documents is being organized on a unique online platform developed by HyperStudio, MIT's Digital Humanities center. The Carnegie Corporation of New York is the principal supporter of this project.

Seminar Series

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

The Myron Weiner Seminar in International Migration is sponsored by the Inter-University Committee on International Migration, a consortium of Harvard University, Tufts University, Boston University, Wellesley College, Brandeis University, 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 included the following:

- Michael J. Wishnie, deputy dean for experiential education at Yale Law School, spoke on "State DAPA? And Other Thoughts on U.S. Immigration Policy in the New Administration."
- Justin Steil, assistant professor of law and urban planning, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, addressed "Immigration, Democracy, and Discrimination in Small Town America."
- Visiting Scholar and Professor Shin-wha Lee of Korea University discussed "China's 'Refugee Policy Divide' and the Predicament of North Korean Defectors."

There was also a panel discussion, "The Fight Over Foreigners: Visas and Immigration in the Trump Era," moderated by Professor Steil with Baher Azmy, legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights; Laura Rotolo, staff counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts; and Jia Lynn Yang, deputy national security editor at the Washington Post. The Starr Forum co-sponsored this event.

The chairs of the Inter-University Committee on International Migration are Professors Reed Ueda (history) and Anna Hardman (economics), both of Tufts University. Professor Tirman represents CIS on the committee.

The Bustani Seminar on the Middle East, in its 31st year, brings outstanding scholars to speak at MIT on pertinent issues of the Middle East and North Africa. Funded by Myrna Bustani of Beirut, Lebanon, it celebrates the life of her father, Emile M. Bustani, an MIT alumnus who headed the leading engineering firm in the Arab world and was a prominent Lebanese statesman until his untimely death in 1963. Philip S. Khoury, associate provost and Ford International Professor of History, organizes and hosts the Bustani Seminar on the Middle East. This year, the seminar featured the following speakers.

- Marc Lynch, professor of political science, George Washington University, "The New Arab Wars: Anarchy and Uprising in the Middle East"

- David Commins, professor of history, Dickinson College, “Saudi Arabia’s Sectarian Strategy at Home and Abroad: Rallying the Base”
- Ali Banuazizi, professor of political science, Boston College, “Which Way for U.S.–Iran Relations under Trump—and Within the Middle East Cauldron?”
- Nadim Shehadi, director, Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies at the Fletcher School of Tufts University, “Lebanon Skipped the 20th Century; Is it Ahead of the Game?”

The 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 series included:

- Adam Ziegfeld, George Washington University, “Why Regional Parties? Clientelism, Elites, and the Indian Party System”
- Dean Spears, Research Institute for Compassionate Economics, “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 India Company Revisited”
- Pavithra Suryanarayan, Johns Hopkins University, “Hollowing Out the State: Status Inequality and Fiscal Capacity of Colonial India”
- George Perkovich and Toby Dalton, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, “Not War, Not Peace: Motivating Pakistan to Prevent Cross-Border Terrorism”
- Emmerich Davies Escobar, Harvard University, “The Lessons Private Schools Teach: Using a Field Experiment to Understand the Effects of Private Schools on Public Behavior”
- Yusuf Neggers, Brown University, “Enfranchising Your Own? Experimental Evidence on Bureaucrat Diversity and Election Bias”

Public Programs

In academic year 2017, CIS mounted a rich and varied public education program. The Center’s Starr Forum and public lectures continued to offer events on pressing global issues with leading academics, policymakers, and journalists. After the 2016 presidential election, several events focused on the new administration. All events were well attended by the MIT community and beyond, and the dialogues were spirited and informed.

Videos of the events were posted on the center’s YouTube channel and live-streamed via Facebook. Several forums were 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.

Highlights from the Starr Forum included:

- “Trump’s Victory: What Does It Mean for You?” with MIT Professors Heather Hendershot and Kenneth Oye, CIS Wilhelm Fellow Lourdes Melgar, and Cambridge City Councilman Nadeem Mazen
- “National Security & Civil Liberties: 1942 and 2017,” with Professor Oye, along with scholars and activists, first addressing the 75th anniversary of the internment of Japanese Americans and then turning to issues raised by the current wave of Islamophobia and xenophobia
- “Racing to the Precipice: Global Climate, Political Climate,” with MIT Institute Professor of Linguistics Emeritus Noam Chomsky
- “US and Mexico in the Trump Era,” with CIS Wilhelm Fellow Lourdes Melgar and Arturo Sarukhan, a former Mexican ambassador to the US
- “Solving the North Korea Problem,” with Professor Samuels, Professor Victor Cha of the Department of Government and School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, Terence Roehrig, professor of national security affairs and director of the Asia-Pacific Studies Group at the US Naval War College, and Visiting Scholar Professor Shin-wha Lee
- “Security, Privacy, and the Internet,” with Research Affiliate Joel Brenner; Deborah Hurley, a fellow of the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University; Daniel Weitzner, principal research scientist in MIT’s Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory; and Professor Oye
- “Racism, Violence, and Democracy,” with Professor Samuels; David Art, professor of political science at Tufts University; Heidi Beirich, director of the Intelligence Project at the Southern Poverty Law Center; Jolyon Howorth, Jean Monnet Professor of European Politics at the University of Bath, United Kingdom, and a visiting professor at Yale University
- “Honor Killings: Why They Won’t End,” featuring Rafia Zacharia, journalist and author of *The Upstairs Wife*
- “The Warming Arctic: Site of a New ‘Cold War’?” with Professor of Environmental and Urban Planning Lawrence Susskind and Kenneth Yalowitz, former ambassador to Belarus and Georgia, director of the Conflict Resolution Center at Georgetown University, and senior fellow in Arctic Studies at Dartmouth
- Jack Straw, who was Britain’s foreign secretary under Prime Minister Tony Blair, gave a talk on “Brexit, Europe, and President Trump.” Among the themes of his talk were the Brexit and Trump phenomena and the potential for extreme nationalist gains in then-upcoming European elections. In addition to the public talk, Straw met with faculty and students
- Brazil’s longest-serving foreign minister, Celso Amorim, discussed his recent book, *Acting Globally: Memoirs of Brazil’s Assertive Foreign Policy*. He also weighed in on the current political crises in Brazil.

The Starr Forum hosted multiple film screenings, including *Somaliland: The Abaarso Story*, a feature-length documentary about five Somali Muslim students pursuing dreams of education in America. The event featured five speakers, including Jonathan Starr, founder of the Abaarso School; Mubarik Mohamoud, MIT student and Abaarso School alumnus; and the co-directors of the film, Ben Powell and Harry Lee. The Independent Activities Period film series featured three films by Michael Haneke, including *Caché*, *White Ribbon*, and *Amour*.

Other CIS projects included a new website, a new intranet site, and new email newsletters for both external and internal communications. The CIS biannual newsletter, *précis*, was published both in print and on the web. Public events were live-streamed via FacebookLive. The center ensured ongoing media support, including the announcement of the center's report on cybersecurity, *Making America Safer: Toward a More Secure Network Environment for Critical Sectors* (co-published with MIT's International Policy Research Initiative). The center also produced both video and news items to promote its work and continued to use social media, including Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter, to help publicize its work.

John Tirman
Executive Director