

Recent publications, news, events, announcements, and more from the Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland

CISSMUpdate



Fall 2024 NEWSLETTER



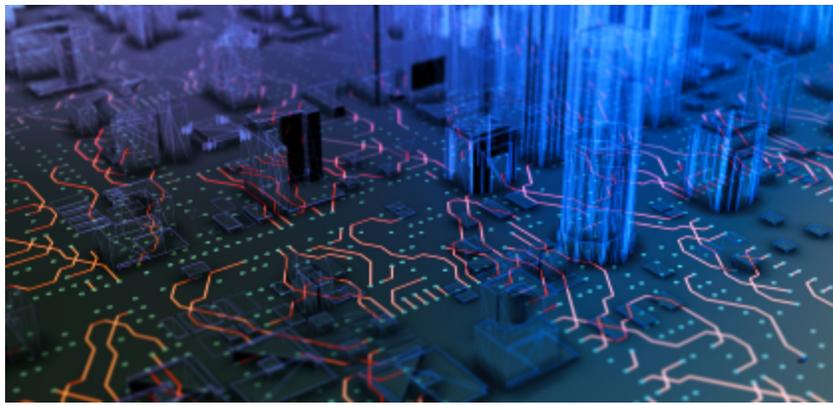
Season's Greetings

The wind is howling, but the sun is shining brightly, which seems fitting as I reflect on the year just passed and the year ahead. Despite all the fighting and fear in the world, we have much to be grateful for at CISSM. Steve Fetter has returned to being a full-time faculty member at SPP. We've added the option of international fieldwork to our M.A. capstone program. Several fascinating visiting scholars have enriched our community. Long-term research projects are bearing fruit, and we're launching exciting new research and educational endeavors. We're gearing up for the challenges ahead in hopes that evidence-based scholarship, reason, and compassion can help inform decisions about nuclear weapons, civil conflict, emerging technologies, global public health and much more. Best wishes for 2025.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gallagher
CISSM Director

New Technologies' Mixed Impact on Nuclear Stability: Fetter and Sankaran Analyze Five Emerging Threats



In their recent co-authored article in the *Journal of Strategic Studies*, **CISSM Senior Fellow Steve Fetter** and **CISSM Research Associate Jay Sankaran** examine how five emerging technologies—small satellites, hypersonic weapons, machine learning, cyber weapons, and quantum sensing—affect nuclear operations and strategic stability. They argue these technologies will have mixed effects on strategic stability, with some strengthening command and control while others potentially undermining nuclear deterrence. While small satellites can enhance verification and transparency, advances in space-based radar and machine learning could weaken states' confidence in concealing nuclear arsenals. The authors conclude that no technologically advanced power is likely to gain lasting advantages from these developments. The article is part of a special issue examining emerging technologies' impact on nuclear deterrence.

[Read Fetter and Sankaran's analysis of how emerging technologies impact strategic stability »](#)

Carnegie Support Sustains CISSM's Track Two Engagement with Future Russian Security Experts



Efforts by former and current CISSM Director's to exchange ideas, improve understanding, and build

relationships with Russians interested in nuclear risk reduction date to the early 1980s, when official relations between Washington and Moscow were as bad as they are today. In 2001, then-CISSM Director **John Steinbruner** partnered with Sergey Rogov, Director of the Institute of USA and Canada Studies (ISKRAN) to change how future policy experts were educated. With support from the Nuclear Threat Initiative and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, CISSM and ISKRAN organized short and long-term visits by faculty and students from the two institutions, fostering life-changing interactions and innovative research. SPP students had candid discussions with their Russian counterparts who were thrilled when the New START treaty was signed in 2010, defensive about the annexation of Crimea in 2014, and increasingly worried about Russia's relations with the West. We shifted from in-person interactions to ZOOM during the pandemic and have managed to keep those lines of communication open, with some limitations, since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In a vote of confidence in our ability to sustain Track II interactions when official interactions have all but ended, the Carnegie Corporation recently renewed funding for two more years.

[Read about our seminars with ISKRAN students before and after the U.S. presidential election»](#)

Iranian Public Opinion Study Reveals Complex Views on Democracy, Economy, and Social Change



As part of CISSM's **ongoing series of surveys** on Iranian public opinion since 2013, this report offers a revealing snapshot of Iranian public sentiment in 2023-2024, capturing views just months before President Raisi's unexpected death in

a helicopter crash. The findings paint a picture of a population grappling with serious economic challenges, with a majority describing their situation as difficult and reporting reduced consumption of basic goods like red meat. While three in five Iranians consider democratic governance absolutely important, there's notable discontent with current conditions, particularly regarding the enforcement of religious laws and economic management. The survey reveals evolving attitudes toward women's rights, with a clear majority opposing confrontational approaches to hijab enforcement and supporting the release of peaceful protesters. Notably, about a quarter of respondents expressed a desire to emigrate if given the opportunity, with economic factors driving this inclination, particularly among younger Iranians. **Read the full report** to explore these findings in detail, and stay tuned for CISSM's upcoming second report that will focus on Iranian foreign policy attitudes, incorporating additional data from a September 2024 survey wave.

Endowment Established for Kelleher Fellowship in International Security Studies



Since the **Kelleher Fellowship in International Security Studies** was launched in 2018, we've been able to support six outstanding Ph.D. students. **Sarah Erickson** joined us this fall as the 2024-25 Kelleher Fellow. Thanks to the generosity of Catherine's family, friends, former students, and colleagues, we have raised over \$150,000 in addition to the money needed for current fellowships, enough to set up an **endowment**. Going forward, our goal is to keep funding one fellow per year while also building the endowment until the income it generates can support an annual Kelleher fellowship in perpetuity. This will be an enduring **legacy** for one of the first women in the field of security studies, an original faculty member of our School, CISSM's founding Director, and the creator of Women in International Security (WIIS). For more information, contact **Nick Brennan**, SPP Director of

Development. Please also make plans now to join us for the fourth **Kelleher Forum** on March 6, 2025, featuring the Honorable Susan M. Gordon, the Former Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence (PDDNI)

[Donate to the CMK fellowship current use fund»](#)

[Donate to the CMK fellowship endowment»](#)

The Risk of Bringing AI Discussions Into High-Level Nuclear Dialogues



In a timely analysis, CISSM Research Associate **Lindsay Rand** examines why policymakers should carefully consider before incorporating artificial intelligence discussions into high-level nuclear security dialogues. Her research warns that premature integration of AI topics into forums like the NPT Review Conference could further complicate existing diplomatic challenges rather than foster cooperation. Rand argues for a more focused, technically-grounded approach through dedicated spaces for AI-nuclear policy discussions, similar to existing frameworks for conventional weapons. Her analysis comes at a critical moment as the nuclear policy community grapples with AI's implications for strategic stability.

[Read Rand's full analysis on AI and nuclear policy dialogue »](#)

A Conversation with Nasir Mehmood, CISSM Visiting Scholar



Nasir Mehmood, is an accomplished scholar from Pakistan's National Defence University, whose new working paper examines the landmark 1988 India-Pakistan agreement prohibiting attacks on nuclear installations. His analysis, developed under the mentorship of CISSM Director Nancy Gallagher, reveals how carefully crafted arms control measures can provide meaningful security assurance without compromising deterrence. The paper's findings are particularly timely amid current global nuclear security concerns, offering concrete recommendations including a Bilateral Consultative Commission and enhanced protections against cyber-attacks.

[Read the interview with Mehmood »](#)

[Read Mehmood's working paper »](#)

SPP Graduate Certificate in Intelligence Policy



The **Office of Executive Programs** is relaunching a Graduate Certificate in Intelligence after a short hiatus with **Lena Andrews** as the new faculty advisor for the program. The four-course sequence will equip current and future intelligence professionals and policymakers with the tools to tackle increasingly complex

challenges posed by the changing threat landscape, rapidly evolving technology, and much more. The certificate program will emphasize the practical application of critical thinking skills, history, and tools for moral and ethical decision-making. All courses will be delivered by an instructional team composed of high-quality scholar-practitioners who are the hallmark of SPP. Look out for more exciting announcements about the program in Spring 2025!

OTHER RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY CISSM AFFILIATES

The American military women in WWII who trained to protect D.C. from attack?

Washington Post
CISSM Author: Lena Andrews
December 7, 2024

The dynamics of US drug markets

The Brookings Institution
CISSM Author: Peter Reuter
December 4, 2024

Opposing War with Iran Shouldn't Keep You Out of Government

CATO Institute
CISSM Author: Joshua Shifrinson
November 15, 2024

What Are JD Vance's Chances in 2028? (Too Soon?) | Opinion

Newsweek
CISSM Author: Aaron Mannes
November 13, 2024

What the European Union should expect from Trump's tariffs

Bruegel
CISSM Author: Uri Dadush
November 12, 2024

Baiting the Bear: Why sanctions on Russia are literally backfiring

Responsible Statecraft
CISSM Author: Ariel Petrovics
October 30, 2024

The European Commission's duties on Chinese electric vehicles are a mistake

Bruegel
CISSM Author: Uri Dadush
October 8, 2024

The adoption of international travel measures during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic: a descriptive analysis

Globalization and Health

CISSM Author: Catherine Worsnop
October 4, 2024

What's at Stake in the Debate Between Tim Walz and JD Vance?

Newsweek
CISSM Author: Aaron Mannes
October 1, 2024

A Post-American Europe: It's Time for Washington to Europeanize NATO and Give Up Responsibility for the Continent's Security

Foreign Affairs
CISSM Author: Joshua Shifrinson
August 9, 2024

Understanding the secondary outcomes of international travel measures during the covid-19 pandemic: a scoping review of social impact evidence

Globalization and Health
CISSM Author: Catherine Worsnop
August 1, 2024

Has NATO Enlargement Enhanced US National Security?

American Diplomacy
CISSM Author: Joshua Shifrinson
August 1, 2024

RECENT CISSM NEWS

Policy School Partners with the U.S. Department of Defense for Hands-On Security Policy Experience

December 5, 2024

Policy Professor Honored with ACES Award for Distinguished Faculty Member

November 22, 2024

Putin Lowered Threshold on Use of Nuclear Weapons. Is He Bluffing?

November 20, 2024

International Leaders Convene at Maryland to Address Biosecurity and Biosafety in Latin America

November 20, 2024

Military Veteran and Grad Student Leverages Service Experience in Public Policy

November 5, 2024

Two Maryland Policy Professors Ranked Among World's Top 2% of Scientists

October 10, 2024

People-to-People Connections Drive Policy Student's Internship Experience in Taiwan

October 10, 2024

MPP Student Drives Inclusive Policy Solutions for Conflict Resolution in South Asia

September 27, 2024

Policy Professor's New Book Explores the Impact of Trade Fragmentation on Global Stability

September 17, 2024

CISSM AFFILIATES IN THE NEWS

Inside A Secret, Expanding Russian Lab Site With A Bioweapons Legacy

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Milton Leitenberg

December 12th, 2024

The North American fentanyl crisis and the spread of synthetic opioids

The Brookings Institution

Peter Reuter

December 4th, 2024

Catastrophic Sudan

Voice of America: Afrcia

Michael Woldemariam

November 27th, 2024

Horn of Africa instability

Voice of America: Africa

Michael Woldemariam

November 25th, 2024

Shifting Dynamics Raise Ceasefire Questions Amid Ukraine Conflict

The Pinnacle Gazette

Steve Fetter

November 21st, 2024

Putin Lowers Nuclear Threshold After Ukrainian Missile Strikes

The Pinnacle Gazette

Steve Fetter

November 20th, 2024

Continental Drift: Are the United States and Europe Really That Similar?

Mid Florida Newspapers

Joshua Shiffrinson

November 18th, 2024

Russian Hackers Targeting U.S. Officials Ahead of Election, Microsoft Warns

Newsweek

Nancy Gallagher

November 5th, 2024

Election 2024: VP Kamala Harris background

Fox 8

Aaron Mannes

October 18th, 2024

A Port Deal Unsettles U.S. Counterterror Fight in the Horn of Africa

MSN

Michael Woldemariam

October 13th, 2024

EU's punitive tariffs on Chinese EVs do more harm than good: think tank

Bastille Post Global

Uri Dadush

October 11, 2024

POLITICO Pro Q&A: Former World Bank trade economist Uri Dadush

Politico Pro

Uri Dadush

October 9th, 2024

US may let Ukraine fire missiles deep inside Russia. Here's why experts say it's risky

Miami Herald

Steve Fetter

September 16th, 2024

Which drugs are up, which are down?

The Brookings Institution

Peter Reuter

August 20th, 2024

ABOUT CISSM

CISSM conducts research, outreach and education focused on multiple, overlapping types of international security challenges. The challenges include those posed by dual-use technologies (e.g., information, nuclear and space), political dynamics that threaten human security, and those that require national governments (including the United States, China, Russia, and Iran) to develop innovative forms of international cooperation and governance.

Support CISSM

CISSM's [Target of Opportunity Fund](#) supports exploratory research, education, and outreach efforts on security policy problems for which CISSM does not currently have dedicated grant funding.

The [Steinbruner Student Support Fund](#) provides financial support for research and professional development activities by School

of Public Policy students working on any policy problem related to cooperative security.

The [Kelleher Fellowship for International Security Studies](#) supports School of Public Policy students focused on international security policy.

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Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland
[7805 Regents Drive](#)
School of Public Policy, University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20742
United States