

Catherine Worsnop's work on government responses to disease outbreak wins funding, public attention



Governments' responses to disease outbreaks, and the impacts of those responses, have long been the focus of Dr. Catherine Worsnop, an Assistant Professor at the School of Public Policy and a CISSM Research Fellow. The ongoing COVID-19 outbreak has heightened the need for assessments of the impacts of a variety of policy measures, including border and travel restrictions. Together with researchers at Simon Fraser University, **Worsnop recently received funding** to gather data about national policy responses to the COVID-19 outbreak and assess the impact of those responses.

Worsnop's expertise on responses to disease outbreak—she's studied the response to outbreaks of Ebola and H1N1—has also led to recent analysis on **the effects of COVID-19 on human security** and on **the need for international cooperation** to address the pandemic.

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To understand the political effects of climate change, look local, CISSM policy brief finds



The local political and environmental mechanisms by which climate change induces instability in society are the focus of **a new CISSM Policy Brief** by Research Associate Zafar Imran. Imran finds that the local effects of climate change on agricultural systems and natural resources, the ways that different social groups attempt to cope with climate effects, and the formation of social movements in response to climate effects will contribute to the levels of instability. Imran's work draws from his recent dissertation, "Understanding Climate Security Risks: A Mechanism-based Approach," for which he won the **Caramello Distinguished Dissertation Award** and the **Yamamoto-Scheffelin Dissertation Award**.

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CISSM-STRI report highlights need for a range of tools to address risks from dual-use emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence



Concern about the proliferation of artificial intelligence-related technologies has prompted some officials to call for imposing controls to protect national security and economic interests. A new report by CISSM and the Strategic Trade Research Institute concludes that traditional list-based export controls are unlikely to prove effective against many “intangible” technologies, such as machine learning algorithms and the datasets that train them. To mitigate the risks associated with artificial intelligence development and use, governments and non-governmental actors need to instead consider employing a range of measures, including outreach, technology tracking, investment controls, and norm development, finds the new report, **"Artificial Intelligence and Strategic Trade Controls."**

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The unintended consequences of U.S. missile defense developments



Concerns about “third-country” missile developments ostensibly motivated U.S. officials to abandon the Anti-

Ballistic Missile treaty, expand research and development of missile defense systems, and deploy strategic missile defenses. While the purported missile proliferation threat has yet to materialize in most instances, U.S. missile defense developments have contributed to instability and uncertainty in U.S. relations with China and Russia, heightening nuclear risks, writes Greg Thielmann, in his new CISSM Working Paper, **“Increasing Nuclear Threats through Strategic Missile Defense.”**

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CISSM research highlights uncertain future of nuclear energy in East Asia and future of U.S.-China nuclear cooperation



The threat of nonproliferation in East Asia will largely depend on the political commitments of regional governments, given the scaled-back projections for commercial nuclear programs in South Korea and China. U.S. technical cooperation with actors in the region, (e.g. South Korea, Japan, and China) on commercial nuclear power, ensuring safeguards and security measures, and missile defense could also play a role in the risk of nonproliferation. But this would require U.S. policy makers to adapt its approaches to energy and security cooperation.

Research contributing to these conclusions was the topic of discussion of a December 2019 CISSM organized event on **U.S.-China Nuclear Cooperation** at the Hudson Institute, and publications from Associate Director Jonas Siegel and CISSM Research

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Tracking the Russian public's support for an assertive foreign policy



Has Russia's prioritization of funding an increasingly assertive foreign policy won the government support from the Russian population, despite deteriorating economic conditions and decreases in domestic spending? CISSM Research Associate Maria Snegovaya addressed this question in a recent study of Russian public opinion and found that when Russians are primed with negative information about the economy they offer significantly less support for an assertive Russian foreign policy. Snegovaya discusses how these results will limit the Kremlin's ability to divert attention from internal problems through the use of assertive rhetoric in a recent ***Post-Soviet Affairs* article**.

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New CISSM Working Paper assesses cyber-risks at nuclear facilities



A **new CISSM Working Paper** discusses how a cyber attack on a nuclear power plant's digital instrumentation and control systems could result in damage to the nuclear core or result in the significant release of radioactivity. The potential for such an attack to have significant safety repercussions suggests that analysts need to develop approaches to "bridge this security and safety divide" at nuclear power plants. Authors Jor-Shan Choi, Nancy Gallagher, and Charles Harry propose a method for assessing and addressing the safety consequences of cyber events at nuclear power plants that builds off of CISSM's "effect-centric" cyber risk assessment framework.

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CISSM welcomes new governance researcher



CISSM is pleased to **welcome Research Associate**

Summer Marion to its research team. Marion will work with Assistant Professor Catherine Worsnop to complete a project examining the implementation and effectiveness of cross-border measures and the International Health Regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic. She will also hold a Research Fellow position at the School of Public Policy.

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SPP Awards Second Kelleher Fellowship to Doctoral Student Working on Nuclear Material Security



The School of Public Policy has **awarded incoming doctoral student Lauren Samuelsen** the 2020-2021 Kelleher Fellowship for International Security Studies. Samuelsen intends to examine nuclear material security policy in civilian settings while at the School of Public Policy. Samuelsen is the second recipient of the Kelleher Fellowship, which was launched in 2019 to honor longtime School of Public Policy faculty member, Catherine M. Kelleher, who helped found the School and the Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland (CISSM).

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CISSM Awards Seed Grant to Research on Armed Groups and

Health Assistance



In response to outbreaks of COVID-19, armed insurgent groups around the world have jumped into action. Some—such as the Taliban in Afghanistan—have supported public testing and treatment; others—such as Al Shabab in Somalia—have resisted and undermined international health assistance. Understanding the divergent reactions of armed groups to health assistance is the subject of the **winning proposal** in the 2020 CISSM Seed Grant competition.

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Recent Publications by CISSM Researchers

Increasing Nuclear Threats through Strategic Missile Defense

Other Authors: Greg Thielmann
June 29, 2020

Artificial Intelligence and Strategic Trade Controls

School Authors: Andrea Viski, Lindsay Rand, Jonas Siegel
Other Authors: Scott Jones, Tucker Boyce
June 25, 2020

Soviet, Chinese, and North Korean False Allegations of Biological Weapons Use during the Korean War

School Authors: Milton Leitenberg
June 10, 2020

Did the SARS-CoV-2 virus arise from a bat coronavirus research program in a Chinese laboratory? Very possibly.

School Authors: Milton Leitenberg
June 4, 2020

Global coordination on cross-border travel and trade measures crucial to COVID-19 response

School Authors: Catherine Z. Worsnop
May 14, 2020

Understanding Climate-Security Risks: A Mechanism-based Approach

School Authors: Zafar Imran
May 8, 2020

Faculty Commentary: Covid-19 May Increase the Risk of Human Trafficking: Prevention Efforts Should Start Now

School Authors: Catherine Z. Worsnop
May 4, 2020

Russia's Nuclear Weapons in a Multipolar World: Guarantors of Sovereignty, Great Power Status & More

School Authors: Anya Loukianova Fink
March 23, 2020

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School Authors: Nancy Gallagher
February 27, 2020

The Role of Nuclear in China's Energy Future: Insights from Integrated Assessment

School Authors: Jonas Siegel
February 24, 2020

Walking on Broken Glass: The Challenges of 2020's Arms Control

School Authors: Anya Loukianova Fink
February 12, 2020

An Effect-Centric Approach to Assessing the Risks of Cyber Attacks Against the Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems at Nuclear Power Plants

School Authors: Nancy Gallagher, Charles Harry
February 10, 2020

Nuclear Energy's Staying Power in South Korea

School Authors: Lindsay Rand, Jonas Siegel
January 28, 2020

Japan's North Korea challenge in 2020

School Authors: Naoko Aoki
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Physicists mobilize to reduce the nuclear threat. Again.

School Authors: Steve Fetter
January 24, 2020

China's coronavirus outbreak has prompted some travel restrictions. That could backfire.

School Authors: Catherine Z. Worsnop
January 24, 2020

Russian Disinformation Campaigns re Biological Weapons in the Putin Era

School Authors: Milton Leitenberg
December 11, 2019

And the Prize for Global Nuclear Security Goes to... China

School Authors: Sara Z. Kutchesfahani
December 6, 2019

How to Prioritize Strategic Risks that Affect Critical Infrastructure

School Authors: Charles Harry
November 15, 2019

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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