

News, announcements, research, events, and more from the Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland

CISSMUpdate



SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

Honoring the Remarkable Life of CISSM Founder Dr. Catherine McArdle Kelleher



In loving memory of Catherine McArdle Kelleher, we honor a trailblazer whose indelible mark on the School of Public Policy, CISSM, and the Women in International Security network endures. Through her mentorship and advocacy, Catherine's unwavering commitment to advancing the roles of women in security policy in both government and academia paved the way for more female leadership in a traditionally male-dominated field. After proving herself an intellectual giant in international security, Catherine established CISSM in 1988 as a "hubbing place," where different types of people with diverse perspectives mixed ideas to create new approaches to security in a rapidly changing world. Catherine's legacy lives on at CISSM through the **Kelleher Fellowship for International Security Studies**, supporting one excellent graduate student at SPP each year, the Annual Kelleher Forum that takes place every March during Women's History Month, and CISSM and SPP's commitment to championing women leaders in

Watch "What Makes CISSM Unique" with CISSM Founder Dr. Catherine Kelleher »

Read "Catherine McArdle Kelleher – an Appreciation" by CISSM Director Dr. Nancy Gallagher and share your own memories of Catherine in the comments section »

Read the tribute published in Arms Control Today »

Learn more about the 2023 Kelleher Forum on the Valiant Women of WWII featuring Dr. Lena Andrews »

New CISSM Report Examines the Desirability and Feasibility of Trade Controls on Emerging Technology



Policymakers must consider the feasibility and desirability of governance mechanisms based on technology-specific considerations, such as technology makeup, fabrication process, stage of development and dispersion, dual-use applications, disruption mechanisms, stakeholder community and power distribution, and scientific promise. In doing so, a more nuanced and technology-specific approach will enhance policy debates around the wisdom of strategic trade controls and broaden current thinking on potential governance frameworks argue CISSM Director **Nancy Gallagher** and CISSM Research Associates, **Lindsay Rand**, **Devin Entrikin**, and **Naoko Aoki** in a new

CISSM Report entitled "**The Desirability and Feasibility of Strategic Trade Controls on Emerging Technology**".

[Download the Executive Summary »](#)

[Read the full CISSM report »](#)

Backer and Team Awarded Grant to Develop Models and Tools to Forecast Acute Malnutrition and Famine



CISSM Research Director **David Backer** will lead a University of Maryland team that has secured over \$860,000 in funding for the applied research project "Enabling Anticipatory Action for Acute Malnutrition in Practice Through Strengthening Early Warning Systems." The funding is part of a larger grant awarded by the German Federal Foreign Office to an international consortium that is headed by Action Against Hunger, an international NGO network, and also involves another team based within the Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota. The project aims to improve humanitarian efforts in vulnerable East African countries by developing statistical models and tools to forecast malnutrition outcomes. The goal is to enhance risk assessment, crisis preparedness, and early action programming, ultimately optimizing resources invested in humanitarian responses.

[Learn more about Dr. Backer's project »](#)

Shifrinson Co-Edits Volume on NATO Enlargement; Sits Down with CISSM to Discuss Background & Research



CISSM Senior Fellow **Joshua Shifrinson** and co-editor James Goldgeier, Professor of International Relations at American University's School of International Service, recently released their volume entitled **Evaluating NATO Enlargement: From Cold War Victory to the Russia-Ukraine War**, exploring the historical context, impacts, and ongoing debates surrounding NATO's expansion. The co-edited volume includes insights from an interdisciplinary group of scholars, as they analyze its influence on U.S. foreign policy, democracy, and security in Europe. The book is the newest output by Shifrinson and builds on his strong record of policy-relevant research at the intersection of diplomatic history, American foreign policy, and international security affairs.

[Learn more about Evaluating NATO Enlargement »](#)

[Read our conversation with Dr. Shifrinson »](#)

Cyber Trend Analysis Shows Public Sector Most Targeted; Harry Launches Second Coursera Installment



In a pair of blog posts for the recently launched **GoTech Insights**, CISSM Research Associate Dimitri Nilov leveraged the **Cyber Events Database** to analyze cyber trends for the period 2014-2022. Nilov's analysis reveals that public sector entities, especially government agencies, are the most targeted organizations, with criminal actors being the biggest threat and the majority of attacks driven by financial motivation. Most of the cyber attacks in the observed time period came from Russia, China, and North Korea.

Following the success of "**Cybersecurity for Everyone**" with over 120k enrolled on Coursera, GoTech Director **Charles Harry** has launched a second installment titled "**A Strategic Approach to Cybersecurity**". The new course delves deeper into understanding complex systems and equips leaders with strategic skills to assess cyber risks. It can be taken in conjunction with "**Cybersecurity for Everyone**" or as a stand-alone course.

[Check out the cyber trend analysis »](#)

[Learn more about "A Strategic Approach to Cybersecurity" and "Cybersecurity for Everyone" »](#)

Leitenberg's Research on Russian Disinformation Leveraged by WAPO Editorial Board for Op-ed



The Washington Post Editorial Board published an op-ed leveraging research by CISSM Research Associate, **Milton Leitenberg**, to illustrate how Russian disinformation campaigns operate. The op-ed spotlights Leitenberg's **timely research** on Russian disinformation around allegations of a U.S. biological weapons program at the Lugar Center in Tbilisi, Georgia. WAPO also discussed a key piece of evidence uncovered by Leitenberg in 1998 that showed the Soviet Central Committee knew that allegations against the United States for bacteriological weapons use in China and North Korea between 1951-1953 were false.

[Read the WAPO op-ed »](#)

Capstone Research Project Takes Njeri Jenkins MPP'23 to White House



Master of Public Policy student Njeri Jenkins had a

"surreal" experience when she found herself face to face with President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris in the East Room of the White House this past March. The opportunity directly resulted from her MPP capstone project with Girls For Girls (G4G), a nonprofit that works to empower young women around the world to become leaders in various sectors. Her capstone assessed the organization's impact on female leadership and provided policy recommendations to help minimize potential barriers to future success. Jenkins had the unique opportunity to celebrate her achievements by representing G4G and the School of Public Policy to national leaders.

[Read more about Njeri's experience »](#)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY CISSM AFFILIATES

Melding U.S. Non-Proliferation Strategy with Middle East De-Escalation Dynamics

CISSM Author: Samuel Hickey
June 23, 2023

Categorizing cyber effects

CISSM Author: Charles Harry, Nancy Gallagher
June 1, 2023

Does America Still Need Europe? Debating an "Asia First" Approach

CISSM Author: Joshua Shifrinson
Other Authors: Emma Ashford, Stephen Wertheim
May 22, 2023

The Power of Hope: How the Science of Well-Being Can Save Us from Despair

CISSM Author: Carol Graham
April 25, 2023

What to do about the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant

CISSM Author: Amy J. Nelson
Other Authors: Chinon Norteman
March 23, 2023

The Nuclear Education of Vladimir Putin

CISSM Author: Amy J. Nelson
March 22, 2023

Reducing Strategic Risks of Advanced Computing

Technologies

CISSM Author: Lindsay Rand

February 14, 2023

The 'Press and Pulse' of Climate Change Strains Farmers in Pakistan

CISSM Author: Zafar Imran

February 10, 2023

Can an interim deal break the Iran nuclear impasse?

CISSM Author: Samuel M. Hickey

February 7, 2023

A Sorting Hat for National Security Advisors

CISSM Author: Aaron Mannes

February 5, 2023

How Ukraine Fought Against Russia's Air War

CISSM Author: Jaganath Sankaran

January 22, 2023

Local Partisan Biases in Allocations of Foreign Aid: A Study of Agricultural Assistance in India

CISSM Author: David Backer

Other Authors: Brian Min, Eugenio Arima, Allen Hicken, Ken

Kollman, Joel Selway

January 1, 2023

RECENT CISSM NEWS

Eminent Nuclear Physicists Convene at UMD to Discuss Future of Nuclear Deterrence and Arms Control

May 18, 2023

The Role of the Intelligence Community in Securing U.S. Elections from Foreign Threats

May 15, 2023

Two Policy Students Awarded Boren Fellowships to Study Critical Languages in Underrepresented Global Regions

May 11, 2023

Nobel Laureate and SPP Alum Screen Documentary, Talk to Students about Science Diplomacy with North Korea

April 21, 2023

GoTech Launches Blog on Technology, Governance, and Human Systems

February 27, 2023

University of Maryland Awards \$30 Million to 50 Projects Addressing Humanity's Grand Challenges

February 16, 2023

Minister Nishimura MPP '92 Calls for End to Authoritarian Regimes and for Democracies to Unify in Response

January 10, 2023

RECENT CISSM AFFILIATES IN THE NEWS

El arsenal nuclear de Rusia, la gran preocupación de Estados Unidos en plena crisis con el grupo Wagner

Clarín Mundo
Joshua Shifrinson
June 24, 2023

As NATO increases Asia outreach, questions hang over the nature of its role

Japan Times
Joshua Shifrinson
June 20, 2023

Did the Unipolar Moment Ever End?: Foreign Affairs Asks the Experts

Foreign Affairs
Joshua Shifrinson
May 23, 2023

With anti-terror offensive ramping up, US urged to focus beyond Somalia battlefield

Courthouse News Service
Michael Woldemariam
May 18, 2023

Sudan's spiraling crisis, explained

Vox
Michael Woldemariam
May 9, 2023

Why reporting an incident only makes the cybersecurity community stronger

CSO
Charles Harry
April 11, 2023

Post-Cold War NATO Enlargement and Its Implications Today

CNAS
Joshua Shifrinson
April 7, 2023

As war in Ukraine heads into its second year, Biden doubles down

GBH News
Joshua Shifrinson

February 23, 2023

US tells citizens to stay out of Russia as war in Ukraine nears 1-year mark

The National Desk
Nancy Gallagher
March 29, 2023

Lessons from Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Defense Priorities
Joshua Shifrinson
February 13, 2023

The Impact of Ethiopia's Peace Agreement for the Horn of Africa

Network 20/20
Michael Woldemariam
January 11, 2023

How Is Russia's Invasion of Ukraine Likely to Alter the Post-World War II International Order?

Carnegie Reporter
Nancy Gallagher
January 1, 2023

Most Read War on the Rocks Articles of 2022

War on the Rocks
Anya Loukianova Fink
December 30, 2022

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.

 **Contact CISSM**



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