

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

CISSMUpdate



FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

Season's Greetings

This has been a year of renewed dedication and growth after the loss in February of Catherine Kelleher, CISSM's founder. We are back to our pre-pandemic routines of in-person classes, CISSM forums, meetings, and social events -- cultivating a vibrant intellectual community in our beautiful new building. The world needs every ounce of empathy, creativity, and fortitude we can foster, as hot wars rage in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and far too many other places; competition with China intensifies; and Artificial Intelligence, along with other emerging technologies on CISSM's research agenda, offer amazing promise and peril, without effective governance. Like Catherine, we know that hope for the future lies in giving everything we can to our students, so they can find solutions to a multitude of challenges in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gallagher

CISSM Director

Gallagher & Sankaran Examine Implications of Military Relevant Space Capabilities on Strategic Stability



How are advances in space capabilities by Russia, China, and the United States likely to affect strategic stability? In their new American Academy of Arts and Sciences report titled "**Minimizing the Negative Effects of Advances in Military Relevant Space Capabilities on Strategic Stability**", CISSM Director **Nancy Gallagher** and CISSM Research Associate **Jaganath Sankaran** argue that the most destabilizing effects of technological advances in major power space capabilities arise from each country's reaction to what it perceives the others might do, not from a sober assessment of how new capabilities necessarily impact each dimension of strategic stability.

[Read the full report »](#)

The U.S. Nuclear Arsenal Can Deter Both China and Russia



How does the U.S. effectively navigate the escalating nuclear chess game against both China and Russia? CISSM Senior Fellow **Steve Fetter**, Charles L. Glaser, and James M. Acton challenge the notion of a massive

U.S. nuclear buildup, rejecting the belief that numerical superiority alone ensures deterrence. Instead, the authors introduce a nuanced perspective on confronting the evolving challenges in a world where the U.S. contends with not one, but two potent nuclear rivals. In this insightful analysis, the authors propose a strategic framework that emphasizes flexibility, technological innovation, and diplomatic initiatives to foster stability in the face of complex geopolitical dynamics.

[Read the full article published in Foreign Affairs »](#)

Atrocity denial and emotions in the Ethiopian civil war



In their recent journal article, CISSM Senior Fellow **Michael Woldemariam** and Yilma Woldgabreal dissect the intricate relationship between atrocity denial and emotions through careful analysis of two specific alleged atrocities committed in the course of the Ethiopian civil war—the Mai Kadra massacre and the ethnic cleansing of Tigrayans in Western Tigray. The article uncovers an interplay within denial narratives, where denial not only dampens certain emotions but strategically deploys others like hatred and fear to perpetuate and fuel violent ethnic conflict. This transformation positions atrocity denial not simply as a defense mechanism against distressing emotions but as an active tool shaping and sustaining political violence.

[Read the full journal article here »](#)

Worsnop Develops a Typology of Insurgent Civil–Military Relations



How do insurgent groups organize their civil-military relations while navigating intertwined political and military objectives? In his recent journal article, CISSM Research Fellow, **Alec Worsnop**, builds a typology of rebel civil-military relations that maps the overlap of an intensive form of civilian control, political integration, and the degree of military professionalization. The article aims to inform future avenues of research through theory development that has implications for how we understand insurgency and state-based civil-military relations in unstable environments.

[Read Professor Worsnop's full article »](#)

Analyzing WHO Temporary Recommendations during Global Health Emergencies



Amidst the global upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic, CISSM Research Fellow, **Catherine Worsnop**, dissects the World Health Organization's handling of international travel and trade measures across seven Public Health Emergencies of International Concern. The analysis uncovers a lack of clarity and inconsistency in both substance and process, hindering the interpretation of these recommendations and their alignment with International Health Regulations' (IHR) obligations. The article offers recommendations for improving WHO's guidance to enhance the clarity and

consistency of its directives during global health emergencies.

[Read the full article »](#)

Sanjana Gogna Awarded Kelleher Fellowship for AY2023-2024



Sanjana Gogna, a first-year PhD student at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy, is the fifth recipient of the prestigious Kelleher Fellowship for International Security Studies. Honoring the late Professor **Catherine M. Kelleher**, a trailblazing figure in the field, the fellowship recognizes Gogna's commitment to nuclear weapons strategy and deterrence theory in a multipolar world. With experience at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and a background in nonproliferation and terrorism studies, Gogna embodies the fellowship's spirit by advancing cooperative solutions to global security challenges.

[Learn more about Sanjana »](#)

[Read more about the Kelleher Fellowship »](#)

Lindsay Rand Awarded Yamamoto-Scheffelin Dissertation Prize



Lindsay Rand, a postdoctoral fellow at the Stanford Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) and a fellow at CISSM, received the **Yamamoto-Scheffelin Dissertation Prize** for her dissertation entitled "Schrodinger's Technology Is Here and Not: A Socio-Technical Evaluation of Quantum Sensing Implications for Nuclear Deterrence," examining the socio-technical implications of quantum sensing on nuclear deterrence. Rand's research, blending physics and policy, offers a nuanced view of emerging technologies' impact on strategic stability. She considers both technical and socio-political factors, providing novel insights for policymakers. Like past winners, the award recognizes her exceptional contribution to advancing our understanding of international security issues.

[Read more about Lindsay's dissertation »](#)

For Those Who Missed It: Remembering Catherine M. Kelleher



As we reflect on the significant developments within CISSM in our final update of the year, we find it fitting to revisit and extend our heartfelt tribute to CISSM founder **Catherine M. Kelleher**. Given Catherine's passing earlier this year, this revisitation serves as an extended homage to a remarkable scholar-practitioner, ensuring that her indelible mark on international security policy and commitment to advancing women's roles in academia is celebrated anew. If you have not already done so, please read our tribute from February 2023 and leave a comment about your own experience with Catherine on the comment wall.

[Read our tribute to Catherine here »](#)

End of One War, Start of Another in Ethiopia

International Crisis Group
CISSM Author: Michael Woldemariam
November 16, 2023

Amid Gaza War, A Beefed Up Saudi Nuke Program Is Still On The Table

Responsible Statecraft
CISSM Author: Samuel Hickey
October 27, 2023

The End of the American Era

Foreign Affairs
CISSM Author: Joshua Shifrinson
October 17, 2023

The Delusions and Dangers of Missile Defense

Arms Control Association
CISSM Author: Jaganath Sankaran
September 5, 2023

Russia in Africa: Prigozhin's death exposes Putin's real motives on the continent

The Conversation
CISSM Author: Joseph Siegle
September 4, 2023

Americans on U.S. Role in the Ukraine-Russia War: A National Survey of Registered Voters

Foreign Policy
CISSM Author: Steven Kull
Other authors: Evan Fehsenfeld, Evan Charles Lewitus, David Bunn, Bethany Sapp
July 26, 2023

Russia-Africa summit provides a global stage for Moscow to puff up its influence

The Conversation
CISSM Author: Joseph Siegle
July 17, 2023

Prigozhin's Failed Coup Was a Blessing in Disguise: In times of political instability, Washington prefers the nuclear devil it knows

Foreign Policy
CISSM Author: Joshua Shifrinson
Other Authors: Christopher Clary
July 10, 2023

Don't Let Ukraine Join NATO: The Costs of Expanding the Alliance Outweigh the Benefits

Foreign Affairs
CISSM Author: Joshua Shifrinson
Other Authors: Justin Logan
July 7, 2023

RECENT CISSM NEWS

Bank of Japan Leverages Cyber Events Database in Financial Systems Report

November 14, 2023

UMD Researchers Advance 'Game Changer' Project Predicting Acute Malnutrition

September 13, 2023

As Despair Takes the Wheel Across the US, Focus on Well-Being Shifts into High Gear

July 28, 2023

From Exploitation to Empowerment: The Maasai Tribe's Journey to Intellectual Property Ownership

July 13, 2023

CISSM AFFILIATES IN THE NEWS

What Washington Got Wrong About NATO Expansion in the 1990s

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Joshua Shifrinson

October 16, 2023

The Horn of Africa in Turmoil: The Ethiopia-Tigray Region Conflict

The Geopolitical Puzzle

Michael Woldemariam

September 10, 2023

Joshua Shifrinson and Daniel Fried on the Upcoming NATO Summit

C-Span

Joshua Shifrinson

July 9, 2023

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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