

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

CISSMUpdate



FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER



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Harry becomes director of GoTech;  
CISSM and GoTech launch the Cyber  
Events Database



**Dr. Charles Harry** was named the new director of the **Center for Governance of Technology and Systems (GoTech)**, formerly known as the Center for Public Policy and Private Enterprise (CPPPE). As one of its first initiatives under Dr. Harry's leadership, GoTech has partnered with CISSM to launch the **Cyber Events Database** project, providing public and private sector officials with information on what types of cyber threats are most common in a specific industry or critical infrastructure sector and what their effects might be. This knowledge will help inform strategic decision-making for cyber threat mitigation. The dataset is now available to researchers and industry partners and contains structured information from 2014 to the present across several categories including threat actor and the end effects of an attack. To commemorate the database launch, CISSM and GoTech held a public event in November 2021 **featuring a panel discussion** with several cybersecurity experts including Lt. Gen. (Retired) Ed Cardon, Former Commander of Army Cyber Command.

[Learn more »](#)

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## New CISSM Report examines Iranian attitudes on President Raisi and key foreign and domestic challenges



Frustration with the election process and continued economic malaise tempers Iranian attitudes but there is high levels of confidence among the Iranian people in President Raisi's ability to manage economic, governance, and public health issues, according to a **new CISSM report**. The new data collected by CISSM and IranPoll examines Iranian attitudes on a range of foreign and domestic issues, including what they thought about the presidential election in Iran, their views on prospects for reviving the nuclear deal, attitudes on the state of the Iranian economy, and how

Iran's government has fared in managing the pandemic among other topics.

[Learn more »](#)

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## Border restrictions and global governance during COVID-19



The ubiquity of border restrictions during the pandemic challenged a core aim of the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations (IHR)—that responses to COVID-19 avoid "unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade." What drove variation in government border policy? What role does the WHO have in the coordination of border measures to ensure that the right measures are adopted and that their benefits and harms are adequately balanced? How should harmful effects of legitimate border restrictions be managed? **Dr. Catherine Worsnop** addresses these questions in a new op-ed for Think Global Health. In addition to the op-ed, Dr. Worsnop along with CISSM Research Associate, **Summer Marion**, has published several journal articles **examining** the effectiveness of border management policies during public health emergencies. **Check out** more of Dr. Worsnop's work and other CISSM perspectives on COVID-19.

[Learn more »](#)

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## Human geography and the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan



How did the Taliban seize power so quickly? While the weakness of the Afghan state was no secret, the speed

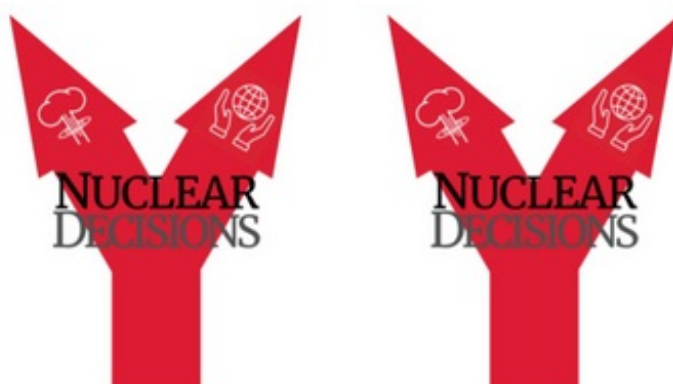


of the Taliban's victory stemmed from a little-appreciated factor: their ability to use Afghanistan's human geography to exploit state fragility. In particular, the country's low population density empowers fast-moving and cohesive attackers, argues **Dr. Alec Worsnop** in an **op-ed** for War on the Rocks. The op-ed draws from a **larger analysis** conducted by Dr. Worsnop in 2012 that assesses the impact of ISAF military withdrawal in Afghanistan.

[Learn more »](#)

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## Key challenges facing the nuclear chain of command



General Mark Milley's decision to insert himself into the nuclear chain of command in the final days of the Trump presidency highlights a larger issue: a decision to launch a nuclear first-strike should require congressional approval and not be under the sole discretion of the president. New legislation that places Congress in the decision chain would resolve the concerns that led to the Milley-Trump situation, argue **Dr. Nancy Gallagher** and **Dr. Steven Kull** in an **op-ed** for the Baltimore Sun. To highlight the complexity of nuclear decision-making, CISSM is now hosting its **"Nuclear Decisions"** online role-playing game, which places users into the positions of officials and citizens who must make challenging nuclear decisions under real-world conditions.

[Learn more »](#)

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## False allegations of biological-weapons use from Putin's Russia



Why does the Russian government carry on its biological weapons disinformation campaigns? From 1949 until 1988, the Soviet Union conducted a nearly continuous campaign of false allegations of biological weapon use by the United States. In 1995, senior Russian military officials revived this pattern of false allegations, which continues to the present day with implications for the Biological Weapons Convention, argues CISSM Senior Research Associate, [Milton Leitenberg](#), in his [Journal article](#) for the Non-Proliferation Review.

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**Rethinking U.S. civil society assistance policy**



What does it mean to exercise “restraint” in foreign policy? Increasingly, the term is associated with the use of military force. With campaign promises to “end forever wars,” extricate the United States from “unwinnable conflicts,” and rely first and foremost on tools of diplomacy and alliances, President Joe Biden has indicated a strong preference for a more restrained approach to U.S. grand strategy. But should the United States demonstrate restraint in other, non-military areas of foreign policy? U.S. policy toward civil society groups in other countries is another area that merits reconsideration, argues CISSM affiliate, [Dr. Davin O'Regan](#), in an [op-ed](#) for War on the Rocks .

[Learn more »](#)

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Alexandra Borgeaud dit Avocat  
becomes newest Kelleher fellow



The UMD School of Public Policy named **Alexandra Borgeaud dit Avocat** the 2021-2022 recipient of the Catherine M. Kelleher Fellowship for International Security Studies. Borgeaud dit Avocat **plans to research** arms control and multi-stakeholder governance approaches to managing risks posed by foundational and emerging technologies with military applications. The Kelleher Fellowship is now in its third year of supporting exceptional graduate students (like Borgeaud dit Avocat) pursuing their master's or doctoral degree at SPP. Interested parties can **donate** to the Kelleher fellowship fund to continue supporting women trailblazers in international security.

[Learn more »](#)

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## Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks MPM '93 Returns to SPP for Student Discussion



Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks MPM '93 was sworn into her role in February 2021, becoming the first Senate-confirmed female to hold the position and putting her among the **ranks** of SPP's impressive roster of alumnae in groundbreaking security roles. On Dec. 2, Hicks made her return to the University of Maryland School of Public Policy, this time to host a group of students for a discussion about her career and the international security field. The policy students posed a range of questions regarding Hick's career, breaking into a career as a civil servant, navigating being a woman in a male-dominated field, and working as a civilian at the Pentagon.

[Learn more »](#)

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## CISSM Director receives Provost's Excellence Award for contributions to research and teaching



**Dr. Nancy Gallagher** was awarded the **Provost's Excellence Award** for her outstanding contributions to research on international security cooperation. Her studies of public opinion in the U.S. and Iran have increased understanding and informed decisions about the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which President Obama signed, President Trump rejected, and President Biden is now trying to revive. Dr. Gallagher also recently published a book chapter on prospects for nuclear arms control cooperation between the U.S. and China. In addition to her research, Dr. Gallagher teaches PLCY 720, the foundational graduate course on international security policy, and PLCY798M, a course on cooperative security, arms control, and non-proliferation.

[Learn more »](#)

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## New CISSM LinkedIn group forum enables connections between current and former CISSM affiliates



### Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland (CISSM) Affiliates

CISSM is excited to announce the creation of the CISSM Affiliates LinkedIn Group. The group is a forum to connect current and former CISSM faculty, scholars,



students, staff, and other associates. Unlike the CISSM Facebook page, that anyone can join, this is a networking and information-sharing tool only for people with a direct connection to our community. Members are encouraged to connect and share research, job opportunities, and other such updates.

If you would like to join the group, please contact Phoebe DeVos-Cole at [pcdc@umd.edu](mailto:pcdc@umd.edu) with your name, current affiliation, and connection to CISSM, and Phoebe will provide you with the link to join.

#### RECENT PUBLICATION BY CISSM AFFILIATES

##### **A Decade of the Kim Jong Un Doctrine**

CISSM Author: Naoko Aoki

December 21, 2021

##### **Border Management After COVID-19: New Strategies Required**

CISSM Author: Catherine Worsnop

November 3, 2021

##### **Japan's Lower House Elections Will Decide Kishida's Fate**

CISSM Author: Naoko Aoki

October 29, 2021

##### **Sudan's Hard-Won Transition to Civilian Rule Faces a Precarious Moment**

CISSM Author: Joseph Siegle

October 22, 2021

##### **West Africa: Russia's Wagner Play Undermines the Transition in Mali**

CISSM Author: Joseph Siegle

September 23, 2021

##### **Russia in Africa – Undermining Democracy Through Elite Capture**

CISSM Author: Joseph Siegle

September 23, 2021

##### **Takeaways From a Time of Increased Friction: South Korea-Japan Security Cooperation From 2015 to Present**

CISSM Authors: Naoko Aoki

September 22, 2021

##### **Russia's Asymmetric Strategy for Expanding Influence in Africa**

CISSM Author: Joseph Siegle

September 17, 2021

##### **Responding to North Korea's Reopening of the Yongbyon Reactor**

CISSM Author: Naoko Aoki

Other Authors: Chung-in Moon, Bong-geun Jun, Jinkyung Baek

September 1, 2020

##### **Iran's New President, Public Opinion, and the Prospects for Negotiations**

CISSM Author: Nancy Gallagher

August 24, 2021

##### **The Cost of Uncertainty: European Strategic Autonomy and U.S.-E.U. Relations**

CISSM Author: Amy J. Nelson



August 23, 2021

### **Russia and Africa: Expanding Influence and Instability**

CISSM Author: Joseph Siegle

August 1, 2021

### **Is South Korea Truly a "Middle Power?"**

CISSM Author: Naoko Aoki

July 31, 2021

### **Overmatch by Other Means: Integrating Irregular Warfare into Joint Force Wargaming**

CISSM Author: Christopher J. Hickey

Other Authors: Steve Ferenzi, Christopher Hossfeld

July 29, 2021

### **Anticipating Our Technological Future**

CISSM Author: Steve Fetter

July 1, 2021

### **The Political Implications of Japan's COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout**

CISSM Author: Naoko Aoki

July 1, 2021

### **Will North Korea Remain Stable For the Foreseeable Future?"**

CISSM Author: Naoko Aoki

June 26, 2021

### **Presidential Term Limits Key to Democratic Progress and Security in Africa**

CISSM Author: Joseph Siegle

Other Authors: Candace Cook

June 16, 2021

### **US-Russian Contention in Cyberspace: Are Rules of the Road Necessary or Possible?**

CISSM Author: Pavel Sharikov

Other Authors: Lauren Zabierek, Christie Lawrence, Miles Neumann

June 10, 2021

### **China versus SARS**

CISSM Author: Milton Leitenberg

June 1, 2021

### **The One Who Stands in Our Way Will Help Us: Cybersecurity Issues at the Putin-Biden Summit**

CISSM Author: Pavel Sharikov

June 1, 2021

### **Building a Trans-Polar Bridge**

CISSM Author: Rachael Gosnell

Other Authors: James Foggo

May 21, 2021

### **Here's what Kamala Harris owes to Walter Mondale**

CISSM Author: Aaron Mannes

April 25, 2021

### **Strategic Cyber Effects in Complex Systems: Understanding the US Air Transportation Sector**

CISSM Author: Charles Harry

Other Author: Skanda Vivek

April 1, 2021

### **Evidence of the effectiveness of travel-related measures during the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic: a rapid systematic review**

CISSM Author: Catherine Z. Worsnop, Summer Marion

Other Authors: Karen Ann Grépin, Tsi-Lok Ho, Zhihan Liu,

Julianne Piper, Kelley Lee  
February 21, 2021

### **FORUM: COVID-19 and IR Scholarship: One Profession, Many Voices**

CISSM Author: Catherine Z. Worsnop, Summer Marion  
Other Authors: Giovanni Agostini, Karen A. Grépin, Adam Kamradt-Scott, Kelley Lee, Ioannis Papagaryfallou, Andreas Papamichail, Julianne Piper, Felix Rothery, Benny Cheng Guan Teh, Terri-Anne Teo, Soo Yeon Kim  
February, 2021

## RECENT CISSM NEWS

### **Carnegie Grant to CISSM for Research on Security Risks Extended for Two Years**

December 22, 2021

### **Q & A with CISSM Research Associate Ariel Petrovics**

November 5, 2021

### **Nelson Named as Brookings Rubenstein Fellow**

September 17, 2021

### **A Foreseeable Collapse**

August 23, 2021

### **Learn to Think Strategically About Cybersecurity: New MOOC Covers Risk Management and Policy Implications**

July 12, 2021

### **SPP Alums Poorti Sapatnekar and Davin O'Regan Awarded Dissertation Prizes**

July 6, 2021

### **CISSM Awards Seed Grant to Research on Models of Innovation for The Quad Countries**

July 6, 2021

### **Rachel Kester MPP '21 Publishes Congressional Report for Capstone**

June 22, 2021

### **Christine Wormuth MPP '95 Confirmed as First Woman Secretary of the Army**

June 15, 2021

### **Catherine Worsnop Shares Her Research into Cross-Border Measures during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond**

April 23, 2021

### **SPP Faculty and Student Submit Research to the Midwest Political Science Association Conference**

April 13, 2021

## 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.

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## 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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